

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet



FROM THE EDITOR **GERALD FLURRY**

Europe Is About to Be Hijacked

Watch political crises on the Continent closely. They are driving a crucial biblical prophecy toward its dramatic fulfillment.

“**T**HERE ARE EVENTS THAT CATALYZE THE HISTORY.” THESE words were spoken by Josep Borrell, the European Union’s foreign-policy chief, at a high-level meeting in September. “Sometimes something happens that pushes the history, creates a breakthrough, and I think the Afghanistan events of this summer are one of these cases.”

I strongly agree with Mr. Borrell. We are beginning to see how America’s disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the collapse of American leadership it represented, is changing the world. That disaster fulfilled Bible prophecy and drove several other prophecies forward toward their consummation.

World events show that we are nearing the fulfillment of an astonishing biblical prophecy. It describes the rise of an end-time strongman in Europe—the very last human leader before Jesus Christ returns. I am certain we are about to see this man arise to *hijack* the European Union!

For Our Day Only

The longest single vision in the Bible is recorded in Daniel 10:10 through 12:4. God revealed the vision to Daniel during the third year of the reign of Cyrus the Great (Daniel 10:1)—around 535 B.C. This prophecy foretold events that were provably later fulfilled. Our free booklet *The History and Prophecy of*



NOVEMBER-
DECEMBER 2021
VOL. 32, NO. 10
CIRC. 241,365

FROM THE EDITOR 1

Europe Is About to Be Hijacked

- The Alliance That Outraged France 7

Will China Soon Conquer Taiwan? 10

Want to Go to Space? 12

Is Ethiopia’s Civil War in End-Time Prophecy? 15

Arizona Audit: the Unreported Truth 18

Rising Prices, Empty Shelves 21

- How to Exterminate Capitalism 25
- Obama Signed His Name to It 25
- The Everything Shortage 26

Recapture the Lost Meaning of Manhood 28

A Dead Ecosystem Can ‘Blossom as the Rose’ 30

WORLDWATCH 34

SOCIETYWATCH 38

Are We Living in the Last Days? 39

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING 42
Focus!

COMMENTARY 43
Visit Another World

the Middle East explains these events that happened millenniums ago. For example, Daniel 11 prophesied the rise and fall of Alexander the Great. Verse 4 prophesied that “his kingdom shall be broken, and ... divided toward the four winds of heaven.” That what happened in the late 4th century B.C. after Alexander’s untimely death, when his kingdom was split among his four top generals.

The prophecy then focuses on what eventually happened in *two* of the four divisions of his fallen empire: the northern and southern kingdoms. After the southern kingdom grew strong (verse 5), it eventually led to the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes in the northern kingdom, who took control unlawfully. This account is vividly explained in many history books. But it was *prophecy* before it became history! As the late Herbert W. Armstrong explained in *The Proof of the Bible*, fulfilled prophecy is the strongest proof that an Almighty God exists. This should build our faith in God and His prophecies.

Yet much of Daniel’s vision *remains unfulfilled*. Daniel clearly reveals that this vision is for “the latter days” (Daniel 10:14). Some of those events that occurred anciently *also* have an *end-time* fulfillment. Today we again have a “king of the north” and “king of the south.” Daniel’s detailed description about Antiochus Epiphanes points to a *latter-day* Antiochus who will rule over an *end-time* “king of the north.” This prophecy tells us exactly what will happen and how this modern strongman will come to power. The most astonishing parts of this prophecy are to come to pass in our day!

Antiochus was a king of the Seleucid Empire in the second century B.C. He controlled most of the Middle East. (Read our article “Who Was Antiochus Epiphanes?” at theTrumpet.com/14526 to understand how evil this man was.) This ancient Antiochus conformed to many of the details recorded in Daniel, but he didn’t live to see the Messiah’s coming in all power and glory as this modern Antiochus will.

In fact, at the conclusion of this vision, when Daniel said he didn’t understand it, he was explicitly told, “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the

words, and *seal the book*, even to THE TIME OF THE END Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are *closed up and sealed* TILL THE TIME OF THE END” (Daniel 12:4, 9).

The book of Daniel is *only* for the end time! It has never even been understood prior to our day. Daniel 8:19 also talks about “the last end”—that is, the *last end* of the end time. As I explain in detail in my free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!*, that is the time we now live in!

God has now UNSEALED this book for our understanding, so the meaning of these prophecies can be clearly understood. God wants you to know exactly what is happening and what it means for you personally.

The “king of the north” today lies in Europe, and at the heart of Europe is Germany. This is the power we must watch closely. A related prophecy in Isaiah 10:5-7 refers to *Assyria*, the ancient name for Germany (for proof, read “Is Germany in Bible Prophecy?” at theTrumpet.com/17944). Various passages show that we must watch Germany to see this vision in Daniel unfold.

This prophecy has a lot of bad news; it may seem depressing, even discouraging. Daniel 12:1 says “there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.” Christ called this time “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). That is suffering like has *never* been experienced on Earth! Yet read the entirety of Daniel 12:1: There God promises, “[A]t that time THY PEOPLE SHALL BE DELIVERED, every one that shall be found written in the book.” God will protect His faithful people from all that suffering. He then details the resplendent reward awaiting those saints (verses 2-3). Other prophecies show that these events flow directly into the most glorious news in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

How wonderful that we see current events already bringing this astonishing prophecy toward its conclusion!

Events Hastening the Vision

In evacuating Afghanistan, America has

virtually abandoned the Middle East. It will most certainly strengthen Iran, which is the chief sponsor of terrorism and allied with the Taliban and various other terrorist groups. Already we are seeing Iran's rise in the leadership vacuum the United States left behind. And as I wrote in my cover story in our October 2021 *Trumpet* issue, America's retreat was *designed, on purpose*, to be a debacle.

Europe's leaders were shocked by America's withdrawal from Afghanistan. The U.S. exposed its willingness to abandon our friends and allies. It proved, in fact, that we will not even help our own people! We snuck our military out and left at least hundreds of Americans behind. That is not how a superpower operates! What happened in Afghanistan has taken America off the world stage. We are not just withdrawing from Afghanistan; we are withdrawing from the world!

After witnessing what America did, European leaders know they cannot rely on the U.S. as an ally as they have since World War II.

EU defense and foreign ministers, along with officials from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations, met in Slovenia on September 2 to discuss the EU's need for a combined military force. They are fearful now. Why? "It's clear that the need for more European defense has never been ... as evident as today after the events in Afghanistan," Josep Borrell said before the meeting.

Europe doesn't trust America's protection anymore. "In my view, we do not need another such geopolitical event to grasp that the EU must strive for greater decision-making autonomy and greater capacity for action in the world," European Council President Charles Michel said on September 1. This thinking is not new, but America's withdrawal is giving Europe urgency to take action.

Europe is in a precarious state and is on the cusp of radical change. The Bible prophesies that 10 kings will arise within Europe and combine to form a single formidable empire—a modern-day resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (read "Why the *Trumpet*

Watches Europe's Ongoing Unification Project" at theTrumpet.com/15677). Revelation 17 speaks of these "ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast" (verse 12). We must understand how the Afghanistan debacle is hastening that change. It is helping that alliance of 10 kings to coalesce and catalyze the formation of a biblically prophesied European empire!

Added to that, in September, the Biden administration made a deal strengthening the military alliance between America, the United Kingdom and Australia (AUKUS) (sidebar, page 4). The move was particularly provocative to China. Some said it intensified a cold war that is developing between these nations and China. Where does this leave Europe?

"Across Europe today, many strategists and analysts are talking about the need to construct a common European defense strategy, since it's now on the outside looking in on the new Great Game of the 21st century between China and AUKUS," wrote John Allen Jr. for *Crux*. European leaders are talking about positioning Europe "as a legitimate 'third way' between the poles of the new cold war" (September 18). The Anglo-Saxon "way" will be fading from the scene quickly if we don't learn some lessons! And Europeans don't even consider themselves part of the Anglo-Saxon alliance anymore.

With this unfolding cold war between the U.S. and China, Allen wrote, Europe is "either relegated to the sidelines or finding a new role for itself."

In Leviticus 26:19, God warned that He would break the pride of America's power if we don't repent and change our ways. We still have power, but we lack the will to use it! And as a result, Europe is growing anxious over its *own* leadership vacuum.

There is a real recognition in Europe of their *need* for military unity. THE TROUBLE IS, THEY LACK THE ROBUST LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO BRING IT ABOUT. Analysts say EUROPE IS UP FOR GRABS.

It is no coincidence that at this moment, Germany is in acute political turmoil. As a result, *all of Europe* is leaderless. These crises

are laying the foundation for the rise of a modern Antiochus.

Germany's Political Opportunity

Allen wrote his article on September 18, *before* Germany's national elections on September 26. Angela Merkel, the most respected leader in Europe, is about to be replaced—yet the election yielded no clear winner.

“The Germans Face Months of Uncertainty After Knife-edge Election,” the *Times* of London reported. The vote produced a deadlock! It could be some time—perhaps months—before Germany, the strongest nation in Europe, has a new government. And even then, the governing coalition is certain to be brittle and frail.

This is going to produce a magnificent *opportunity* for somebody to assume power through deceit and flatteries. We must closely follow German politics! EUROPE TRULY IS UP FOR GRABS!

A modern-day Antiochus is prophesied to rise. He is going to *hijack* and gain control of what is going to quickly become a *powerful* Holy Roman Empire. He will usurp control from those who might have had more noble ideas about that empire.

The stark reality is, *without* such a man in charge, Europe will NEVER become the superpower it wants to be! As much as they *talk* about building a unified military, the EU as currently constituted CANNOT rise to the intensifying challenges of a post-American world!

If Europe builds a mighty single army, WHO WOULD COMMAND IT? Italian political scientist Ernesto Galli della Loggia asked this crucial question in *Corriere della Sera* on September 22. Making war would require consensus among 27 EU member states! “Is it ever imaginable that 27 political leaders—expressions of electorates, traditions and interests enormously different among themselves—would decide to embark on a military action that could become violent and cost the lives of some of their own citizens, beyond creating unpredictably serious complications?” he asked.

No—that will never happen. Europe needs ONE STRONGMAN AT THE HELM. And it is going to get one.

Daniel 11:21 reads, “And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.” Anciently, men were naive and credulous, and Antiochus took advantage of them. He pretended to be someone he was not and obtained office through flatteries and deceit. This is a pattern we need to watch for in the modern “king of the north.” Moffatt says this “vile person” is “a despicable creature.” A “despicable creature” is going to take control.

How could this happen in the sophisticated nations of Europe?

Europeans are facing great crises, including economic instability, terrorism and illegal immigration, rising threats from Asia. In times of crisis, people are less concerned about democratic norms. They *need* strong leadership. That has to come from Germany, which dominates and even domineers Europe today. It is the powerhouse.

In the end, 10 kings will give their military might to one man, and will form a superpower that will shock the world! We believe there will be one supreme king over 10 kings. (There is a slight possibility that there could be just 10 kings total and that the leadership would come out of Germany.) But whether this prophesied ruler will hold a position in Germany or not, he will rule Germany and the rest of this European conglomerate.

Europe's present leadership void creates an opening. Even though European states vote their leaders in, they could agree to have one man rule over *all* of them and give all of their military might (even France's nuclear bombs) to that overarching power. Suddenly they would not only be a superpower but also a nuclear power with nuclear submarines!

During the U.S. elections in 2008 and 2012, it seemed the elections were up for grabs. What was the result? A man came to power who did terrible destruction to the nation. Tom Brokaw said when Barack Obama was elected president, they did not even vet him;

they were off their guard. You know the devil exploited that! It is the way Satan operates.

As I have explained, that man too is an end-time type of Antiochus who wants to “blot out the name of Israel from under heaven” (2 Kings 14:27). *Israel* means America and Britain (explained in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). The Jewish state of Israel, biblical *Judah*, is also included in this specific prophecy (Hosea 5:5).

Soon a European leader will arise with the very same goal!

‘At the Time of the End’

What will this European Antiochus do when he comes to power? For insight, we can look both at history and at Bible prophecy. The ancient Antiochus clashed in various battles with the king of the south—Egypt at the time. LIKE ANTIOCHUS ANCIENTLY, THIS END-TIME STRONGMAN WILL GAIN CONTROL OF THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST. It will shock this world and change the course of history!

Daniel 11:40 again emphasizes the end-time setting and begins a prophecy of the final destruction of the king of the south: “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.”

As I explain in my booklet *The King of the South*, Iran is the king of radical Islam. Right now Iran is building the confidence to *push* at Germany! Unlike the U.S., Germany has strong intentions to stay involved in the region. But Iran will not like its plans and will seek to expel the Germans.

But the king of the north is going to *destroy* the king of the south! This connects directly to what we see in Afghanistan. The king of the north sees that it has to do something, and I think it is going to do it very quickly! Since the Taliban are allied with Iran, this prophecy shows that they are about to be destroyed! The Taliban’s victory will not last long!

The next verses reveal, and Psalm 83 concurs, that after Germany destroys Iran, it

will target Israel. However, this modern-day Antiochus won’t present himself as an enemy at first. “He shall enter also into the glorious land ...” (Daniel 11:41). This doesn’t indicate a *forced* entry or conquest of Jerusalem. The Jews will likely invite him in, presumably to help keep the peace there. So he will enter peaceably into the city, no doubt with his flatteries and his deceit and his lies.

But this will lead directly to shocking violence! It says clearly in Habakkuk 1:11, Isaiah 10:7 and other scriptures that this man will have a savage change of mind! He becomes possessed by the devil himself! Satan will get a grip on this man’s mind in a horrifying way! In his fierce hatred, Satan wants to blot out the name of Israel—he hates Israel with all his passion! That is what Antiochus intended to do, and the Bible reveals it will be the same today.

Under that malign influence, this strongman will lead this European empire to exercise cruelty such as this world has never seen. Disaster is coming for the Jerusalem area and Israel. The Jews will have nobody to help them. It is all going to end horrifically and suddenly!

Other prophecies show that the “MANY COUNTRIES ... overthrown” in Daniel 11:41 *includes* the other modern descendants of ancient Israel, primarily the British peoples and the United States! There is a *ruthlessness* revealed in this prophecy that history has never witnessed!

This is coming! This is a blistering warning from God. For many people watching world events, this will be an unexpected, *sudden* turn of events!

Religious Influence

As Daniel’s prophecy unfolds, it includes a very telling detail: “And he shall plant the tabernacles [that would be his religion] of his palace [that would be for the king] between the seas [the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea] in the glorious holy mountain [Jerusalem] ...” (Daniel 11:45).

This modern-day Holy Roman Empire is once again a church-state alliance—actually an empire *guided by a religious power!* We not only need to watch for the rise of a strongman

to guide the empire, we need to watch for the rise of the Catholic Church's influence over it.

Europe is politically and even culturally diversified. When Constantine the Great ruled the Roman Empire from A.D. 306 to 337, he found the *glue* needed to bind the empire together in the Roman Catholic Church. The resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire that followed always required the **GLUE OF RELIGION**. This will certainly be true of this final European empire, which is pictured in a prophecy in Daniel 2 as being a mixture of iron and miry clay, partly strong and partly broken (verses 41-42).

John Allen Jr. wrote another article, this on September 23, explaining how the success of Europe's efforts to unify could well be determined by the Vatican and the strength of Catholic influence. He used the ambiguous term "Christian humanism" to describe the church's effect, but he said this "was the foundation upon which the EU was originally constructed, and it remains the lone European cultural achievement strong enough to sustain anything other than economic prosperity." He concluded, "The takeaway is that the next few months may be decisive in terms of whether Europe can develop a political infrastructure capable of undergirding Von der Leyen's desire for enhanced military capacity. In that effort, **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ACROSS EUROPE, AND ESPECIALLY THE VATICAN, COULD PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE.**"

Biblical prophecy shows that is absolutely right: For Europe to come together, the Catholic Church **MUST** play a decisive role! Watch closely for this to happen!

'Broken Without Hand'

Daniel 8:9-11 speak symbolically of "a little horn." Most Bible commentaries will tell you that this too refers to Antiochus—but again, this ancient figure was only a type of an *end-time* Antiochus. This man "waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land"—and "magnified himself even to the prince of the host," Jesus Christ! This man will have the gall to actually challenge Christ Himself!

For a short time, he will *prosper* in his evil (verse 12). This is why we warn about the rise of this man. "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [he is empowered by the devil himself!]: and he shall destroy *wonderfully* [*mightily*, it should read], and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many ..." (verses 23-25). What an exceedingly destructive regime this satanic man will rule!

But look where his rule ultimately leads! Verse 25 continues, "... he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes [Jesus Christ]" After conquering Jerusalem, this Antiochus and his supporters will do something even *more* shocking: At the Second Coming, they will actually wage war against Jesus Christ!

That is a war they are going to lose emphatically. As verse 25 concludes, "... but he [Antiochus] shall be **BROKEN WITHOUT HAND.**" He will be broken—not by human beings, but by Jesus Christ and His spirit army!

Christ will *destroy* this power, and it will **NEVER RISE AGAIN.**

Daniel 2 describes the same outcome: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (verse 44). This is the end of the Holy Roman Empire—and *all* evil empires—forever!

What fabulous news! Christ is going to rule this world and bring it the peace and joy and happiness that it has always desired but never been able to achieve.

This is all going to happen in just a short time—because Antiochus is a *sign* that Christ's return is imminent. His appearance on the world stage gives us a *time element* about when to expect the Second Coming!

A Spectacular Reward!

Now read the inspiring conclusion to that lengthy prophecy in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 12 begins by warning about “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time ...” This world has seen a lot of grievous trouble in its history, but the Tribulation ahead will be worse than any that ever came before! Imagine all these nations with nuclear power and other frightful weapons warring against one another! What untold suffering will befall us if man fails to repent of his sins!

Yet even in this verse, God says, “... and at that time *thy people shall be delivered*, every one that shall be found written in the book.” God is going to take care of His people. He will protect the people who publicize His warning message to the world!

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (verse 2). That first resurrection—to everlasting life—will also occur at the seventh trumpet. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “[T]he trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall

be raised incorruptible” (1 Corinthians 15:52), and he goes on to say that “[d]eath is swallowed up in victory” (verse 54). This splendid *victory* awaits those who heed God’s message and give themselves to God!

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). If God’s saints turn people to righteousness, then they will be glorified and will shine forever and ever! What’s more, those who get this message out will be the Bride of Jesus Christ! (Revelation 19:7). They will sit on David’s throne with Jesus Christ and help Him rule the world and then the universe for all eternity!

The conclusion of this vision shows that God allows all the suffering because He wants to turn people to righteousness. We can never forget that supreme goal! And those who help God in achieving this goal will shine as the stars in heaven! Those are the people God describes at the very end of this longest single vision in the Bible. They are motivated, excited and thrilled, moved and stirred to turn many people to righteousness! ■

The Alliance That Outraged France

BY RICHARD PALMER

A NEW ALLIANCE IS THREATENING TO upend the global order. Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced the AUKUS alliance on September 15, in which the three nations pledged to increase their military coordination, especially in the Pacific. Most importantly, the U.S. announced it would help Australia operate nuclear submarines.

The plan is for Australia to buy at least seven

nuclear submarines, which will make it a more capable foe against China, bring profits to American and British defense industries, and dramatically empower the American-led military presence in the region.

Making the Royal Australian Navy the eighth operator of nuclear submarines has the potential to upend the naval balance of power in the South Pacific. Its current fleet of diesel submarines can manage only 11 days of

patrolling in the South China Sea before they have to return to their bases in Australia. The nuclear option could make that 77 days.

Plans are also under consideration for Australia to develop longer-range missiles, to station U.S. Navy nuclear submarines in Western Australia, and to station more U.S. Marines in the Northern Territory.

China is furious. The *Global Times*, which is controlled by the ruling Chinese Communist Party, fumed that the alliance “would make Australia a potential target for a nuclear strike” (September 16).

Almost as big, and perhaps more significant, was the tantrum thrown by France.

‘A Knife Blow No One Saw Coming’

Australia had agreed to spend up to \$90 billion buying French-manufactured diesel submarines. America’s offer of nuclear submarines sunk that deal and with it an important source of revenue for France’s naval industry.

Vincent Lamigeon from the *Fondation pour le Recherche Stratégique* characterized the cancellation as “a knife blow to the heart that no one in France saw coming” and a “Trafalgar shot from which Naval Group will take years to recover.” *Ouest-France* said that for one of France’s key naval regions around the Cherbourg Naval Base, it is “a small social and economic earthquake.”

“It was really a stab in the back,” said French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. “We had established a relationship of trust with Australia. This trust has been betrayed. This is not something allies do to each other.”

The French government was so incensed that it withdrew its ambassadors from Australia and from the United States for the first time in history. The French ambassador to the United Kingdom remained in place, but the French government released a snide statement that it had refrained from recalling him as well only because it is already used to the United Kingdom’s “permanent opportunism.”

Much of the European Union also took offense to AUKUS. *Die Welt* characterized the alliance as a declaration of war on the EU.

Germany’s ambassador to the UK said the deal threatened the “unity of the West.” German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s longtime foreign-policy adviser called the deal an “insult to a NATO partner.”

The Vatican also condemned the deal. Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said that because it involves nuclear-powered weapons, it will “create even more dangers for peace and even more conflict.”

John Allen Jr., veteran Vatican watcher at *Crux*, wrote that the deal “seems to have the potential to fundamentally redefine the geopolitical game. Since the close of World War II, it was always ‘the West,’ meaning North America, Europe and Australia together, against someone else, whether the Soviets during the Cold War or global jihadism post-9/11. Now it seems it may be the Anglo-Saxon powers vs. China, with Europe either relegated to the sidelines or finding a new role for itself. In that realignment, the Vatican is likely to be an advocate of a more assertive and independent Europe” (September 18).

Allen wrote that the Vatican was never really keen on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and “basic skepticism about Anglo-Saxon culture remains hardwired into the Vatican’s DNA,” especially under the current pope.

“The Vatican has been pushing Europe to be less deferential to the U.S. for some time,” Allen noted. “Such a jolt could provide Europe the impetus it needs to come together.”

The *Daily Telegraph* reported that France is so desperate for a unified military that it is willing to give up its United Nations Security Council seat to the European Union. An EU-controlled seat would be a German-controlled seat, something the Germans have desired for decades. Whatever discussions may have been going on, France did not publicly make that offer. But perhaps the time will come soon when it will follow through in making that sacrifice.

Betrayal Is Prophesied

The United States believes it has an unshakable friend in Europe. It does not.

Biblical prophecy warns that Britain and America will trust in “lovers,” foreign allies, that will destroy them. God warns in Jeremiah 30:14, for example, “All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not”

Germany is cozying up to Russia, empowering it with a new gas pipeline, which Moscow has immediately weaponized against much of Europe. France has been pushing for a European replacement for NATO for years. Europeans don’t want to just be part of “the West” any longer; they want to be their own power. The Bible prophesies that soon they will be.

France has been the most enthusiastic cheerleader for this split. In 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron warned of the “brain death” of NATO. The year before, he said, “We have to protect ourselves with respect to China, Russia and even the United States of America.” French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire took things even further, saying that the European Union must become a “form of empire, like China, and the U.S.”

In his January 2019 article “France Is Betraying America and Fulfilling Bible Prophecy!” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained how France is descended from the biblical tribe of Reuben. “Your Bible says Reuben’s modern descendants will again betray the latter-day descendants of Joseph—America and Britain!” he wrote. “The Bible prophesies of a European superpower led by Germany. France will meekly submit to and participate in this German-dominated ‘beast’ of Revelation 13. In so doing, France will cruelly betray the allies it fought alongside

in two world wars *against* Germany! Yes, Reuben’s descendants will play a treacherous role in ‘selling’ their brother into captivity and slavery, just as their ancestor did more than 3,700 years ago! We are seeing the beginning of that betrayal today!”

France’s strong reaction to the AUKUS alliance is another sign of this betrayal.

Other prophecies specifically describe this new European power forming a temporary alliance with China. Isaiah 23 discusses Tyre and Zidon, economic juggernauts of the ancient world that symbolize the economic power soon to arise in Europe. These are described in a trading alliance with Chittim, which, in Bible prophecy, is China.

Revelation 18 describes this same European economic superpower. The prior chapter shows that it is controlled and dominated by a “harlot,” which is a prophetic symbol of a false church.

The new AUKUS deal provides a premise for a major world religion to fundamentally shift Europe’s role in the world.

This is the briefest overview of the prophecies involved. They require more detailed study to prove them to yourself. But the overview shows us that the whole prophetic panorama described in the Bible could soon be here: Europe, led by the Vatican, turning against America and siding with China. Perhaps the reaction to AUKUS will help prompt such a shift. But even if not, resentment against the United States is bubbling in Europe. The Vatican is looking to play a role in shifting Europe’s alliance. World events could move very quickly. ■

Will China Soon Conquer Taiwan?

'It is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America.' **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

“THIS REALLY IS THE GRIMMEST TIME I’VE seen in my more than 40 years working in the military.” This was a statement by Taiwan Minister of Defense Chiu Kuo-cheng during an October 6 speech given to the island nation’s lawmakers.

He gave this speech after China celebrated its National Day on October 1 by flying 25 warplanes, including advanced fighters and bombers, into Taiwan’s air defense identification zone, a record for the most Chinese incursions in a single day. Over the next three days, the Chinese flew 111 more sorties into the Taiwanese zone, breaking the record twice more.

The Chinese Communist Party’s message was clear: *Our military might has exploded, our patience with Taiwan has burned out, and we will annex this rebel island soon.*

On October 9, Chinese President Xi Jinping stated bluntly, “Nobody should underestimate the staunch determination, firm will and powerful ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.” He and other Communist Party leaders have repeatedly said that they consider their regime’s “territorial integrity” to include Taiwan.

Taiwan’s leaders vow that they will do whatever it takes to keep Xi from absorbing Taiwan into China. Ever since people fled the Communists on the mainland for Taiwan, the island has managed to stay independent. But these 70 years of independence from the Chinese Communist Party have required political support, weapons sales and, most importantly, security assurances from the United States.

Now, however, just as Chinese military power is rapidly expanding, American assurances are rapidly shrinking.

‘Body Bags’

“Would the United States court death for Taiwan?” Teng Jianqun, a former Chinese Navy captain, asked in a recent interview on Chinese television.

A decade ago, the question may have been viewed as bluster.

But from 2011 to 2020, China’s military spending increased by 76 percent, reaching \$252 billion last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This still hasn’t closed the gap on the U.S.’s \$778 billion in annual military spending, but since China steals technology instead of developing it from scratch and starts soldiers at \$108 per month compared with \$1,733 in America, its dollars go much further. Xi has also restructured his military in recent years, shifting more resources away from China’s traditional focus on ground forces and toward naval and air forces. He has also prompted his generals to focus on joint warfare. And Taiwan is 6,700 miles from the coast of the mainland U.S.—but only 100 miles from the coast of mainland China.

The soaring spending and drastic reorganization have transformed the People’s Liberation Army from feckless to formidable. It means America’s warfighting advantage is vanishing. The Pentagon’s latest report on the Chinese military says it has already overtaken the U.S. in some crucial areas: integrated air defense systems, shipbuilding, and conventional ballistic and

cruise missiles. All these would factor heavily into a war over Taiwan.

Several rounds of recent U.S. military drills have pitted an American “blue” team against a “red” team representing China’s military. Red tries to invade and occupy Taiwan, and blue fights to defend the island. Since 2018, blue has lost every round. Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Hyten said, “Without overstating the issue, it failed miserably.”

In recent years, America has sailed numerous warships through the Taiwan Straits to demonstrate its resolve to protect the island. In August it approved a new weapons deal worth some \$750 million. Recent reports reveal that the U.S. has even secretly stationed marines and special forces there for over a year to train the Taiwanese. But actually sending U.S. troops into a rain of Chinese bullets and missiles is another matter altogether.

Robert L. Thomas, a former vice admiral who commanded the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet in Japan, told the *New York Times*, “I’ve thought about it a lot, and I don’t know if the United States is willing to see U.S. young people coming back in body bags for the defense of Taiwan” (October 9).

‘America Has Showcased Its Broken Will’

In 1998, Bill Clinton became the first U.S. president to yield to coaxing from the Chinese Communist Party and publicly oppose Taiwanese independence.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote

at the time that Clinton’s statements showed it was only a matter of time until China forces Taiwan under its control. He wrote in the August 1998 *Trumpet*: “The Chinese leaders pressured the president and America to speak against our freedom-loving friends [in Taiwan]. The people of Taiwan fear for their future. They feel betrayed. ... Once again, America has showcased its broken will to the whole world. ... How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? These 21 million people [now 24 million] are going to be forced into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America. Does freedom really mean so little to us?”

Mr. Flurry’s understanding of the U.S.’s “pitifully weak” will, and how it will factor into the China-Taiwan dynamic, derives from Bible prophecy. Leviticus 26 records God warning Israel that if the people of the nation refused to turn to Him, He would punish them in several specific ways. One of these, recorded in verse 19, states: “I will break the pride of your power.”

In this passage, Israel refers mainly to modern-day America and Britain (request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong).

When Mr. Flurry wrote that article 23 years ago, the prospects of China conquering Taiwan may have seemed remote. But today, with Xi Jinping’s China growing far mightier and more aggressive, and with America increasingly divided and war weary, it is clear that Mr. Flurry’s forecast could soon come to pass. ■

Want to Go to Space?

Commercial spaceflight is rocketing the dreams of science fiction into the realm of reality. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE JOYRIDES INTO space are as accessible to regular civilians as air travel. Imagine everyday orbits around Earth from hundreds of miles above the atmosphere, life aboard space stations, and forays to the moon or even Mars. That science-fiction world is lurching toward reality in a renaissance of space travel.

Since the first human space flights in the 1960s, only about 560 human beings have ever entered space, almost all of whom were astronauts for national government agencies. But in the early 2000s, a few billionaires founded private space companies, and this summer, they launched themselves and a handful of other non-astronauts into the heavens.

Their success is a fascinating contrast with what is happening here on the ground, where many are feeling claustrophobic being covered with masks, locked in their homes, stripped of their jobs, and deprived of their freedoms. Reaching space seems like the ultimate ambition in a quest for inspiration and liberty.

Why are people so fascinated with space? What are they trying to accomplish? Is this actually just a fantastic waste of time and resources, like many people think, or is there something noble and worthwhile about such feats?

Pioneering Spirit

On July 11, Richard Branson took off in *VSS Unity*, a rocket-powered suborbital space plane in Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed, 90-minute flight. Detaching from mother ship *VMS Eve*, the plane rocketed to an apogee of 53.5 miles. Branson and the rest of the crew floated through the cabin in microgravity, shouting with excitement. It was the first time an independent spaceflight company put a civilian into space.

Nine days later, Jeff Bezos blasted into space with his brother, an 82-year-old woman and an 18-year-old student, who were the oldest and youngest human beings to reach space. The automated capsule took them to a peak of 66.5 miles and returned them to Earth in a blazing span of 10 minutes.

On September 16, Elon Musk's SpaceX sent four citizens all the way into orbit in another historical first. The *Inspiration4* mission aboard a Falcon 9 lasted three days and flew 364 miles above Earth's surface, more than 100 miles higher than the International Space Station. The passengers splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean after circling the Earth every 96 minutes.

These are exciting feats. These wealthy visionaries pushed the bounds of what a private company could do and turned dreams into reality. They are exploring new frontiers, even personally. This is the spirit that the great explorers of history have had, driving into the unknown, across the prairies, the oceans, the glaciers, the sky and now space.

Now these men want to make space travel experiences available for paying customers. Hundreds of people have already signed up to buy pricey tickets to see the edge of space.

Safeguarding Humanity?

"Earth, in all its beauty, is just our starting place." That's Blue Origin's summary of its motivation for pouring so much into space exploration. What exactly is motivating these efforts to expand man's boundaries into the heavens?

"Mr. Bezos's most extravagant notion, unveiled in 2019, is a vision of space colonies—spinning cylinders floating out there with all kinds of environments," the *New York Times* wrote earlier this year. "These are very large structures, miles on end, and they hold a million

people or more each,' [Bezos] said, noting they are intended to relieve the stress on Earth and help make it more livable" (February 26).

Musk's plan is even more ambitious: He wants to land humans on Mars by 2026. Long term, he plans to manufacture 1,000 rockets in nine years to fly 1 million people to Mars. Why? To safeguard human survival.

"Both Musk and Bezos are looking at the long-term survival of the human race—although they have different ideas on how to ensure we survive. Musk sees migration to different planets as top priority, while the Blue Origin owner envisions humanity moving into massive space stations" (*Daily Mail*, Sept. 28, 2020).

These men see enough threats on Earth that they believe we are in danger of destroying human civilization. They aren't necessarily ignoring the problems here: For example, Musk also runs a firm that manufactures electric cars, which is meant to alleviate the carbon emissions contributing to supposedly apocalyptic climate change. But they consider it important to have a Plan B in case of an extinction event on Earth.

How inspiring is that vision to you?

Do you want to live in a giant cylinder floating in a black void, raising your children, eating dehydrated concoctions at every meal, knowing that you will never go for a hike or a swim, boat in a lake, drive through the mountains, or see panoramic vistas of wide-open spaces? Think practically about what it would mean to live on a colony constructed on the sub-freezing, unbreathable, barren Martian surface.

It makes you all the more thankful for this gem of a planet we inhabit, glowing, colorful, lush, rich, teeming with life of all kinds.

Earlier this year, in another amazing astrophysical feat, NASA's Perseverance rover landed on Mars. It has been trundling around ever since, collecting samples to eventually send back to Earth. It's amazing, but it's also another example that the more we learn about space, the moon, Mars and beyond, the more we realize how barren and lifeless is everything and everywhere but Earth! There is *no life* out there.

It is fascinating to imagine floating around in an orbital capsule, looking down at Earth through a window like the four civilian crew members of SpaceX's Inspiration4 mission were able to do for three days in September. But in the end, you are basically a gerbil in a cage. Three days of that would be plenty: You'd have to know that soon you are coming back to Earth to say, *Wow, it's great to be home!*

Asking the Wrong Question

"Why do scientists want to reach Mars?" *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry asked in the May-June issue. "It gets back to one overall question: *Is there life there?* But they are asking the wrong question! They should ask, 'Why are Mars and the rest of the universe there?' This question leads us to the Creator! Scientists are focused on the *creation*, not the Creator. And though it may be done in ignorance, it amounts to an exercise in futility and rebellion against God."

All these private and national projects to orbit the Earth, to explore the moon, to reach Mars, to create space stations and colonies to save humanity from killing itself are projects with soaring ambition that is admirable in some ways—but underlying it are fears and rampant faithlessness in the Creator of Earth and mankind.

This is a dazzling example of pitiful human beings trying to solve terrible human problems with misguided human reasoning.

"Some dream of somehow escaping Earth and introducing life to Mars. Can they do that?" Mr. Flurry asked. "Look at what human beings have done to this planet. We are about to destroy all human life on *Earth!* Even if we 'escaped,' we would bring rebellious, destructive human nature with us! Even if we found life on Mars, we would just destroy it in the end!" (ibid).

These are excellent, inarguable points that more people are starting to recognize.

Even these space programs are a good example of human nature at work. NASA requested bids from SpaceX and Blue Origin for building a new lunar lander. Apparently SpaceX bid about half of what Blue Origin bid,

so NASA chose SpaceX. Blue Origin sued, which might put the whole program in danger. NASA clapped back, accusing Bezos's company of prioritizing "its own fortunes over that of NASA, the United States and every person alive today who dreams to see humans exploring worlds beyond our own."

These are the squabbling people who believe it's up to them to save humanity inside space cylinders!

The Bible actually reveals that God does have a purpose for all that space, and He actually does intend us to go out there—*eventually!*

This is a truly inspiring vision of space and the universe that gives us hope for the future survival of mankind. And it is not an idea out of some billionaire's imagination. It is a genuine plan that is already in advance stages of completion, enacted by the Creator of the universe!

Our Universe Potential

We have a booklet titled *Our Awesome Universe Potential* that explains this truth from the Bible. I encourage you to order a free copy. We also have a book, written by Herbert W. Armstrong, titled *The Incredible Human Potential*, that goes into great scriptural detail in proving God's ultimate plans for the human race. This too is free for the asking. Space is exciting, but not at all for the reasons men like Bezos, Branson and Musk think.

Human beings are laboriously looking for life on other planets, but the Bible reveals that right now physical life exists only *one place in the universe*—and that is where God specifically put it. You can read about that miraculous process in the first chapter of the Bible, where God renewed the face of the Earth by His Word.

This is where He said, *Let there be light*, and then planted it with beautiful, astonishing life! This planet is extraordinary beyond description.

We are amazed when a rocket goes up 66 miles. But if Earth were the size of a basketball, Jeff Bezos and his fellow passengers would have risen above the surface about 1/20th of an inch. Inspiration4 would have risen less than 1/2 an inch. Meanwhile, at that scale the moon would be a tennis ball 23 feet away. Mars would be a shot put 21 miles away!

If our entire solar system out to Pluto were shrunk to the size of a quarter, then the Milky Way galaxy would be as big as the western half of the United States!

The center point of our galaxy is about 27,000 light-years from us. For all 200 to 400 billion stars in our galaxy to make one revolution around that point takes about 250 million years! And the universe has some 2 to 3 trillion galaxies like ours.

Yet when the SpaceX capsule landed, the ground crew said, "Welcome back to Planet Earth"—as if they were intergalactic travelers.

These people are taking little pokes out into space, and they believe it is up to them to save humanity!

What they are accomplishing is simply *nothing* compared to the future God is offering us. Learn about that future!

Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos aren't going to get you there. But the Creator of the vast universe will. And it gets back to human nature: your attitude. If you will turn to Him, He will lead you to fulfill your incredible human potential! With Him fulfilling His plan for humanity and for you, Earth really is only the starting point. Space is the final frontier—and it is waiting for you. ■

Is Ethiopia's Civil War in End-Time Prophecy?

This suffering could lead to crucial end-time events. **BY MIHAILO ZEKIC**

ETHIOPIA IS A FULL YEAR INTO A BLOODY civil war. The country is rapidly becoming the new Yugoslavia, as ethnic groups that once made up one country turn on each other in ethnic cleansing and genocide.

At the start of the conflict—which rages between the government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)—foreign-policy analysts predicted the worst. Dr. Yohannes Woldemariam called it “an existential crisis for Ethiopia.” “It could mean state collapse. The whole region will be affected, from refugees to destabilization,” he told the *Telegraph* (Nov. 4, 2020). Prominent Ethiopian journalist Tsedale Lemma tweeted that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's military venture “isn't ‘a surgical operation’ which will quickly end TPLF, but an epistemic rupture of the [Ethiopian] Federation as we know it” (Nov. 4, 2020).

It looks like their predictions are coming true.

The suffering spreading through this geostrategically important country could alter the region and lead to the fulfillment of a crucial end-time biblical prophecy.

An Unending Bloodbath

IT STARTED WITH THE ELECTION OF ABIY Ahmed as Ethiopia's prime minister in 2018. The TPLF had ruled Ethiopia since the 1990s, when Ethiopia's Communist regime fell. Abiy and the TPLF have since been in a power struggle, culminating in the government's invasion of Tigray.

What was supposed to be a quick operation has turned into an unending bloodbath. The Tigray ethnic group comprises only 5 to 7 percent of Ethiopia's population of

over 100 million. Despite this, the TPLF has developed a sizable military. On August 10, Abiy called for all capable Ethiopians to join the military against the Tigray rebels, hinting he may implement mass conscription.

What started as an operation against the Tigray has grown to include ethnic infighting between the Oromo and the Amhara, Ethiopia's two largest ethnic groups. Each ethnicity comprises about a third of Ethiopia's population. The Oromo are traditionally Muslim, while the Tigray and Amhara are traditionally Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. But due to competing land claims, the Amhara are warring against both the Oromo and the Tigray. This has caused the Oromo Liberation Army, a militia linked to a terrorist group, to ally with the TPLF. Abiy, while an Oromo, is a Pentecostal.

In this war, few weapons are off the table. The Ethiopian government has been accused of war crimes, such as using white phosphorus, a substance banned for use against humans by the Geneva Convention. They're also accused of deliberately starving the Tigray. In July, the Ethiopian government began blocking aid trucks from the Tigray region. Including those suffering from famine, the United Nations estimates there are over 5 million Tigray people in need of emergency aid. An October 7 UN report states that “an estimated 1.4 million children under the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating women need preventative intervention and malnutrition treatment.”

In a September 28 interview with Reuters, UN humanitarian aid chief Martin Griffiths said the famine was “man-made” and capable of being “remedied by the act of government.” Considering this deliberate famine targets one

ethnic group—the Tigray—this could qualify as genocide.

The war isn't only destroying Ethiopia. It is impacting the wider world.

Affecting the Neighbors

Abiy also brought Eritrea, a neighboring dictatorship, into the war. Eritrea's strongman, Isaias Afwerki, sent troops into Tigray. Afwerki has ruled Eritrea with an iron fist since 1991 and has gone to war with literally all his neighbors. Ethiopia and Eritrea are normally avowed enemies, but they are apparently willing to work together if it means crushing the TPLF. In August, the United States government accused the Eritrean military of massacres, sexual violence, torture and the murder of civilians.

Djibouti, another country in the Horn of Africa, is also getting involved. The Tigray have been accused of massacring the Afar ethnic group in the Afar province. The Afar are mostly Muslim. Thirty percent of Djibouti is Afar. Tadjoura, Djibouti's second-largest city, hoisted the flag of Ethiopia's Afar province in a show of support.

Several incidents between Ethiopia and Sudan have also occurred. Khartoum reported an Ethiopian "trespass into Sudanese land" in February. In March, Sudan took advantage of the chaos in Ethiopia to send troops to a territory disputed by the two countries. Sudan accused an Ethiopian militia of kidnapping a Sudanese military commander in July, prompting a border closure and military buildup on both sides of the border.

Then there is Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Abiy met with Erdoğan on August 18. They held a joint press conference and signed unspecified military cooperation agreements. Erdoğan already had good relations with Ethiopia. A few years back, the University of Addis Ababa gave him an honorary doctorate. He also commissioned the restoration of a historic Ethiopian mosque that is supposedly the final resting place of Najashi, an Ethiopian king prominent in Muslim tradition. The Turkish government has even advocated for Najashi's tomb to be put on the

traditional Muslim pilgrimage route. Erdoğan is a committed Islamist. He supports terrorist groups like Hamas in Gaza and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. He is, to say the least, interesting company for Abiy to keep.

What is the broader significance of these events? Biblical prophecy tells us.

Ethiopia in Prophecy

Ethiopia features in one of the most important end-time prophecies. Daniel 11:40 states that a European "king of the north" will attack a "king of the south"—radical Islam led by Iran (for proof of these identities, read our free booklet *The King of the South*). It states that this European empire "shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (verse 43).

The king of the north is prophesied to invade Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. The implication is that these three powers will be allied with the king of the north's *enemy*, Iranian-led radical Islam.

Egypt and Libya are Arab states that are struggling to deal with radical Islam. It wouldn't be too surprising for them to ally with Iran. Ten years ago, the Arab Spring rocked both these countries and many others in the region; and similar shocks could radicalize them quickly.

But what about Ethiopia?

For years Ethiopia has been a stable, staunch ally of the United States. Ethiopia's Christian background has caused some *Trumpet* readers over the years to doubt the forecast that the nation will become Islamic.

Now, however, Ethiopia is mired in ethnic civil war. The Tigray People's Liberation Front, the traditional rulers of Ethiopia since the fall of communism, are fighting for survival. This violence is putting severe strain on the once-strong relationship between Ethiopia and America. In February, Washington accused the Ethiopian government of ethnic cleansing. Ethiopian leaders were so indignant that Andargachew Tsege, one of Abiy's advisers, urged protesters to burn American flags outside the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile, Abiy Ahmed is looking for other allies, like Islamist Turkish President Erdoğan. On the flip side, the Oromo Liberation Army, which represents a majority Muslim ethnic group, has joined the fight against the government. On both sides of this battle, Islam is creeping its way into Ethiopian politics.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes this in *The King of the South* regarding the Daniel 11 prophecy: “Whoever heavily influences or controls Ethiopia will undoubtedly also control the small areas of Eritrea and Djibouti on the Red Sea coastline. These areas only recently became independent of Ethiopia. Also, I believe the Bible view is that these small areas are included as a part of Ethiopia.”

We are seeing both Eritrea and Djibouti get drawn into the Ethiopian conflict.

A likely country to take advantage of Ethiopia’s instability is Iran. It thrives on sponsoring proxies to take over unstable governments, such as Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Shiite militias in Iraq. While Iran is relatively far from Ethiopia, it has been trying to export its Islamic revolution into Africa for years. It has ties to Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood. There is also evidence to suggest that Iran sponsors rebel groups all over the continent, including in Gambia, Somalia and possibly Mozambique.

Desta Heliso, an Ethiopian journalist living in London, warned last year that the conflict could open a door for radical Islam. “There are some forces within and outside Ethiopia who claim that Ethiopia’s ‘historical’ position as *dar al Islam* or ‘land of Islam’ must be recovered,”

he warned in his article “Ethiopia’s Increasing Vulnerability to Islamic Extremism and What That Means for the Horn of Africa.”

“Over the last 30 years, Islam has grown in confidence and in number in Ethiopia,” he wrote. “Tens of thousands of mosques have been built in the country, Muslim businesses have grown, and an Islamic bank was established recently. Extremist tendencies, centering on *Wahhabist* teaching, have also grown” (Nov. 17, 2020).

This extremism has grown especially within the Oromo people. Catholic and Protestant buildings have been attacked in Oromo regions. Over the last few years, hundreds of Christians have been murdered. “It is alleged that these radical elements within Oromia are supported by outside forces, particularly in Egypt,” wrote Heliso.

Ethiopia’s transition to the Iran-led Islamist camp is certain to be painful. This is a country of over 65 million Christians. Bringing them into subjection to an Islamist regime will surely involve terrible brutality. Sadly, we are seeing such brutality already in the nation’s civil war.

That is why understanding this prophecy is so crucial. Ethiopia’s suffering is just a small part of the suffering coming soon on the whole world. But it is also a critical step in the fulfillment of end-time Bible prophecy. It is a step toward Jesus Christ’s Second Coming and a permanent end to genocide, ethnic cleansing and religious persecution.

Keep watching the Horn of Africa. More still must take place before Ethiopia turns Islamist. But events are unfolding there that will ultimately impact the entire world. ■

Arizona Audit: the Unreported Truth

You would never know it if you read the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*.

BY ANDREW MILLER

THE ARIZONA STATE SENATE FINALLY released the results of its Maricopa County forensic election audit on September 24, and it exposed tens of thousands of fraudulent ballots. The hand recount of 2.1 million votes was done at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix from April 22 to September 24 by four out-of-state companies: Wake Technology Services, CyFIR, Digital Discovery and Cyber Ninjas. Despite repeated lawsuits to stop the audit, denials by local authorities to provide routers and other information, and opposition from voting machine executives refusing to turn over passwords—the audits uncovered systematic fraud. Yet you will never hear about it from the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*.

Major media outlets were quick to report that the Arizona audit confirmed that Joe Biden won the majority of votes for president in Maricopa County. Newsmax reported, “Arizona Audit Results Reveal Donald Trump Lost to Joe Biden by Even Bigger Margin.” *USA Today* headlined, “Arizona Audit Affirmed Biden’s Win, Didn’t Prove Voter Fraud, Contrary to Trump Claim.” The *Washington Post* went with “President Biden Won Arizona, No Matter What Trumpland Believes.” A *New York Times* headline read, “Republican Review of Arizona Vote Fails to Show Stolen Election.” And the *Wall Street Journal* blasted, “Trump Loses Arizona—Again.” Yet these major media outlets are guilty of deliberately deceiving their readers.

Journalists reported that the audit established “there were no substantial differences between the hand count of the ballots provided and the official canvass

results for the county.” But they intentionally ignored evidence showing that Maricopa County was flooded with thousands of illicit ballots. In other words, corrupt officials stuffed ballot boxes with illicit ballots and then counted them accurately!

Detailed Results

The Maricopa County Forensic Election Audit may be the most comprehensive election audit ever. More than 1,500 people contributed over 100,000 man-hours to examine Maricopa County’s election results. The official report says this audit “involved reviewing everything from the voter history for the election, to retallying all 2.1 million ballots by hand, to performing forensic photography and review of the ballot paper, to conducting cyber forensic imaging and analysis of the provided voting equipment.”

The Maricopa County tally of ballots cast in the 2020 election found there were 995,665 ballots cast for Donald Trump and 1,040,774 for Joe Biden—a majority of 45,109 votes for Biden. The recount confirmed these results within 0.02 percent, finding 995,404 ballots for Trump and 1,040,873 for Biden. This is why the *Hill* is reporting, “Arizona Draft Audit Report Shows Biden Lead Widened by 360 Votes.” But what the *Hill* avoids mentioning is that the hand recount was only part of the Maricopa County audit, and not the part that those who suspect election fraud are focusing on.

The audit also shows that 23,344 ballots were cast by individuals who had moved prior to the registration deadline and were ineligible to vote. Of these, 15,035 mail-in ballots came from voters who had moved within Maricopa County

prior to the registration deadline. Another 1,718 mail-in ballots came from voters who moved out of Maricopa County but stayed in Arizona prior to the registration deadline, and another 6,591 mail-in ballots came from voters who had moved out of Arizona altogether.

There is no way to know whether these ballots ever found their way to their intended recipient's new address, let alone whether they were cast by that recipient. They could have been filled out by someone ineligible to vote in Maricopa County. In addition, Arizona state law mandates that mail-in ballots "must be mailed to voters by first-class, nonforwardable mail." So these ballots are not legally valid.

Since Biden only won Arizona by 10,457 votes, these invalid ballots would be enough to change the outcome of the election if slightly more than half of them were for Biden. And they are not the only evidence of fraud uncovered by investigators. Auditors also discovered 282 ballots from dead voters, 10,342 ballots from people who voted in multiple counties, 29,557 duplicate ballots, and 263,139 corrupt ballot images. The audit and canvassing of the county found that *a total of nearly 700,000 issues with Maricopa County ballots*. Granted, these issues are not mutually exclusive, so there are probably far fewer than 700,000 fraudulent ballots. But former White House trade adviser Dr. Peter Navarro says the Maricopa County Forensic Election Audit has exposed 50,000 fraudulent ballots, which means the number of fraudulent ballots in Maricopa County is nearly five times greater than Biden's "victory margin."

It is also important to realize that the Cyber Ninjas auditors never gained access to the passwords for the Dominion voting machines, so the Maricopa County forensic election audit does not comment on voting machine irregularities or digitally altered ballots that may also have been used to steal the election.

Stop the Steal

The media will not admit fraud, yet supporters of Donald Trump are peppering Gov. Doug Ducey with demands to decertify the Arizona

election. Meanwhile, officials in other states are pushing for their own audits.

A hand recount of 145,000 absentee ballots in Fulton County, Georgia, exposed 5,000 ballots that were ineligible but counted anyway. This was not an audit, it did not include in-person ballots or electronic ballots, and it includes only one of Georgia's 159 counties. Yet even this indicates that Trump may be the legitimate winner of this swing state, since Biden officially won Georgia by fewer than 13,000 votes.

On September 30, the Texas secretary of state's office announced an audit of three large counties won by Biden, and one large county won by Trump. Officials in Wisconsin have ordered the first subpoenas in an election audit statewide. The former state supreme court justice overseeing the audit visited the Veterans Memorial Coliseum during the Arizona audit and also attended Mike Lindell's August 10-12 Cyber Symposium on election fraud. Media outlets are already warning that a Wisconsin audit will be even worse than the Arizona audit, which is ironic considering that many of these same outlets characterized the Arizona audit as confirming the Biden victory they desired.

Pennsylvania Republicans have also doubled down on their review of the 2020 presidential election after the Arizona audit. Republicans on a Pennsylvania Senate committee have voted to issue subpoenas for information including personal details about each of the state's 6.9 million voters. They are now pushing for a full taxpayer-funded election audit conducted by a third-party firm like Arizona did.

On October 12 in Michigan, 100 demonstrators at the State Capitol demanded an election audit there. Biden won the state by 154,188 votes, and Dr. Navarro has already chronicled 195,755 voting machine irregularities. A full-scale forensic audit is desperately needed in several counties.

The audit demands in these states are facing ferocious opposition. Yet polls indicate that 50 million Republicans believe the 2020 presidential election was stolen, and efforts to "stop the steal" are not going away.

At the conclusion of the Cyber Symposium, Virginia State Sen. Amanda Chase announced a new Election Integrity Caucus to expose voter fraud across America by calling for a forensic audit in each and every state. “I am one of the founding members of the newly formed Election Integrity Caucus that consists of legislators from all 50 states,” Arizona State Sen. Wendy Rogers said. “It reminds me of the Continental Congress. We will meet regularly and we will talk regularly to implement the securing [of] our elections.”

Considering that just three years ago even House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed support for post-election audits in response to a plethora of vulnerabilities in U.S. election infrastructure, you would think that legislators on both sides of the political aisle would be eager to join this Election Integrity Caucus.

End-Time Jeroboam

At this point, it is practically an open secret that radical Democrats stole the 2020 election from President Donald Trump. In his article “What Will Happen After Trump Regains Power” ([theTrumpet.com/23957](https://www.thetrumpet.com/23957)), *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry asserted that President Trump was the legitimate winner of the 2020 election. He also explained that the Bible prophesies that Trump 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*. President Trump could also lead some states to secede from the union. That would lead to some kind of warfare” (*Trumpet*, July 2021).

This astonishing forecast is based on 2 Kings 14:26-28: “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. Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?”

Mr. Flurry has written consistently since 2016 that President Trump is an end-time type of ancient Israel’s King Jeroboam II. God used President Trump to temporarily save America from the radical-leftist forces seeking to destroy it. But now he will have to fight to recover the office stolen from him. It has taken months to complete, but the Maricopa County audit may knock down the first domino in a process that exposes the entire stolen election.

With millions of illegal immigrants pouring into the country, the U.S. fleeing Afghanistan in shame, pandemic lockdown and vaccination pressure increasing, and supply chain crises plaguing the economy, a poll conducted by Zogby Analytics found that 20 percent of *Biden* voters want to take back their vote. Sentiment against Joe Biden and his false presidency remains strong.

One way or another, the Bible shows that President Trump will return to office. Keep watching the Election Integrity Caucus and the audits popping up across the nation in state after state for the shocking results. ■

Rising Prices, Empty Shelves

The twin pressures of inflation and supply shortages are hurting everyone. This is actually the way the radical left planned it. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

IF YOU'VE SHOPPED RECENTLY, YOU'VE noticed that food prices are soaring and grocery store shelves are empty. Want steak this weekend? The price of beef has shot up 12 percent in the past year. Want to settle for a roast chicken instead? The price of poultry is up 7 percent. Considering giving up meat altogether? Canned vegetables are up 6 percent. In fact, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that a family of four is likely to spend about \$500 more on groceries this year than last year.

Many of the cheaper food items on store shelves cannot even be found anymore. NBC's Kristen Dahlgren recently reported that 16 percent of beverages, 14 percent of snack foods, and 13 percent of frozen items are out of stock.

This is an effect of supply chain breakdowns caused by the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is not the only effect. As airports, dockyards, railways, trucking companies and warehouses remain understaffed, manufacturers are struggling to get their goods to locations where you can buy them. People are waiting weeks for products as mundane as paper towels, prescription drugs and oil filters in what some are calling "the everything shortage."

When the shortages started, federal officials assured us that they were a temporary side effect of reopening the economy after COVID-19 lockdowns. But now U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg admits that the current supply chain problems could last "years and years."

Isn't it remarkable how quickly the nation's economic outlook has deteriorated? Well,

it's not so remarkable to many of the top-ranking officials in the U.S. government. These university-trained economists are not idiots. They knew COVID-19 lockdowns would produce long-term shortages, but they decided to shut down the economy anyway, regardless of the consequences.

Such policies would be insane if you were trying to strengthen America and its free market. But they make a lot of sense when you accept the fact that they could be a deliberate strategy for weakening the country, abolishing its free market, and clearing the path for establishing a Communist system.

Millenniums ago, the Bible foretold that the U.S. would be plagued by warfare, famine and pestilence in the end time. The radical left's push to drive up prices and create shortages is actually leading to the ultimate fulfillment of these sobering prophecies. Now is the time for every American to set his financial house in order and make sure his relationship with God is on a firm foundation!

Record-Setting Inflation

Since the start of the pandemic, the Federal Reserve has injected more than \$5 trillion into circulation. That means 1 in 4 dollars currently in use was created within the past two years. Is it any wonder that inflation has hit a 30-year high? The personal consumption expenditure index rose 4.3 percent year-over-year in August, faster than any point since George H. W. Bush was president.

Economics analyst John Williams of *shadowstats.com* says that if inflation were still calculated the way it was in 1980, the official

inflation rate over the past 12 months would be about 13 percent.

Most Americans blame Joe Biden for the inflation surge. Yet he is unchastened. His administration is pushing for a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill that will unleash even more inflation. Donald Trump has warned that “inflation is going to ravage our country,” and hedge fund manager Stanley Druckenmiller says he cannot “find any period in history where monetary and fiscal policy were this out of step with the economic circumstances.” But the radical left is not interested in strengthening the economy. They are interested in destroying the U.S. dollar.

The government is nearly \$30 trillion in debt, and the Biden administration is proposing that we take on \$8 trillion in additional debt over the next decade. The radical thinking underlying this insane spending spree is modern monetary theory, which says the federal government can spend without restraint and simply print more money to cover its debts. Though Bernie Sanders’s economic adviser Stephanie Kelton and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have become the public faces of modern monetary theory, all Democrats (and even many Republicans) espouse this theory in practice.

Modern monetary theory increases the government’s control over people by giving it the power to buy anything it wants by simply creating the money. This quickly destroys the value of the dollar, including the dollars held by private individuals. It is a strategy to exterminate the very spirit of capitalism!

The Everything Shortage

When the pandemic first broke out, reports emerged of farmers smashing eggs, dumping milk, and plowing acres of fresh vegetables and crops back into the soil. Why? They had lost the means to get their produce to market before it spoiled. The customers were out there—people were desperate to buy—but they lived too far away.

About 71 percent of all U.S. freight is moved by trucks, and government-imposed lockdown policies have worsened a shortage of truck

drivers in America. Trucking companies laid off 88,300 drivers in April 2020, and the industry still has not recovered. Huge quantities of perishable items like beef, poultry, fish, dairy, eggs, fruit and vegetables have therefore perished. Store shelves are emptier, and prices for the reduced quantities of food that are available keep rising and rising.

This situation would not have been nearly such a problem two centuries ago, when 90 percent of Americans lived on farms. But today only about 1 percent of Americans live on farms, and studies estimate that “fresh” produce travels an average distance of *1,500 miles* from farm to plate.

Other consumer goods like appliances, automobiles, clothing, electronics, furniture, gasoline and office supplies often come from much farther away—even crossing an ocean to get to your home. Most people rarely think about the importance of supply lines, but they are the cardiovascular system of the global economy. One major blockage can send the entire system into cardiac arrest.

You should be deeply worried about a letter sent to the United Nations General Assembly by a group of truckers, sailors and airline workers. In September, the International Chamber of Shipping begged global leaders to restore freedom of movement to workers under lockdown, stating: “Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the maritime, road and aviation industries have called loudly and clearly on governments to ensure the free movement of transport workers and to end travel bans and other restrictions that have had an enormously detrimental impact on their well-being and safety. Transport workers keep the world running and are vital for the free movement of products, including vaccines and PPE [personal protective equipment], but have been continually failed by governments and taken for granted by their officials. ... In view of the vital role that transport workers have played during the pandemic and continue to play during the ongoing supply chain crisis, we request, as a matter of urgency, a meeting with WHO [the World Health Organization] and the ILO [International Labour Organization] at

the highest level to identify solutions before global transport systems collapse.”

The industries represented by signatories of this letter account for more than \$20 trillion in world trade annually, facilitated by some 65 million transport workers. They are warning that supply chains are in utter chaos.

The trucker shortage is compounded by interruptions in naval shipping. Ports in California, Georgia, New Jersey, New York and Texas are experiencing pileups. On October 19, a hundred ships were at anchor in a holding area waiting to enter the ports of Los Angeles (a backlog almost six times greater than a pre-COVID backup). The world is about to experience a shortage of everything from computer chips to construction materials.

Many analysts are warning of a “bottleneck recession” where businesses cannot function properly until the supply chains they rely on are restored. In short, people will have to get used to paying more for less until—and unless—blockages are removed. And for some reason, world leaders seem disinterested in resolving these supply chain problems. In fact, some express enthusiasm about how supply chain collapse has reduced carbon dioxide emissions!

Why Socialists Are Excited

Global food prices have shot up nearly 33 percent over the past year—higher than for most of *modern history*. In the U.S., food banks nationwide are on pace to distribute 6.5 billion meals to 42 million people this year (20 percent more than the 35 million people who turned to food banks before the pandemic). Yet instead of grieving over millions needlessly facing the specter of hunger because of lockdowns, politicians pushing for a Green New Deal are pleased that gasoline-burning trucks are off the roads, diesel-guzzling ships are off the seas, and jet-fueled airliners are out of the sky.

After global coronavirus lockdowns reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 2.6 billion tons in 2020, Spanish climate change scientist and environmental activist Martín López Corredoira wrote, “Neither Greenpeace, nor Greta Thunberg, nor any other individual or collective organization

have achieved so much in favor of the health of the planet in such a short time. A miracle happened ...” He admitted, “It is certainly not very good for the economy in general, but it is fantastic for the environment.”

A professor at University College London in Economics of Innovation and Public Value published an essay recommending *more* climate change lockdowns: “Under a ‘climate lockdown,’ governments would limit private-vehicle use, ban consumption of red meat, and impose extreme energy-saving measures, while fossil-fuel companies would have to stop drilling. To avoid such a scenario, we must overhaul our economic structures and do capitalism differently” (Oct. 21, 2020).

A *Nature* journal piece claimed that lockdowns have mentally conditioned people’s minds to tolerate the imposition of “personal carbon allowances.” It seems the radical left has no motivation or plan to restore freedom of movement to the world. Instead they want to use the supply chain crisis to condition people to the reduced consumption of a socialist world.

Communist dictators like Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong deliberately starved millions to death in artificially created famines that cemented their control over their populations. Judging by their patterns of actions, many world leaders today have similar designs. The UN has admitted that coronavirus lockdowns have pushed almost 320 million people into malnutrition in a single year. Yet leaders worldwide are still considering making these lockdowns permanent.

Analysts have found that the world’s 2,365 billionaires enjoyed a \$4 trillion boost to their wealth during the pandemic, while 150 million middle-class people fell into the lower class. When you follow the money, it becomes evident that global elites are pushing lockdowns for the *same reason* they are printing money: to make a newly enlarged lower class dependent on the government!

Economic Pestilence

The Prophet Ezekiel describes a modern-era global catastrophe that begins with a siege

against the Anglo-Saxon nations and their economies. This siege lasts about 13 months and destroys the might and power of America (Ezekiel 4:4-5, 9-13). The current supply chain crisis is not part of the 390-day siege that Ezekiel prophesied, but they are a shot across the bow alerting the American people to just how fragile their supply chains are. Right now, many of the shortages America is suffering from are the result of radical socialists deliberately trying to reduce America's consumption and increase people's reliance on the federal government. But soon foreign nations will deliberately target the United States, making it impossible for U.S. leaders to end the suffering even if they wanted to.

A trade siege as debilitating as the one described in Deuteronomy 28:52 and Ezekiel 4 would cause the price of food to spike higher than it has ever been in American history. This acute food shortage will, in turn, fuel discontent, rage, rioting, looting and violence in cities across America.

A prophecy in Ezekiel 5:12 reveals that *one third* of the population of America will die from famine and violence caused by civil war. "The pestilence, or plague of violence, will cause many health problems that lead to famine," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*. "Sewage disposal will be disrupted. Gas lines will be broken. Jobs will be lost. Society will unravel, and the collective panic will bring a stock market disaster! It will get so bad that violence and famine will take millions of lives! ... The worse the violence and burning become, the worse the famine will get. The worse the famine becomes, the more intense the violence will get. It becomes a vicious cycle."

As Alfred Henry Lewis stated in 1906, "There are only nine meals between mankind and anarchy."

America is riven by deep political divisions right now, but the average citizen can afford to ignore them, or maybe just complain about them, as long as he can continue to buy groceries. But once supply chains break and people lose access to food, things will quickly get violent. This violence will lead to more

supply chain breakdowns, which will lead to more violence and more breakdowns.

The world's costliest civil war, in terms of lives lost, was the Russian Civil War that created the Soviet Union. Roughly 1.5 million combatants were killed in battle and another 8 million civilians died from raids, famine and disease. The Russian Empire lost more than 5 percent of its people in this war of revolution. And it was started by a man with "progressive" economic ideas: Vladimir Lenin.

Yet Ezekiel says America's coming civil war will be many times worse. Ezekiel 7:14-15 say, "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. The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him." This passage indicates that many people in the country may survive the pestilence and famine resulting from supply chain collapse in America's big cities, but will then face foreign invasion.

You can already see the fault lines of a seismic conflict forming. On one side, Satan is using radical-leftist politicians and their allies in the mainstream to inflame race and class hatreds. On the other, working-class Republicans and evangelical Christians are trying to defend America's constitutional system of government. But neither side is willing to accept Ezekiel's warning that God is cursing the nation.

These curses are coming only because the American people have changed God's judgments into wickedness and sinned against His statutes more than the countries around them, who have never had a history with God like America has (Ezekiel 5:6).

But God also reveals how individuals can be protected from this disaster.

Ezekiel 33:10-11 state, "Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that

the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Our people must *turn*

from evil and repair our relationship with God. National survival depends on national repentance! ■

How to Exterminate Capitalism

SUPPOSE YOU ARE A REVOLUTIONARY fighting for a Communist world. Your ideologue, Karl Marx, advocated seizing control of the government and taking from the upper classes to feed the welfare class through progressive taxation. That gives you control over people's wages. But if you want to stamp out the free market forever, you need to destroy the wealth they already have stored away.

This is why Vladimir Lenin loved printing money.

"Hundreds of thousands of ruble notes are being issued daily by our Treasury," Lenin told the Russian Communist Party during the worst days of the Russian Civil War. "This is done, not in order to fill the coffers of the state with practically worthless paper, but with the deliberate intention of destroying the value of money as a means of payment. There is no justification for the existence of money in the Bolshevik state, where the necessities of life shall be paid for by work alone. Experience has taught us it is impossible to root out the evils of capitalism merely by confiscation and expropriation, for however ruthlessly such

measures may be applied, astute speculators and obstinate survivors of the capitalist classes will always manage to evade them and continue to corrupt the life of the community. The simplest way to exterminate the very spirit of capitalism is therefore to flood the country with notes of a high face-value without financial guarantees of any sort."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Reserve has pumped an average of \$8 billion into circulation daily. Like Vladimir Lenin, the Federal Reserve Board and their allies in the United States Treasury are deliberately destroying the value of the U.S. dollar.

What is their motivation?

Is it a coincidence that the woman Joe Biden nominated as comptroller of the currency is a Moscow State University graduate who received the Lenin Personal Academic Scholarship? It is becoming more apparent with each passing day that the radical left's coronavirus response is revolutionizing the nation in ways that socialists like Bernie Sanders, Michael Moore and Rachel Maddow always hoped for. ■

Obama Signed His Name to It

THE RADICAL LEFT SEEKS TO HASTEN THE fall of capitalism by overloading the United States government with debt and a series of impossible demands that will push society into crisis and economic collapse.

On Jan. 11, 1996, Barack Obama signed a contract promising to support and associate himself with the New Party. Formed in opposition to President Bill Clinton's so-called centralist policies, the New Party was active in Chicago from 1992 to 1998. It was deeply

hostile to the idea of American capitalism and purposed to force the Democratic Party further to the left by recruiting radical candidates.

The New Party was influenced by the economic hypotheses of Frances Fox Piven. Born to Russian parents, Piven became a member of the Democratic Socialists of America and an influential economist at Columbia University. Along with her husband, Richard Cloward, Piven authored a magazine article in May 1966 titled "The

Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty.”

Cloward and Piven advocated a strategy to deliberately overload the welfare system as a means to create an economic crisis that would force the U.S. government to implement a guaranteed minimum income for all citizens. Once local governments went bankrupt keeping up with these new welfare demands, they would be forced to apply for federal bailouts. Then, under threat of civil unrest, the federal government would be forced to reform the tax system in such a way as to facilitate “outright redistribution of income” by introducing socialism.

Cloward gave a chilling insight into his thinking in 1970 when he told the *New York Times* that the poor can advance only when “the rest of society is afraid of them.”

President Obama attempted to advance Cloward and Piven’s vision in 2012 when he effectively gutted work requirements for welfare recipients. Federal outlays for welfare programs increased 67 percent during Obama’s presidency from \$430 billion a year to \$720 billion a year. This is why former House Speaker Newt Gingrich quipped that Obama would be remembered as the “food-stamp president.”

Yet Obama’s initial attempt to overload the welfare system pales in comparison

to the orchestrated effort to destroy our currency and our economy using coronavirus stimulus checks.

Under the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan, the government has spent \$804 billion sending stimulus checks to low- and middle-income individuals impacted by coronavirus lockdowns. Together with other forms of coronavirus stimulus, this spending has increased the federal debt by more than \$6 trillion. America’s debt is now bigger than its entire yearly economic output. The nation is nearing a point where every new dollar it borrows will have to be paid as interest on its existing debt.

This is called a debt death spiral, and it is exactly what Cloward and Piven advocated in their article. Once the government is borrowing money to pay the interest on the money it has already borrowed, it can no longer afford welfare checks or much of anything else. Foreign nations will refuse to lend it money, it will resort to printing more money, and the current rampant inflation will become hyperinflation. At this point, even Republicans and Libertarians will have to admit that the nation’s only option is to start a socialist redistribution of wealth via progressive taxations, or face a Bolshevik uprising inside America! ■

The Everything Shortage

THE WORLD ECONOMY IS BREAKING DOWN ON a basic level. United States Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg recently admitted that merchandise shortages caused by supply chain problems will last for “years and years.” But what Buttigieg and his accomplices in the Biden administration are not admitting is that government economists knew these shortages would happen when they decided to lock down the economy last year. It is all part of a plan to “fundamentally transform” the world economy by destroying the middle class.

Engineer a New Illness

A House Foreign Affairs Committee

report titled “The Origins of COVID-19: An Investigation of the Wuhan Institute of Virology” proves that Chinese and American officials worked together to cover up the true origins of COVID-19 until what should have been a local disease outbreak in Wuhan turned into a global pandemic.

Shut Down the Economy

In April 2020, countries around the world closed their schools, laid off their employees, and sealed their borders to “stop the spread” of COVID-19. The International Labour Organization estimated a 9 percent loss of global work hours in 2020, the equivalent of

255 million full-time jobs. Global trade volumes shrank by 14 billion tons and the global economy shrank by \$2.8 trillion as lockdowns ravaged factories, businesses and households.

Spend, Spend, Spend

To help people survive the lockdowns, governments approved \$16 trillion worth of COVID-19 stimulus, almost 20 percent of the gross world product. The debt-to-GDP ratio rose 35 percentage points to 356 percent as governments, corporations, businesses, households and individuals took on \$27 trillion in additional loans.

Shrink the Labor Force

The global labor force shrank by 82 million people during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not recovered as millions use COVID-19 stimulus money to avoid work. The United States recovered 17 million of the 22 million jobs it lost during the lockdowns, leaving payrolls 5 million jobs below their pre-pandemic levels. The nation now has nearly 11 million job vacancies—more job openings than any time in its history.

Destroy Transportation

After lockdowns shrank trade volumes by 14 billion tons, the reopening of the economy

has overburdened global supply lines with 15 billion tons of new orders. This means farms and factories are struggling to keep up with demand and find a way to ship their products to consumers. And since all transport sectors are also experiencing worker shortages, the International Chamber of Shipping is warning of “system collapse.”

Drive Up Prices

The costs of shipping a 40-foot container from China to California has increased fourfold during the pandemic, from \$5,000 to over \$20,000. This is one of the reasons why global food prices have shot up nearly 33 percent and used car prices have shot up nearly 45 percent. People are not available to move these commodities.

Eliminate the Middle Class

While politicians, pharmaceutical representatives and Big Tech oligarchs have profited during the pandemic, the rest of humanity has suffered. Analysts have found that the world’s 2,365 billionaires enjoyed a \$4 trillion boost to their wealth during the first year of the pandemic, while 150 million slipped down the economic ladder from the middle class to the lower class. Society is being fundamentally transformed. ■

Recapture the Lost Meaning of Manhood

Excerpted from the book *Biblical Manhood* BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHAT IS MANHOOD? SURELY ALMOST every adult male considers himself a *man*. Yet if they were asked to define just what it means to be a man, they would give a variety of conflicting definitions. In recent years, the varying, flexible definitions for manhood have been twisted and tortured to shocking extremes.

If you want to define manhood for yourself, you will probably always meet your own criteria. But if you want to define manhood *in reality*, you need to consult the *Creator* of manhood.

God created your body and mind to fulfill duties and purpose. You have obligations and opportunities as a man in your home, in your work, in your community and beyond.

But the world has relaxed, confused, opposed and attacked the true definition of manhood. A devastating *revolution* is raging over it. So it will take a fighting spirit to even seek out that definition.

For millennia, men have been providers: providers of defense, security, shelter, food. They did the smithing, ranching, mining, felling, milling, building and other work outside the home.

In 1960, about two thirds of American men at age 30 had finished school, left their parents' home, become financially independent, gotten married and had a child. By 2000, that number was cut in half. In 1970, 80 percent of 25-to-29-year-old American men were married. Now that number has also been cut in half. In 1950, 1 in 20 men of prime working age was not working. Today, businesses of all kinds are desperate to hire, but no one shows up. About 60 percent of 18-to-24-year-old males live with their parents. Among 25-to-34-year-olds, it's about 20

percent—almost double the rate among women the same age.

In secondary education, boys are outnumbered by girls in student governments, honor societies, debating clubs and school newspaper staffs. They are outperformed on tests of artistic and musical ability. The typical boy is a year and a half behind girls in reading and writing skills. Boys are more likely to be held back or suspended from school. More boys drop out. More boys are on Ritalin, and more get involved in crime, alcohol and illegal drugs.

More women than men pursue post-secondary education, earn bachelor's degrees, and buy their own homes. The average man earns more than the average woman, but that too is changing: The average 20-something woman earns more than the average 20-something man.

Women are even avoiding serious relationships so as not to derail their career goals. When they decide they want to marry, they are finding fewer men who have developed their minds, bodies and skills. Their choice is to either “marry down” or not marry at all. Most who do marry have two-income households. Women work as wage-earners, laborers, managers, executives, politicians and even soldiers.

This is a direct reversal of the relationship between males and females that has existed for virtually all of human history and is the destruction of what it means to be a man. But it is presented as normal, as advanced. The message to you is: *Men are no longer needed*.

And men are getting that message. They are unbalanced, indifferent and aimless. They are left with no purpose except to fulfill their own pleasure, addicting themselves to

entertainment, drugs and other vices. Millions of boys and men are immersed in horrible television shows and movies, video games and pornography. For every feature film made in America, there are more than 20 full-length commercial pornography films. This addiction is hollowing out men's minds and destroying their real-world relationships.

Feminists applaud the breakdown of long-held traditions in male-female relations. But look what has taken their place: academically and financially thriving women with no one to marry, juvenile men huddling in caves of self-indulgence, and children who think this is normal and then grow up and break down their relationships even further. The strong, loving father who provides financially and morally for his family is almost extinct. Families are fragmenting, and society is morally and spiritually disintegrating.

The role of fathers has shrunk dramatically. More and more children are growing up without fathers at all. And the science is in: Fatherlessness causes severe problems. Nearly half of children who live with their single mother live in poverty. Children who have limited interaction with fathers have higher rates of behavioral problems; these show up as early as age 1. Children without a positive father relationship are more negative about school and their teachers. Fatherless boys are far likelier to commit crime, take illegal drugs, smoke cigarettes and abuse alcohol. Males with an absentee father are nearly three times likelier to carry a gun and engage in drug deals than those who have a father at home. Fatherless girls are much likelier to fornicate; teenage pregnancy for girls who grow up without a father is four times higher than among those with a father in the home. And fatherless girls who marry are far likelier to file for divorce as adults.

Today, about 40 percent of all 18-and-under children in America—27 million kids—do not live with their biological fathers. Yet few Americans are upset about it; many would even argue that society is *better off* with a diminishing father's role and children growing up in single-parent homes!

Anyone who looks at these real-world results and applauds them is insane. Anyone assessing them honestly sees that this revolution has been a disaster. The loss of manliness is a *plague* on society.

Believe it or not, this exact calamity was *prophesied* in your Bible thousands of years ago.

“For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah ... 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).

Because of our sins, God has *removed* strong men from America and the other modern descendants of ancient Israel *to curse us*. The loss of masculine men is a *terrible curse!*

This prophecy also speaks of another, parallel trend: the infantilization of men. Verse 4 is a prophecy that our adult leaders will act like children. Notice what kind of children: “And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the *child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient*, and the base against the honourable” (verse 5). This is talking about spoiled, undisciplined, selfish, disobedient and angry children who never really grow up! Rebellious children simply become rebellious adults.

When there are no strong men to lead, something else fills the void: “As for my people, *children* are their oppressors, and *women* rule over them” (verse 12). Some say more work needs to be done to secure women's rights. God says the opposite! He says women and children *already* lead society!

The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* shows that this verse can also refer to men who act *like children* and who rule *like women*. Do you see leaders today who are immature, effeminate and worse?

Disappearing masculinity, which many view as a minor cultural or societal issue, has *real-world consequences* for you, your family, your finances, your health, your future and your very security!

A strong man is a blessing to his wife and

children. He provides more than money—he provides security, attentive engagement, successful leadership, firm guidance, emotional stability and real love.

Society, often without realizing it, cries out for masculinity of substance: strong character, untarnished fidelity, exemplary behavior, empathetic yet decisive leadership. Deep down, we yearn for men with spines.

Society still appreciates such men, yet it teaches and pressures males to do the opposite. To grow into a real man, you must walk a harder path.

Where is that path? How do you walk it? What is true masculinity? You will find it conspicuously censored from cable television, the news media, bookstores, legislatures and universities. To know what manhood really should be, you need to look into the Holy Bible and consult the *Creator* of manhood.

Learn *God's* definition of manhood. Learn your God-given duties. Understand what masculinity truly is—a definition that does not change from day to day, year to year, or even generation to generation.

Any man who wants to live up to *God's* definition of manhood has real work to do. He must devote his energies to swimming upstream against society. He must make it his unwavering aim to grow—against pressure—in those qualities that will arm him for the rigors of true manhood. He must eschew the pastimes that weaken men. He must avoid the addictions that eat away at men's minds, blacken their consciences and destroy their confidence. He must stoke the flames of ambition in his life. He must aim high and equip himself to become an able leader of a strong, capable woman and a builder of family and society.

If you want to be one of those men, *Biblical Manhood* will help you in this noble, invigorating process.

You have a choice: Will you live your life according to the pressures of society—or according to the clear commands of God? Your job as a man is perhaps the most challenging job God gives you! The Bible shows that you hold an *office*: the office of a son, the office of a brother, the office of a husband, the office of a father, the office of a *man*. ■

A Dead Ecosystem Can 'Blossom as the Rose'

Some of the Bible's most inspiring passages tell us that it is coming soon to a desert near you! **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES AND MIHAILO ZEKIC**

“**W**E FOUND A LANDSCAPE THAT WAS virtually denuded of vegetation.” These are the words of ecologist and filmmaker John Liu spoken in his documentary *The Lessons of the Loess Plateau*.

Stretching across 250,000 square miles of North Central China, the Loess Plateau was anciently a lush region of forests and natural grasslands, rife with all kinds of life. Its abundance attracted so many people that it

became the cradle of Chinese civilization. But as population density increased, residents cleared more and more land, and resources grew scarcer. People then farmed and grazed their livestock more aggressively. Over the course of thousands of years, this activity almost entirely stripped away the vegetation and eroded the soil. Eventually, it turned the Loess Plateau into one of the most degraded ecosystems on Earth.

Most of the people ended up leaving the barren plateau. But the degradation they had caused followed them. Dust storms from the parched area blew hundreds of miles into cities as far away as Beijing and Shanghai. Millions of tons of the plateau's silt washed into the Yellow River, causing devastating floods and droughts downstream. The millions who remained on Loess became trapped in a cycle of poverty and ecological destruction that passed from generation to generation.

Irreversible?

In 1995, John Liu and a team of Chinese and foreign experts set their sights on this place “that was virtually denuded of vegetation.” They knew it had once been lush and populated by millions, and they wanted to see what could be done to restore it.

Among their first tasks was convincing locals to stop the free-range livestock grazing that was destroying what little vegetation remained in the area. To accomplish this, they instituted a mass surveying project, dividing the land and assigning each plot to one local family. Everyone then knew which area was owned by which family, and each family now had both responsibilities and rights.

“What eventually convinced the local people was the assurance that they would have tenure of their land, that they would directly benefit from the effort they invested in the new project,” Liu said.

The team then began educating locals in land restoration. “The goal was to give a hat to the hilltops, give a belt to the hills, as well as shoes at the base,” said Ta Fuyuan, chief engineer of the water protection bureau. The “hat” would be trees planted on the highest elevations that were not to be cut down. The “belt” would be terraces that reduced the slope of the hills, slowing the flow of rainwater so that it instead soaked into the soil. The “shoes” would be dams built in the valleys designed to hold some water in the ecosystem.

The plan to restore the Loess Plateau was immense in scale, yet relatively low-tech. Hundreds of square miles of hilltop trees were planted mostly by hand and simple machinery.

The large terraces in the steep slopes were dug mainly with hand tools. Plantings in depleted soil were also done by hand.

‘Like a Rose’

This was one of the most ambitious development projects ever undertaken, and it was attempted without advanced technology. The results were dramatic.

The team and the Loess inhabitants reshaped hundreds of devastated gullies. They cut thousands of terraces into the hillsides and planted miles of flat fields in them, growing crops and grazing animals in a sustainable way. More than 13,500 square miles—enough land to fit Houston, Texas, into it 22 times—once again became an active part of a functioning hydrological cycle.

Water could be absorbed by plants, causing both evaporation and humidity to increase. The system began to perpetuate itself.

“The roots of the plants and the annual accumulation of decaying organic matter is helping stabilize the soil,” Liu said. “The improved soil structure and vegetation cover helps naturally infiltrate and retain water during rainfall, reducing the threat of flooding, drought and dust storms, and beginning to restore a more normal water cycle. ... Gradually, fertility that had been leached from the soil is returning. This, in turn, affects the ability of the land to produce crops.”

On the Loess Plateau today, biodiversity is booming, with all kinds of plants and animals flourishing. Thousands of square miles have been transformed from a barren desert into an oasis of flora, fauna and fertile farmland. This has been one of the largest re-greening projects in human history.

The scale of the project is astounding. An area *the size of Belgium* has been restored. And more than 2.5 million people have been lifted out of poverty. This nation-sized accomplishment has proved that it is possible to rehabilitate ecosystems that had been destroyed across vast areas and over hundreds of years, and to make dramatic progress in less than a generation.

Some of the restored areas are untamed forests

and grasslands, but most of it is inhabited, farmed on, grazed and otherwise used by people. But this time around, humans inhabit it in a way that understands and respects the way our natural environment was created. Others saw what was accomplished on the Loess Plateau and took note.

Re-greening the Sinai

In 2016, Ties van der Hoeven was working with a Belgian dredging company when the government of Egypt contacted it about restoring Lake Bardawil, a lagoon on the northern Sinai Peninsula that connects Egypt with Israel. The lagoon was extremely salty and largely devoid of life. Egypt hoped that restoring it could increase fish stocks.

Van der Hoeven was intrigued by the project, but he had larger ambitions. Beyond Lake Bardawil, the entire Sinai Peninsula is mostly a barren wasteland. Van der Hoeven had a vision of an environmental project to restore waters and land across northern Sinai.

The Sinai was not always a barren desert. Documents from the 1,500-year-old Greek Orthodox Saint Catherine's Monastery record that lumber was harvested in the region, and cave paintings there depict significant vegetation.

Van der Hoeven cofounded a new company with two associates, Gijs Bosman and Maddie Akkermans: the Weather Makers BV.

Van der Hoeven suspects that human activity caused the desertification of the Sinai. When men deforest an area, the soil holds less water, and increased runoff takes away with it nutrients and other vegetation-sustaining components from the soil.

One of the Weather Makers' first challenges was to figure out how to bring a large amount of pure water into the desert for a sustainable period of time. For this, they turned to John Todd, an American marine biologist who invented an "eco machine," a network of large barrels connected with piping and stored in a greenhouse. Each barrel is populated by a "mini ecosystem." Some of these are mainly algae. Others are mostly bacteria. Others contain larger organisms such as plants,

insects and even fish; they are basically ponds in a barrel.

Water flows from barrel to barrel through the pipes. As it flows, the various organisms purify it. Barrel by barrel, the water becomes cleaner.

In cooperation with Todd, the Weather Makers developed the EcoOasis, an upgraded eco machine that converts seawater from the Mediterranean Sea coastline into clean fresh water, packed with nutrients that can bring soil to life. Akkermans told the *Trumpet* that the "magical key point" is that the lake sediment still contains bacteria. "Those bacteria are at this moment asleep," she said. "But you can activate those, and the EcoOasis will assist us doing that." From there, the sediments can "rejuvenate the whole system."

The plan is to set up hundreds of EcoOases in the area to constantly supply fresh water to the parched soil, eventually enabling plants to grow. Within a few years, these plants become miniature habitats that can sustain themselves. The EcoOases can then move to another location, and the habitats can grow and connect with one another. The Weather Makers plan to use and re-use these EcoOases until most of the northern Sinai Peninsula is re-greened and teeming with life.

Yet the Weather Makers' vision extends beyond the Sinai. Akkermans said, "The vision is a little bit big, because we believe that the Sinai itself, when you re-green it, will bring back rain toward the whole of North Africa, and the southern parts of Europe and the Middle East."

'The Desert Shall Rejoice'

The endeavor to re-green the deserts is an exciting one, partly because there are so many degraded locations to rehabilitate. Almost one third of the world's landmass is desert. That amount grows every day by about 40 square miles. Some happens naturally and some from human activity like slash-and-burn agriculture and overgrazing.

But the Bible tells us that a time is on the horizon when these areas will be healed.

Isaiah 35:1-2 say: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the

desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing ...” Verse 6 reads: “[F]or in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” Isaiah 41:19 states: “I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together” (Revised Standard Version).

In his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, the late educator Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “Can you imagine such a fabulous scene? Deserts becoming green, fertile, garden lands of trees, shrubs, bubbling springs and brooks; mountains brought low, and made inhabitable ... Think about the vast wastes of this Earth. Does it sound incredible, unbelievable that God could make them blossom like a rose? Why should it?”

Indeed—why should it?

A few humans, with some study of natural hydrological function, hard work and government mandates, have regreened thoroughly degraded lands today. How much more could the God who created Earth and all its ecosystems and water cycles in the first place clean them up tomorrow? And instead of limited knowledge, minuscule human strength and mandates from corrupt governments, He will use complete knowledge and wisdom, omnipotence, and His perfect government to accomplish it on a scale and to a degree we can scarcely imagine.

Isaiah continued discussing this time—a time in the near future after Jesus Christ returns to Earth to rule over mankind—when

God would “do a new thing,” by giving “water in the wilderness” and “rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19-20). Isaiah prophesied of a time when God would “make [Zion’s] wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:3).

This isn’t talking about limited areas. Neither is it talking about long-term geological forces that will require epochs to improve conditions. God’s “regreening revolution” will be worldwide. And He will accomplish it far faster than any endeavor of man’s today.

Mr. Armstrong continued: “[G]od has the solution, and how simple it is. ... Open up huge slices of the Earth, like the Kalahari Desert, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahara in Africa, the Gobi Desert in Asia, and the great American deserts. Make green and verdant the vast wastes of Mongolia, Siberia, Saudi Arabia and many of the Western states in the U.S. ... Then, provide good, gentle rainfall, in right balance, just at the right season. And what happens?”

“Multiple millions of acres of unbelievably fertile, productive, wonderful farmland suddenly become available—just waiting to be discovered, and pioneered.

“Impossible? In the hands of man—certainly.”

But Luke 1:37 tells us that “with God, nothing shall be impossible.”

The deserts will blossom like lush gardens. We will have functional ecosystems on a planetary scale! And we now know from experience that this kind of re-greening, even in drastically degraded ecosystems, can happen quickly. The desert *will* blossom as the rose. ■

Worldwatch

German Troops Parade by Torchlight

The German military honored its 90,000 members who served in Afghanistan with an October 14 parade reminiscent of the military ceremonies and expressions of German dominance during Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. The soldiers wore steel helmets evocative of the World War II era and held torches, making for an ominous sight in front of the Reichstag building.

In spite of their obvious connotations, torchlight parades like this one have occurred in postwar Germany before. But these were at ceremonies for departing chancellors, presidents and defense ministers, not for soldiers who engaged in combat

“For some, the visual parallels to a Nazi march at the Brandenburg Gate in 1933 made the parade too historically insensitive,” reported the *Local*.

Yet German politicians and media outlets were quick to defend the parade. In “A Small Piece of Recognition for People Who Fought,” *Welt* wrote: “People who smell fascism every time they see a steel helmet shouted ‘scandal.’ It wasn’t. The scandal is the hardheartedness of these critics.”

The German Defense Ministry posted to social media: “Debate is necessary and important. Comparisons with Germany’s darkest chapter disappoint us. The Bundeswehr is a parliamentary army. As such, it has its place in the midst of society—on special occasions also in front of the Reichstag building.”

The message was that even though Germany is giving 1930s-era optics, it’s the 21st century now, so worrying about Germany starting another world war is “disappointing.” Yet the Berlin Wall is down, Germany is united, its capital is back in Berlin, its Luftwaffe has helped destroy Yugoslavia, demands to rename the Reichstag (*reich* means empire) have been rejected, Germans are guilty of increasing far-right extremism and even anti-Semitism, and the military has been a hotbed of such troubling ideologies.

The Reichstag has been a symbol of the desire to build a German empire, from the Kaiser to Hitler to today. It was the site of a fire that led to Hitler’s dictatorship. It was from the Reichstag that he ordered the suppression of Jews and his desire for world conquest. It was his torch-bearing troopers who helped ignite a war and a genocide that killed more than 60 million people, including 6 million Jews.

To learn how Bible prophecy warns of a repeat of such atrocities, request your free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ■

Franco-German air transport squadron takes flight

On September 1, the first Franco-German airlift squadron entered service at Évreux-Fauville Air Base in northern France. A total of 260 German and French air crews are flying 10 C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. French Defense Minister Florence Parly called the project a milestone in increasing European defense capabilities.

Military airlift capacity is crucial for the European Union to move its forces independent of the United States. Since World War II, Europe has relied almost completely on transports and helicopters provided by the U.S. military for major operations. Clément Beaune, secretary of state for European affairs in the French government, noted that the new squadron is a “concrete, important step forward for the Europe of defense.” ■

Will Germany join Five Eyes?

The United States House of Representatives drafted a bill on September 1 to expand the membership of Five Eyes. Five Eyes is an intelligence-gathering and -sharing alliance between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The proposed bill would help authorize the addition of Germany, India, Japan and South Korea.

Privacy International wrote that “each of the Five Eyes states conducts interception, collection, acquisition, analysis and decryption

activities, sharing all intelligence information obtained with the others by default.”

Five Eyes already cooperates with outside countries, but none of its intelligence-sharing agreements are as intertwined as the original Five Eyes.

Germany is an important North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally and already hosts tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers and even U.S. nuclear warheads. But Germany is not as reliable as it seems. For example, NATO was designed to protect Europe against Russia, yet Germany has recently signed major strategic deals with Russia.

Imagine if a trusted country received information from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon, learned how American intelligence agencies work, but was motivated to betray America.

The Bible specifically warns that the modern nations of Israel (which include all of the Five Eyes nations) would rely on foreign “lovers” as allies for protection rather than God, with catastrophic consequences. ■

U.S. withdraws missile defense from Saudi Arabia

The Biden administration has withdrawn antimissile defense batteries from Saudi Arabia, a powerful symbol of America abandoning its allies. Satellite images from September 10 show the removal of all Patriot and THAAD defense systems from the Prince Sultan Air Base outside of Riyadh. This move comes as Houthi rebels in Yemen and Shiite militias in Iraq continue drone and missile attacks.

The withdrawal alarmed U.S. allies and experts. “I think we need to be reassured about American commitment,” Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia’s former intelligence chief, told CNBC on September 9. “That looks like, for example, not withdrawing Patriot missiles from Saudi Arabia at a time when Saudi Arabia is the victim of missile attacks and drone attacks—not just from Yemen but from Iran.”

All the drone attacks and missiles fired at Saudi Arabia trace back to its regional nemesis, Iran. Iranian Maj. Gen. Gholam Ali Rashid has said that the late Iranian mastermind Qassem

Suleimani once said, “I have assembled for you six armies outside of Iran’s territory. [One] in Iraq, and is called the [Popular Mobilization Units], and another army is in Yemen, and is called Ansar Allah [the Houthis].”

Biden has now ordered American defensive batteries out of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan and reduced American jet fighter squadrons in the Middle East—for no other discernible reason than to benefit Iran. ■

Iran teases new nuclear deal

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on September 24 that talks about a new Iranian nuclear accord will resume “very soon.” He criticized the United States for “contradictory messages” and lack of “positive action,” and called for the U.S. to “show its true intentions” by unfreezing \$10 billion in Iranian assets.

But is Iran truly interested in making another deal to limit its nuclear program? In 2015, it signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany. This nuclear deal limited Iranian uranium enrichment to 3.7 percent, enough for nuclear power plants, but nowhere near enough for a bomb. After U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 and reinstated sanctions, Iran raised its enrichment to 20 percent, a threshold beyond which further enrichment becomes increasingly easier. The International Atomic Energy Agency reports that Iran is now capable of enriching uranium to 60 percent. *Haaretz* now reports, “Iran can, if it decides, push that up to 90 percent and produce enough material for a bomb within a month” (September 14). ■

Iran’s new radical Islamist government

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has built the Islamic Republic’s most radical, hard-line, criminal administration ever.

Several of Iran’s new cabinet members are under sanctions, including the new president, Ebrahim Raisi. Two cabinet members are wanted by Interpol. Many have

deep connections to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is recognized by the U.S. government as a foreign terrorist organization. All these leaders have said that they deeply hate the Jewish state.

Dr. Thamar Eilam Gindin, an expert on Iran, said that Raisi, who is a Shiite cleric, was given the presidency and is being groomed for nothing less than replacing the aging Khamenei as Iran's supreme leader.

Raisi has spent his entire adult life in Iran's judiciary. In 1988, he led the way in sentencing thousands of political prisoners to execution, earning him the title "the butcher of Tehran."

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is an experienced diplomat who worked closely with the former leader of the IRGC's elite Quds Force, Gen. Qassem Suleimani. In a 2020 interview with *Tehran Foreign Policy Studies Quarterly*, he praised Suleimani as a "commander of peace."

Interior Minister Gen. Ahmad Vahidi and Vice President for Economic Affairs Moshen Rezaei served in command positions within the IRGC and have been placed on Interpol's Red Notice List, which is "issued for fugitives wanted either for prosecution or to serve a sentence." They are wanted for their alleged roles in the 1994 Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina bombing, which killed 85 people.

The Islamic regime has now dropped even the pretense of being moderate. ■

Hurricane Ida Reveals a \$14 Billion Failure

Hurricane Ida wrecked the power grid of the Southeastern United States between August 26 and September 4, knocking out power to more than 1 million homes in Louisiana and Mississippi. The Category 4 storm with winds of up to 150 mph was followed by scorching temperatures. Parts of Louisiana faced a heat index up to 106 degrees Fahrenheit, and 16 people died from the heat, lack of power or carbon monoxide poisoning from running backup generators in their homes. Flash floods from the same weather system sent New York and New Jersey into a state of emergency and killed at least 50 people.

Ida, the fifth-most powerful storm to hit the U.S. made landfall on August 29, 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, which was the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history. After Katrina, the U.S. spent over \$14 billion improving its natural disaster defense system surrounding New Orleans, strengthening 350 miles of floodwalls and levees, constructing a 95-foot-wide storm surge floodgate, building the world's largest drainage-pump, and installing other fortifications—all of which failed to stop Ida's devastation.

Human attempts to outmaneuver environmental disasters will always have limited success. This is because so-called natural disasters are actually curses God sends to correct human beings for their sins (Job 37:11-13). For a biblical perspective on this subject, request your free copy of *Why 'Natural' Disasters?* ■

Japan launches first plane from carrier since World War II

A United States Marines F-35B fighter jet took off from and landed on the JS Izumo on October 3, marking the first time since World War II that a Japanese vessel has launched and recovered a fixed-wing aircraft.

When the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force launched Izumo in 2013, it classified it as a "helicopter destroyer." Izumo and its sister ship, Kaga, were built to carry 14 antisubmarine helicopters each. But their 820-foot-long flight decks raised suspicions that they were intended to launch more than just helicopters. The length is insufficient for launching standard naval jets but can accommodate short-takeoff and vertical-landing aircraft like the F-35. Japan has ordered 42 of these stealth fighters for Izumo and Kaga, in addition to 105 other F-35 variants.

Japan began modifying Izumo in March 2020, adding a heat-resistant coating to the deck, which is necessary not for launching helicopters but for launching and recovering jets. Kaga is receiving the same upgrade. This means that Japan now has two vessels that can project its military power around the world

for the first time since it plunged the Pacific into World War II. That war spilled the blood of millions of people, including U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. After its victory, the U.S. wrote into the Japanese Constitution that “land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained.” But Japan, which already has one of the world’s largest economies, is now beginning to maintain serious war potential. ■

Russia, Belarus agree on process for a common state

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarussian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, met in Moscow on September 9 and signed agreements preparing Russia and Belarus to merge into one country.

The agreements advance a plan in the works since 1999, when Boris Yeltsin signed a deal to merge Belarus and Russia into a two-state federation under one flag, one currency, one judiciary, one economy and one military.

Since 1999, however, Lukashenko has also worked with various European nations and the United States to prevent his small country from being swallowed by Russia. But in August 2020, Lukashenko rigged a presidential election to remain in power, and Belarussians protested in unprecedented numbers. Putin saved Lukashenko by giving him hundreds of millions of dollars in cheap loans, continuing deep discounts for natural gas, and even threatening to stop the protests with Russian troops. Now Lukashenko is opening the door to the creation of a Union State of Russia and Belarus. ■

China buying American farms

The most recent report on foreign land ownership by the United States Department of Agriculture shows that foreigners owned 35.2 million acres of U.S. agricultural land as of Dec. 31, 2019. This is 2.7 percent of all privately held agricultural land and 1.5 percent of all land in the U.S. That’s a 60 percent increase from a decade earlier.

British, Canadian, Dutch, Italian and German investors own the largest amount of

U.S. farmland, but authoritarian regimes like China are also buying it up. The Chinese own about 192,000 agricultural acres in the U.S., worth about \$1.9 billion. And China would like to buy more. An official Chinese Communist Party food security initiative published in 2013 encourages Chinese companies to gain greater control over agricultural supply chain imports by buying farmland in foreign countries. China has also purchased Smithfield Foods, the world’s biggest pork producer, and is attempting to purchase Syngenta, the world’s third-biggest seed supplier.

With U.S. farm bankruptcies hitting an eight-year high, it is easier for foreign corporations to snatch up farmland. ■

China wins in Canadian elections

In its September 20 elections, Canada’s Liberal Party won 159 seats (gaining two) and the Conservatives won 119 (losing two), with smaller parties remaining basically unchanged and Justin Trudeau remaining prime minister. But the winner was the Chinese Communist Party, as candidates who are opposed to the regime lost.

In 2020, a report from the National Security Committee spotlighted China as foreign interference threat. In the elections’ early days, China’s ambassador to Canada, Cong Peiwu, warned Canadians not to elect parties that “smear” his government. China’s Communist-run *Global Times* published an editorial promising a “strong counterstrike” if Conservatives won.

Conservatives gained votes in Ontario and British Columbia, but did not win districts in metro areas due to unexpectedly high vote counts for Liberals, who are softer toward the Communist regime. There was also a correlation between the provinces with the most mail-in ballots and the most votes for Liberals. Some said that these regions did not follow the statistical pattern of the rest of the province. One Conservative from Hong Kong lost his seat by 3,000 votes, a statistical anomaly. Some estimated that Conservatives lost up to a dozen seats in Chinese-Canadian areas due to Chinese-language propaganda. ■

SOCIETYWATCH

The mega-rich are literally building bunkers

The approaching global catastrophe is not a fiction or a fringe theory. More and more people are waking up to the danger of the times, and some of those with the necessary means are trying to fortify themselves against it.

For example, documents published by the Queenstown Lakes District Council on August 31 show that billionaire Peter Thiel recently filed plans to build a large estate in New Zealand that appears to include a large doomsday shelter.

Others are planning for the possibility of a global catastrophe and hoping that the world's most isolated First World country will be a good place to wait it out. Billionaire Larry Page has obtained New Zealand residency, and millionaire Sam Altman also plans to flee there, as do others. Other wealthy people with their eyes on similar hideouts have admitted that they have obtained everything from motorcycles to firearms to foodstuffs to eyesight surgery to underground bunkers with air filtration systems to helicopters constantly on standby, just in case. One billionaire estimated that half of his fellow Silicon Valley billionaires have invested in a safe house of some kind. Everyday people are also preparing for massive disruptions to everyday life, or worse. Survivalist supplies are becoming a booming industry.

Jesus Christ prophesied that a time of tribulation is indeed coming—and no bunker will save people from it. “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22). The only sure survival strategy is repentance toward God. ■

Poll: About half of Biden and Trump voters favor secession

Millions of Americans favor secession from

the Union, a poll by the Center of Politics at the University of Virginia indicates. The September 30 poll of 2,002 people found that 41 percent of Joe Biden voters and 52 percent of Donald Trump voters “at least somewhat agree that it’s time to split the country.” If this is extrapolated out to all 160 million voters, more than 75 million Americans are open to the idea of secession.

The division is even destroying democratic ideals. The poll extrapolated that about 40 million voters from both political parties “show a willingness to consider violating democratic tendencies and norms if needed to serve their priorities.” They support the idea of a president from their party ignoring congressional or judicial constraints.

These are alarming political ideals that violate the United States Constitution and the concept of the rule of law. America is now hopelessly divided. The last time America was in this state, President Abraham Lincoln warned Americans of what Jesus Christ said in Mark 3:24-25: “[I]f a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” ■

Tent cities appearing across America

Homeless encampments are popping up in cities across the country. In San Francisco, officials counted 649 tents at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, they estimate the number to be more than 1,400. The story is similar in Boston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland, Reno and Seattle.

Leftist politicians have issued edicts removing restraints on such encampments, so unsurprisingly, the behavior is rapidly increasing, much to the dismay of many residents and law enforcement officers in these cities.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote almost 100 years ago that mass unemployment is prophesied in the Bible. He did not realize at the time that the Great Depression was only

a prelude to the prophesied depression to come, but the scriptures he quoted are still eerily relevant.

“[Zechariah 8:7-9] is describing a yet-future time when the Lord will take His people back to Jerusalem, and they shall be His people and He will be their God,” he wrote in 1931. “Then, beginning with [verse 10], we read: ‘For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to

him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour.’ So, clearly, the God of heaven knew and declared to us more than 2,000 years ago through His Prophet Zechariah that in these anxious days just shortly before the reestablishment of His reign over His people at Jerusalem, there would be general and widespread unemployment.” ■

Are We Living in the Last Days?

The Bible answers this crucial question. The following is adapted from the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course*, a free resource offered by the *Trumpet*. Turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the understanding you gain from this short study.

AMID MULTIPLYING PROBLEMS AND CURSES, more and more people are concerned about the future of society, even civilization. On one side are pandemic effects, tyrannical governments, tottering economies, social division and civil conflict, and on the other, a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, growing aggression from hostile nations, ideological extremism, weapons advancement and proliferation—not to mention climatic disasters. Many realize that something unforeseen must soon occur to *stop* present trends of world events—or humanity will be destroyed, if it doesn’t destroy itself!

A growing number of statesmen and analysts speak fearfully of the END OF THE WORLD—the *END of human civilization!*

Prophesied Centuries Ago

The sad state of our world was prophesied and written in advance. About 2,000 years ago, the greatest “newscaster” the world has ever known *foretold* today’s chaotic world

conditions! He foresaw today’s scientific discoveries and technological advancements, as well as the outcome of it all.

This famous newscaster *knew* that men would produce the destructive forces that now threaten cosmocide! He warned: “For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed” (Matthew 24:21-22; New Living Translation).

This great newscaster was Jesus Christ of Nazareth—the same Jesus who is coming again to intervene at the last moment to save humanity from extinction. What He prophesied has been written in your Bible all these centuries. No other book is as up to date as *your Bible!*

Jesus Christ prophesied today’s world conditions in vivid language. He foretold the wars, famines, disease epidemics and natural disasters occurring increasingly before our eyes! Scientists and world leaders—most of

whom know little of Bible prophecy, and even reject the Bible—readily admit that events He prophesied are taking place *right now!*

The Last Days

“But,” some will object, “there have always been *prophets of doom.*” Skeptics have long scoffed at Bible prophecy. The Apostle Peter warned they would be especially active “in the last days” (2 Peter 3:3-4). Yet how can we know *for sure* if we have crossed the threshold into the time of the end—the time shortly preceding the prophesied return of Jesus Christ? There is one statement in the Bible that is *especially* beyond refutation.

1. Did Jesus’s disciples ask Him about His Second Coming and “the end of the age”? Matthew 24:3; New King James Version. At what specific point in time did Christ declare He would have to intervene and return to Earth? Verse 22.

We need to understand the full import of this shocking scripture. The Moffatt translation reads, “Had not those days been cut short, *not a soul would be saved alive ...*” The Phillips translation states, “Yes, if those days had not been cut short *no human being would survive.*” The New Living Translation renders it, “In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, *the entire human race will be destroyed.*”

Let those words sink in. If Jesus Christ does not return to this Earth, the time is soon coming when every last man, woman and child will be exterminated. Here is man’s most pressing problem today—the threat of human extinction—predicted almost 2,000 years ago!

Christ’s words could *never* have begun to be understood in correct context until the 20th century when the atomic bomb, followed by the hydrogen bomb and other weapons of mass destruction, was invented. In fact, the meaning of many other end-time prophecies could not be understood *until* the end time.

This is an *irrefutable* sign that we are in “the last days.” NEVER BEFORE has man had the capability to destroy *every* human being on Earth!

A Sign of Christ’s Coming

1. While sitting on the Mount of Olives, Christ’s disciples questioned Him about His Second Coming (Matthew 24:3). Did Jesus foretell that MANY deceivers would arise to deceive MANY people before His return? Verses 4-5, 11, 24. Are they the ministers of the archdeceiver himself? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Is the *whole world* deceived as a result of their activities? Revelation 12:9.

2. What else did Jesus say would occur in the end time? Matthew 24:6-7.

The 20th century was the bloodiest in human history. World War I commenced in 1914 and claimed 8.5 million lives. Then World War II resulted in 55 million deaths. Moreover, according to author and professor of political science R. J. Rummel, totalitarian governments slaughtered 170 million people for ethnic, racial, tribal, religious or political reasons. Nation has continued to rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Since World War II, there have been more than 225 armed conflicts in 148 countries! And the 21st century, besides seeing a number of deadly conflicts and wars, is witnessing tensions and conflicts building between some of the world’s greatest, most heavily armed powers. World War III promises to be the deadliest war of all.

3. Is *famine* one of the major signs indicating that Christ’s intervention in world affairs is near? Verse 7.

About 5.5 billion people live in the developing world, and the latest estimates say that some 855 million of them are undernourished. Today, multiple millions *die* of starvation each year. Others are severely stunted. Yet many experts believe the worst is yet to come.

4. What else was prophesied to occur? Verse 7.

Coronavirus is merely the most publicized pestilence in the world today. People are dying by the millions from many more diseases. Today’s urbanized (not to mention rapidly mobile and intermixing) concentrations of population are ready-made tinder boxes of potential disease epidemics. More and more crowding means more waste and refuse, more garbage, more pollution of the water,

air and land—and *more disease!* Under crowded conditions, an epidemic can spread from person to person like wildfire. All the great pestilences of the past were just such contagious diseases.

Many of the deadliest, most common diseases today are noncommunicable: heart disease, stroke, respiratory infections and cancers, for example. Modern man lives in an environment of poisons. He inhales dangerously polluted air, drinks contaminated water, and eats pesticide-laden foods. The inevitable result is that the heart, lungs and the entire body in general are weakened, thus lowering resistance to disease. Pestilence is also partly the natural result of food shortages and consequent malnutrition, which breaks down the body's natural defenses.

5. What else will happen with increasing severity? Verse 7. When earthquake activity reaches a peak, will men at last begin to recognize that GOD is intervening? Isaiah 2:19-21.

Whenever catastrophic natural disasters strike, it seems to drive some few people to contemplate God. People are forced to reevaluate their shallow, self-made concepts of a "loving" God. As such disasters intensify, people will increasingly come to recognize the hand of the great God of *judgment*.

6. Are the signs Jesus foretold only the *beginning* of sorrows? Matthew 24:8. If this prophesied time of world trouble were allowed to continue, would there be anyone left alive? Verses 21-22.

Famine, disease, pestilence, earthquakes and other disruptions of nature are taking an increasing toll in human life today.

When we take a cold, hard, realistic look at present world conditions and trends, they DO point to a fast-approaching WORLD CRISIS of war, starvation, uncontrollable disease epidemics and the *extinction of human life* on this planet. Some analysts look at this terrifying picture and admit they are

frightened! This is leading some visionaries to try to devise technologies to preserve human life in space stations or colonies on other planets (article, page 8). But the obstacles to such plans are colossal, and the odds of success absurd. Others insist that man's *only hope* lies in the formation of a SUPER WORLD GOVERNMENT wielding all authority and power over the nations. But the nations, hostile to one another, could never form such a government.

Let's face it: Either there does exist a *living GOD* of supreme mind and total POWER who very soon *will* step in and intervene in the affairs of this world to SAVE HUMANITY FROM ITSELF—or else the EXTINCTION of all life will inevitably occur as man unleashes the awesome forces at his control upon his neighbor!

Yes—we truly *are* living in the last days! The last days, that is, of this age of *man's rule* on Earth. But that is not the end of the story.

There Is Hope!

1. Will Jesus Christ return with great power and glory? Matthew 24:30. Will He come to rule the entire Earth? Revelation 19:15-16.

2. Will there be warfare then as there is now among nations? Isaiah 2:4. Will people be taught the way to peace and productivity? Same verse.

The very one who created man is coming to establish the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on Earth and to teach man the way to peace—to guide his inventive genius entirely into *peaceful* channels.

3. Did Micah also foretell the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth? Micah 4:1-4.

Your Bible shows there is *hope* for mankind! God will not allow misguided mankind to annihilate life on Earth! He is soon going to send Jesus Christ again—this time to establish an all-powerful, world-ruling government to save us from ourselves! It will be a government ruled *not* by carnal men but by the living, all-powerful Creator of the universe! ■

Focus!

Forget multitasking. Single-task instead.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF THINGS COMPETING FOR your attention. You have messages to check, calls to return, articles to read, decisions to make, things to buy, and forms of entertainment to choose. This world overloads and overwhelms you with information.

Here is one simple tool to navigate this tempest and give you greater peace of mind: *focus*.

Did you know that you literally cannot devote your attention to two things at once? In his book *Brain Rules*, neuroscientist John Medina writes, “Multitasking, when it comes to paying attention, is a myth. The brain naturally focuses on concepts sequentially, one at a time. ... To put it bluntly, research shows that we can’t multitask. We are biologically incapable of processing attention-rich inputs simultaneously.”

Medina explains how, when you focus your attention on something, the blood in your brain shifts to the anterior prefrontal cortex. This cortex works like a switchboard: It finds the right neurons to do the job and switches them on. This takes several tenths of a second.

When you switch your attention to a *different* input or stimuli, your brain has to disengage from the first one, find the neurons for the new input and switch *them* on. All these steps have to take place *every time* you switch tasks. “It is time-consuming. And it is sequential,” Medina writes. “That’s why we can’t multitask. That’s why people find themselves losing track of previous progress and needing to ‘start over,’ perhaps muttering things like ‘Now where was I?’ each time they switch tasks.”

Getting interrupted causes tasks to take longer and increases the errors in our work, studies show. How much is this problem affecting *your* work, every day?

The solution is FOCUS. But how to do it? Here are three ways.

First, FOCUS ON A GOAL. You won’t

accomplish something unless you put it at the top of your list. *The Power of Less* author Leo Babauta writes, “Focus is the most important factor in determining whether you’ll achieve a goal or stick to creating a new habit. Not self-discipline, not rewards, not sheer willpower, not even motivation (though this is also an important ingredient). If you can maintain your focus on a goal or habit, you will more often than not achieve that goal or create that habit. If you can’t maintain your focus, you won’t achieve the goal, unless it’s such an easy goal that it would have happened anyway.”

What are your priorities? God establishes our most important: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness ...” (Matthew 6:33). Put God first each day in personal prayer and Bible study, and in working to live right.

Apply this same principle in your daily work: *Do your most important task first*. Don’t do anything else until this is done. And be sure that it is moving you forward on your larger, most critical priorities. *Focus on your goal* to dictate your daily priorities and tasks.

Second, FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND. Keep your mind wholly engaged on what you are doing at the present moment. “Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you” (Proverbs 4:25, English Standard Version). When distractions or even other priorities begin to enter your mind, push them out and return your full effort to the one thing you are doing right now.

Mr. Medina boils it down to this: “Do one thing at a time.” Forget multitasking: Instead, SINGLE-TASK! “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Eliminate clutter in your workspace. Turn off your cell phone. Shut off e-mail and the entire Internet if possible. (You can accomplish this with a productivity app like the one I use, which is called, appropriately, “Focus.”) When you feel the urge to check your messages or jump to

another task, stop yourself. Refocus. If another issue arises while you work, quickly make a note of it and return to the task at hand. Refocus.

When you've completed your task, process those notes and adjust your to-do list and schedule as necessary. Batch process e-mails or other messages; check your inboxes at regular, predetermined intervals rather than constantly having them open.

Third, FOCUS ON COMPLETION. Don't get so wrapped up in your planning, prioritizing and scheduling that the preparation itself becomes a distraction. Your real focus must be on getting your priorities *done*. Each day, make sure you're moving those forward toward completion.

"Anytime you find yourself procrastinating on an important task, see if you can break it

into something smaller. Then just get started," Babauta writes. "Don't procrastinate, but just get started. Once you've gotten started, you will gain momentum, and will have broken through the initial resistance barrier, and you'll be much more likely to continue to the next small task and the next one until the large task is completed. Small tasks are always better than large ones."

Training yourself to focus is about more than just increasing your productivity, it's about building your character. As the May 1985 *Good News* put it, "Proper management of time depends on proper management of yourself."

Focus on your goal, focus on the task at hand, and focus on completion. And whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might! ■

COMMENTARY **BRAD MACDONALD**

Visit Another World

Depressed by what you see in this world? Enter another.

MORE AND MORE I FEEL LIKE I'M LIVING IN two starkly different worlds.

There's the world I see on the news, on the Twitter feed, and on the streets of our cities. This is the world of the Fauci-China virus and vaccine tyranny, the world of totalitarian government and militant Marxism, the world of relentless deceit, lies and corruption. It's a world of rapidly rising inflation, supply-chain collapse, food shortages and imminent civil war. It's a world where a belligerent, imperialist China and Russia circle pathetic, cowering America.

This world is miserable. Spend too much time considering it, fail to put it in proper context, and you soon begin to feel low and hopeless.

Then there is this other world. Most of humanity doesn't know about it and has never visited it. In this world, government is perfect. It's a world of law and order, which produces peace, stability and prosperity. This world is entirely free of corruption and deceit. There's no confusion about gender, sex or family. There are no drug problems, no violence, no

perversion, no dysfunction. This world is perfect in every way.

The effects on the mind when you visit this world are palpable. You are more cheerful, more positive, optimistic and hopeful. Spending time in this world builds your health spiritually, emotionally and even physically.

The more I think on it, the more I realize: The only way to survive the former world is to spend as much time as possible in the latter.

The Apostle Paul admonished us to spend time in this latter world in Philippians 4: "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS**" (verse 8; Revised Standard Version).

Paul is talking about studying the Bible. NOTHING on the face of this Earth is more "true," "honorable," "just," "pure," "lovely," "gracious," "excellent" and "worthy of praise" than the WORD OF GOD!

The late Herbert W. Armstrong taught that

the Bible is the mind of God in print. The Bible paints a picture of an entirely new and different world from the one we live in. Most importantly, this wonderful world is *real*—it will soon be established right here on Earth!

Experiencing the world of the Bible takes imagination. We have to take our minds off the present, out of the moment, and off our physical environment.

This might sound impossible. But it's not. In fact, we do it all the time. Every day, countless millions spend hours watching television and movies, playing video games, browsing YouTube. When we engage in these activities, aren't we basically entering another world? But these man-made worlds often aren't all that different from this present world. The scenery might be different; perhaps we are projected into a lifestyle, role or plot line we may never personally experience. But the *behavior* of the characters, their nature and motives, their moods, attitudes and emotions, are exactly the same as the ones around us in this world.

It's not real smart how we attempt to escape the present by immersing our minds in screen worlds that are filled with the same vulgarity, perversions, corruption, lies, gore and violence that make this world so miserable. In our attempt to escape the present, we end up back in the present.

But the world we enter when we study the Holy Bible is different. Psalm 119:130 reads, "*The unfolding of thy words gives light*" (RSV). Studying God's Word, His thoughts and

doctrines, His plan for man, brings LIGHT into our lives. The word "light" here means shine or break of day. When we study God's Word, it's like a new day dawns in our lives.

This word can also refer to setting something on fire. Studying the mind of God will fire our minds with hope and enthusiasm for God and His plan! And this fire of excitement and hope is unquenchable; if we feed it daily, it keeps burning, making us perpetually, fundamentally positive and hopeful—even in moments of disappointment or trial. Jeremiah wrote that God's "*word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones*" (Jeremiah 20:9).

Psalm 119:25 says, "I lie in the dust; revive me by your word" (New Living Translation). Another translation says, "I lie defeated in the dust." Isn't this a bit how you feel when you look at the state of this world and think about its future? Defeated. Despondent. Depressed. When we feel this way—and we all do (or will)—remember this solution: WE CAN ONLY BE REVIVED, BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE—INFUSED WITH ETERNAL HOPE—BY THE WORD OF GOD!

Where do I start? you ask. Why not start by reading *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. This book explains this world like no other book does, except the Bible. You can also search our archive on *theTrumpet.com*; we have many articles on this subject. And if you really want to enter the world of the Bible, enroll in our free 36-lesson Bible correspondence course. ■