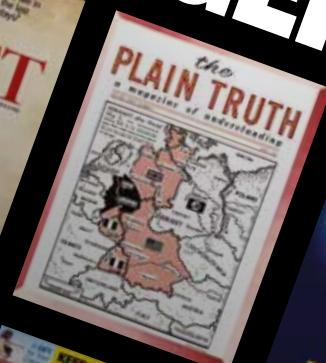
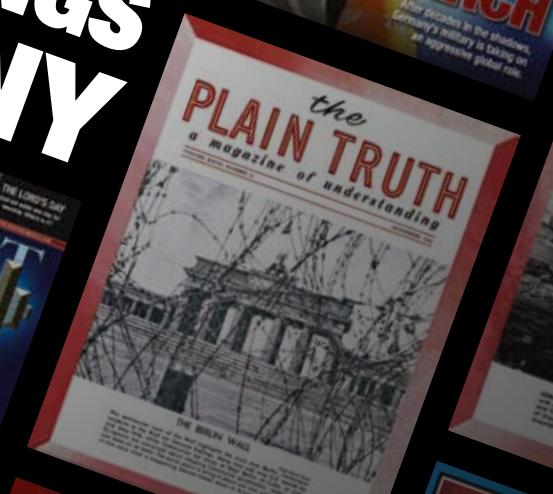


THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

FEBRUARY 2026

DECades of Warnings About Germany



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Why the Trumpet Had to Be Founded

Our predecessors at
the *Plain Truth* stopped
warning about Germany.

ON DEC. 7, 1989, JUST 28 DAYS AFTER THE FALL OF the Berlin Wall, I was fired from the Worldwide Church of God. Since then, our work and the rise of Germany have been connected.

In fact, my opposition to the WCG's "prophesy not" attitude was a major reason why I got fired.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong sounded a strong Bible-based warning that Germany would rise again and start World War III. However, by 1988, two years after Mr. Armstrong died, almost nobody in the WCG was talking about prophecy.

I was a minister in the WCG at the time, and that year we had a refresher program. I wanted to discuss this with Joseph Tkach, the new pastor general. I went to see him, and his son, Joe Jr., happened to be there. I explained that I was emphasizing prophecy and wanted to get their thoughts. I quickly realized that they had no interest in proclaiming God's prophetic warning. Instead they wanted to focus on building the Church's college. To me, this was alarming.

God warned that the Laodiceans would say, "Prophesy not" (Amos 2:12). They were saying that very forcefully in 1988! They had no interest in proclaiming God's prophecies, because doing that can get you into trouble!

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, a news station in Seattle, familiar with Mr. Armstrong's warning, asked if the opening of the wall was the commencement of end-time prophetic events. "We responded that it was premature to make statements like that," the WCG's Pastor General's Report stated on Nov. 21, 1989.

At the time, I wrote, "Shallow prophetic understanding like this will cause the WCG leaders to think events are 'premature' RIGHT UP TO THE TIME THEY ARE IN THE TRIBULATION, EXPERIENCING THEM!" (*Malachi's Message*). My determination to continue Mr. Armstrong's warning, and my opposition to the many doctrinal changes taking place in the WCG, got me fired.



West German demonstrators tear down a section of the Berlin Wall as East German border guards watch on Nov. 10, 1989.

This chain of events led to the founding of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* in February 1990, 36 years ago.

In the July 1990 issue, I wrote: "Amos describes a time when those who were trained to prophesy were commanded to 'prophesy not!' [O]ne of God's main requirements of His Church is to PROPHESY! Germany has already reunited in its heart and mind. The world is just waiting for the formal paperwork to be signed! But Church leaders are saying prophecy is a minor issue."

As I explained then, Amos 3:3 shows that those who followed God's command to prophesy needed to separate from that church to get the job done.

In that same article, I asked this about the work of the WCG: "Is the television broadcast blowing a trumpet warning to the nations about the rebirth of Germany; a united Europe; the rise back to power of the Roman Catholic Church? No, it is not!"

Over the years, many people have scoffed at Mr. Armstrong's forecast of the rebirth of German militarism in a united Europe. LAODICEAN LEADERS WERE INTIMIDATED BY THE SCOFFERS AND STOPPED WARNING ABOUT GERMANY! Only the Philadelphia Church of God has continued Mr. Armstrong's legacy.

And look where Germany is today! EVERYTHING MR. ARMSTRONG WARNED ABOUT IS COMING TO PASS!

After listing some of Germany's 2024 military purchases, the British *Telegraph* made a stunning observation on Nov. 2, 2025: "Overall, Germany's purchases last year added up to more than three times the combined amount spent by Britain, France and Poland in the same period."

This is astonishing! The nation that was reduced to rubble 80 years ago for committing terrible atrocities against these three nations ordered three times as many weapons as them in 2024!

But this is just the beginning.

This past March, Germany passed a historic constitutional change that allows it to borrow money and spend *hundreds* of

billions more on infrastructure and weaponry.

As this *Trumpet* issue shows, Germany is prophesied to use its military power to start World War III. The *Trumpet* is the only one declaring this warning!

In fact, the current U.S. administration is encouraging Germany's militarization. It is supporting far-right parties such as Germany's Alternative für Deutschland. But it should be clear that these parties that seek "sovereignty" and "traditional European ways of life" don't want to fight alongside America.

In "The Rise of German Nationalism Exposes Washington's Delusions," the *American Conservative* stated: "Europe will not automatically be a reliable partner for American military adventures. ... Europeans will not fight America's wars in Asia or the Middle East, and increasingly they won't even support proxy conflicts on their own doorstep if the costs become too high" (Dec. 11, 2025).

The Roman Catholic Church is also becoming increasingly involved.

In an address on December 10 to members of the European Conservatives and Reformists group of the European Parliament, which includes many right-wing parties, Pope Leo XIV said that Europe's leaders must protect "the religious legacy of this continent." He said, "[E]veryone is a beneficiary of the contribution that the members of the Christian communities have made and continue to make for the good of European society. We need only call to mind some of the important developments in Western civilization, especially the cultural treasures of its towering cathedrals, sublime art and music, and advances in science, not to mention the growth and spread of the universities. These developments create an intrinsic link between Christianity and European history, a history which should be cherished and celebrated."

Should this history be cherished? What about all the bloodshed of the Crusades, the pogroms against the Jews, the forced conversions in the Inquisition? One church in Nuremberg, Germany, commissioned by Emperor Charles IV stands on the ashes of a burned-down synagogue. Many other churches have portrayed Jews as pigs in their "art"!

Pope Leo encouraged lawmakers to emulate Thomas More, "the patron of politicians, whose wisdom, courage and defense of conscience are a timeless inspiration for those who seek to foster the well-being of society." "Saint" More burned those he disagreed with at the stake and was one of the most influential voices justifying the burning of Protestants in England!

In an earlier letter, Leo praised Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea as a model of how to unite Christians, glossing over the fact that this was accomplished by state-sanctioned persecution against all who disagreed with the Catholic Church.

This institution looks like a lamb—but speaks like a DRAGON! (Revelation 13:11). That is DECEIT! This is a beast—led by the *mind of a beast*!

Truly, the world needs a fierce warning about the nightmares that are about to unfold at the hands of these rising powers. But few people recognize it. And most of those who did at one time, have grown too self-absorbed or afraid to speak out. That is why the Laodiceans say "prophesy not."

And that is why the *Trumpet* exists. And why we will continue to boldly proclaim the prophetic warnings of the Bible!

Decades of Warnings About GERMANY



The 'war machine' is here.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

“THE NEWS MEDIA IS PRESENTLY focusing mainly on the Middle East and Russia. But that is not where the truly big news is occurring. It's happening in Germany—which Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied for 50 years!” My father, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry, wrote these words in our December 1991 issue.

From the earliest issues of the *Trumpet* newsmagazine in the 1990s, we focused on Germany's military rise, continuing the legacy of *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong, who died in 1986.

Here is why: “God says when the watchman sees the sword come upon the land to warn Israel (Ezekiel 33:3). Today we can see the sword. We see Germany uniting—the rod of God's anger



(Isaiah 10:5). We see that rod or sword clearly now. [Mr. Armstrong] couldn't see the sword or rod—we can and must warn ..." (*Trumpet*, June 1990).

In the 1990s, we saw Germany unite. Then we saw it get strong. Now we see it militarizing.

From the end of World War II until his death in 1986, Mr. Armstrong warned that Germany would rise again. For 36 years, the *Trumpet* has continued sounding the alarm that a German war machine will rise. This war machine is here now!

prophecy throughout his ministry. On May 9, 1945, just after World War II ended, he said: "The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by 'Babylon'—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927. For a while I thought Hitler might organize it—especially when he tied up with the Roman Mussolini. It wasn't done in this second world war. It will be done and provoke the third!"

The forecast of a European military machine has been one of the clearest,

Referencing Ismay, he wrote, "Those men knew that Germany had to be kept down or we would have another world war! They were right—and that is exactly where we are headed today."

Western leaders today see the German war machine as a trustworthy ally even though this nation snuffed out millions of Jewish, British and American lives in two world wars.

After World War I, Britain made the mistake of letting Germany rearm. The leaders were unwilling to acknowledge the danger. And this blindness is far worse today. The United States, Britain and many European countries are cheering Germany's militarization.

Our schools fail to teach history's most important lessons, and we are repeating its greatest tragedies!

Germany has long been Europe's industrial powerhouse. Now it is becoming a military powerhouse. This powerhouse will not be a friend of the United States.

In our September 2025 issue, my father wrote the cover story: "Germany Is Arming for World War III." Since then, we have seen more dramatic developments (infographic, page 8), and the media is slowly catching up.

- "Germany's Army Is Rebuilding. What Could Go Wrong?" (*Politico*, Aug. 29, 2025)
- "Germany Is Arming Itself to the Teeth to Transform Europe Again" (*Telegraph*, Nov. 2, 2025)
- "Germany's Rearmament Puts Britain to Shame" (*Spectator*, Nov. 11, 2025)
- "The New German War Machine" (*Atlantic*, Dec. 1, 2025)

Recounting some of Germany's recent military advances, *Atlantic* author Isaac Stanley-Becker wrote, "Not long ago, these plans would have set off international alarms."

Why aren't these plans setting off international alarms?

While President Donald Trump declares a golden age for peace talks, Germany is arming itself and deploying troops. It has even established a permanent military base in Lithuania, a country previously conquered by Adolf Hitler!

In a way, Germany has already conquered Europe without having to use weapons or troops. This is exactly what Mr. Armstrong said would happen. Based on a prophecy in Revelation 17 that foretells the rise of 10 kings in Europe, he prophesied that the Continent would unite militarily under Germany's dictate.

That was Mr. Armstrong's signature

most consistent warnings that has come from God's Church over the past century. Yet the world has failed to heed these biblical warnings.

When people say, "Peace and safety," sudden destruction is coming (1 Thessalonians 5:3). And this "new German war machine" is going to bring about that destruction.

In a way, Germany has already conquered Europe without having to use weapons or troops. This is exactly what Mr. Armstrong said would happen.

Ignored Warning

NATO's first secretary general, Lord Hastings Ismay, famously said that the alliance's purpose was to "keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down."

Today, analysts quote these words as if they were meant as a joke. Germany is no longer being kept down. It is being encouraged to rise up!

In our August issue, my father wrote, "U.S. President Donald Trump keeps pushing Germany to rearm. It is as if he knows nothing about Germany's history. World War II ended only 80 years ago; that is rather recent history" ("Lithuania in Prophecy").

America's Withdrawal

Pax Americana is over. That is German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's assessment. On Dec. 13, 2025, he said the era of U.S.-led security guarantees was over, so Europe needed to strengthen its own defense capabilities.

Merz's remarks highlight a major shift in European defense strategy. For 80 years, Germany has relied on the U.S. to protect Europe. Yet as CBS News expressed it, "Germany is racing right now to rearm and modernize its military after decades of embracing pacifism after the Cold War" (Dec. 16, 2025).

A *60 Minutes* special on Dec. 15, 2025, noted, "Scarred by their country's Nazi past, Germans embraced pacifism after the Cold War. Defense spending collapsed to the point some soldiers were buying their own gear. But Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—combined with persistent pressure from President Donald Trump for Europe to shoulder more of its own defense—transformed the landscape. Today Germany is racing to rearm."

With this in mind, consider what Mr. Armstrong said in a *World Tomorrow* broadcast in the 1980s: "[S]ome of us, my friends, know not only what we see when we're over there, but we know also what is prophesied, and we know

what is prophesied to rise up in Europe. And we know which is the one and the only nation in Europe that is capable of dominating, and which is the economic and the industrial heart of all Europe, without which there could be no stability and strength. A human body cannot live without its heart, and the economic and the military body that is to rise up and to restore the Roman Empire—the thing that we least suspect here in the United States—it cannot rise up without its heart. And its heart is in Germany!"

In 1982, Mr. Armstrong said that the catalyst for European unity is "their fear of what's going on in the Kremlin and the Soviet Union." He added: "They are losing confidence in the United States as having a military umbrella over them to protect them. And they want their own military force to protect themselves."

Now, with Russia's war in Ukraine and President Trump leaving Europe to itself, this desire for a European military is stronger than ever. A senior German official told Stanley-Becker that Merz is haunted by the question, "Will America serve its allies to the dogs?" This is apparently an important factor in his motivation to spend billions on weapons and help repurpose civilian industries for weapons production.

The German government has promised to transform its military into the strongest in Europe! This was exactly what led to World War II.

Still, the world hears this and *yawns!*

For the first time since World War II, Germany has permanently stationed troops in Lithuania, where it previously committed genocide against Jews. "But as the United States upends the global order it created," Stanley-Becker wrote, "Germany may have no other choice."

Poor Germany! Apparently, because Trump is so unpredictable, it has *no choice* but to revive the old Nazi empire.

Many people are excited by this development because they see Germany as a force of opposition against both Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. But Europe's history shows that **GERMANY HAD MILITARISTIC AMBITIONS LONG BEFORE TRUMP AND PUTIN WERE IN POWER**. The Trump administration's policy of pulling away from Europe and pacifying Russia is providing the perfect cover, but Germany has long sought to dominate the world.

"Traditional arms manufacturers like Rheinmetall are seeing record growth—with defense business up 36 percent in 2024 alone. But the real story is in the emerging tech sector where AI autonomy and innovation are driving a new generation of European defense capabilities."

—Germany Trade & Investment

Already in 1944—before the end of World War II—Nazi officials met with industrialists to plan a Nazi revival in case of a German defeat, as a U.S. intelligence document declassified in 1996 revealed (request our booklet *Germany's Conquest of the Balkans* to read a copy of this document). After the war, various politicians from West Germany advocated for an independent military and a joint European army. France at the time rejected this idea, and in 1955 West Germany joined NATO.

But now that the postwar order has collapsed, Germany is exerting its will.

A United States of Europe

In a fiery speech at the European Parliament, Dutch MEP Bas Eickhout warned, "A divided Europe is the biggest gift you can give Putin and Trump. This council is at a moment of truth after the U.S. National Security Strategy, where people are saying that this is a wake-up call for Europe. A wake-up call? The wake-up call was on the 14th of February when JD Vance was exactly laying out what is now in the National Security Strategy. So this is not a wake-up call—though not the first time we have been woken up. How many times do we need before Europe really wakes up? The U.S. strategy is clear. It's the same like Putin's. It wants to divide Europe; it wants to weaken Europe."

This is how European leaders are thinking and speaking! They don't want to build up their militaries to become stronger NATO allies, as the Trump administration hopes. They want to build up their militaries to *stand up to the United States*.

You will not hear this from any other source, but according to Bible prophecy, what is happening here is nothing less than *the rise of the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!*

"When is Europe finally going to learn?" Eickhout continued. "We need a strong, united, sovereign Europe."

We are about to see a **UNITED STATES OF EUROPE**. Winston Churchill coined that phrase in 1946 to call for postwar European unity. And Mr. Armstrong vehemently warned that this project, when it materialized, would be *hijacked* and used for unspeakable evil! Mr. Armstrong specifically prophesied that Britain would not be part of this union. In 2016, 30 years after his death, Britain voted to leave the EU. Now America is withdrawing its military aid from the Continent.

And Germany is filling the void.

Frankenstein Monster

Mr. Armstrong wrote in the October 1951 *Plain Truth*: "[B]elieve it or not, the United States of Europe—a Winston Churchill dream, an idea sponsored, aided, abetted and financed by the United States, is the very idea the pope will seize on—all ready-made, wrapped and labeled 'made in U.S.A.'—ready to hand over to him! And in promoting this utopian idea, gullible, trusting America and Britain are creating the Frankenstein that shall destroy them!"

Germany is prophesied to destroy many nations in the time just ahead! This end-time prophecy is found in Isaiah 10:5, where God says, "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger" Who is Assyria today? In his landmark book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The Assyrians—before 604 B.C.—left their land north of Babylon and migrated northwest—through the lands that are now Georgia, Ukraine, Poland and into the land that is called Germany today."

Notice what God prophesies will happen: "I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few" (verses 6-7).

The German war machine we see rising is going to “destroy and cut off nations”!

Nobody is telling you about these facts, but everything else you see in the news cycle is comparatively *inconsequential* compared to what is happening right now in Germany. People are talking about peace and unity while GERMANY IS BUILDING A WAR MACHINE!

Everyone who reads this message needs to sit up, pay attention, and act on the seriousness of the times! Much of the world is rejoicing at the prospect of a German military powerhouse, yet the Bible tells us this major geopolitical development is actually a sobering sign of the darkest times to come. This is a matter of life-and-death importance!

New Type of Warfare

The *Atlantic* article highlights Stark, one of Germany's many military start-up companies that manufactures suicide drones: “On the ground floor is a showroom with an elegant minimalist aesthetic, a space so airy and bright that it could be an art gallery—except that military payloads fill the glass display cases. In one corner stands a drone. It's tall, like a Giacometti sculpture.”

Think about this: Deathware is being portrayed as artwork. This drone, called Virtus, is a loitering munition with four rectangular wings. It can take off vertically, tilt in the air, and fly like a plane at 75 miles an hour. Guided by artificial intelligence, it navigates to its target, hovers overhead, then strikes, exploding its warhead.

This is a new form of horrifying warfare!

And this is exactly what we should expect, based on Bible prophecy.

Daniel 8:23 reads: “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.” This “kingdom” is the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire prophesied in Revelation 17.

The Hebrew word for “dark sentences”

comes from a word that means riddle or difficult question or parable. *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* defines *dark sentences* as “twisted, involved, ... subtle, fraud ... an enigma.”

“To many today, AI is such an enigma,” my father wrote in “[The Unknown Future of Artificial Intelligence](#).” “... Future wars most certainly will include nuclear bombs and biological weapons. These deadly weapons can be mounted on aircraft and drones and sent

America won't even be able to respond.

Scoff if you will, but the German war machine is prophesied to use these new technologies, these “dark sentences”!

When it started the last world war, Germany was marching across Europe. It wasn't until German soldiers invaded France that Britain finally woke up and started to act. The U.S. didn't join until it was bombed into the war. In other words, we had time to prevent the war from escalating, but we failed to do so.

Today, we will not have that luxury! Europe has already been taken over by Germany! This means that Germany's next strike can be directly against the U.S. and the British people.

Will It Happen Again?

Stanley-Becker wrote, “Listening to plans for rearmament in the old Wehrmacht headquarters, I wondered whether Germans could get power right this time.” He concluded: “Where were ‘the “good” Germans?’ my great-grandfather asked. In jails and concentration camps, he answered, and buried in the earth. But as a refugee, ‘rescued here on the foot of the Statue of Liberty,’ he believed American influence would help secure peace and purge Europe of fascism.

“For a time, it did. But that world is disappearing, and Germany's pacifism belongs to another age.”

In the *Atlantic*'s telling, this is a heartwarming story of Germany rebuilding the war machine. We are living in a different age, when we no longer need to keep Germans down. After all, that was just a joke.

The world is not paying attention.

But notice Jesus Christ's warning in Matthew 24:21-22: “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.”

If you believe Christ's words, you know

Key German Start-ups



Specializing in artificial intelligence for the defense industry, in 2023 Helsing became Europe's first privately owned defense business to surpass a \$1 billion valuation. Since then its valuation has increased 12-fold. The start-up gained valuable

experience through collaboration with the Ukrainian military in developing suicide drones. It is at the cusp of some of the Bundeswehr's most important innovations, such as providing AI infrastructure for the new Future Combat Air System.

QUANTUM SYSTEMS

It has gained experience in Ukraine. It develops vertical take-off drones to spy on Russian troop locations.



Offers small, tank-like robots to assist soldiers in combat zones, providing supplies or spying on the enemy.



Provides pilots of fighter jets and helicopters the ability to coordinate and control autonomously flying drones from the cockpit.

STARK

Focuses on attack and reconnaissance drones.

“With defense budgets hitting record highs and Europe ramping up security capabilities, start-ups in Germany are at the forefront of innovation in AI drones robotics and satellite technology.”

—Germany Trade & Investment

all over the world. Imagine what they could do! COVID-19 was a *mild* biological weapon compared to something they might send in one of those drones. Some analysts are warning that artificial intelligence can be used to develop bioweapons that target only specific ethnicities. We know only a fraction of the weaponry being developed in secret” (*Trumpet*, March 2024, theTrumpet.com/28925).

He cited a prophecy in Ezekiel 7:14 revealing that when this attack comes,

that a suffering far greater than the Holocaust will precede His Second Coming.

The Bible also reveals who will start this war.

Revelation 17 prophesies of a union of 10 nations combining their forces, led by Germany. “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (verses 12-13).

These 10 kings will support Germany for “one hour.” Today, the EU has 27 member states, but this will be pared down to 10 KINGS ruling over 10 NATIONS or nation-groups, and they will ally with the German war machine.

This prophesied beast power will war against the English-speaking people and the Jewish people—and almost completely destroy them. Notice what happens next: “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (verse 14). Jesus Christ will return to destroy this “new German war machine” and bring true peace to the German people and the whole world!

Christ warned in Luke 21:34-36: “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

An unimaginable future of violence and war awaits this world. Thankfully it is prophesied to last only a few years. But heed Christ’s warning, and you can ESCAPE what is coming! Realize what is happening and, more importantly, understand *why*. Take heed to yourself—watch, pray and repent. ■

Germany’s first victim

Even before Germany was fully rearmed, it conquered a nation. Request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet **Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans** for proof.



ARROW 3: ISRAEL ARMS GERMANY

‘A historical change that comes at the time of great international turbulence.’

BY JOSUÉ MICHELS

AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, GERMANY dedicated itself to ensuring the safety of Jews in the Middle East. Now, Israel is working to protect Germany. In December, Israel handed Germany its Arrow 3 missile defense system. Three weeks later, the German Bundestag approved an expansion of the purchase contract with Israel, raising the total value to \$6.7 billion.

The deal, considered the largest weapons export in Israel’s history, signals the beginning of a new chapter in Israeli-German relations. For years, Germany has been Israel’s second-largest supplier of weapons. Now, Israel will not only receive weapons from its historic nemesis but also arm it.

The descendants of Holocaust survivors are now supplying the descendants of the perpetrators of the Holocaust one of the world’s most advanced and important weapons systems.

For the millions of Jews who died in German concentration camps, this turn of events would have been unthinkable. Likewise, it would be unfathomable to the many brave American and British soldiers who lost their lives to stop the German Holocaust.

Nevertheless, it is happening. The Jews are fortifying Germany in a way that increases the cost of stopping it militarily should its bloodthirsty nature reawaken.

The conclusion of this chapter in German-Israeli relations has already been written in Bible prophecy, and it paints a picture more frightening than the horrors of the Holocaust.

A Historic Turning Point

“We went through the greatest tragedy that any people suffered on German soil and committed by Germans,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a Dec. 7, 2025, press conference in Israel alongside German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. “The generations that followed the Holocaust ... understood that there was a special moral commitment to enable the Jewish state, the Jewish people, to recover from this horror. And Germany was committed and remains committed to Israel’s security in many important ways.”

Netanyahu then praised the defense capabilities Israel has developed “that now enable us to reciprocate. Not only does Germany work in the defense of Israel, but Israel, the Jewish state, 80 years after the Holocaust, works for the defense of Germany. And that is a historical change that comes at the time of great international turbulence and change.”

At the inauguration of Arrow 3 in Germany on December 3, the director general of Israel’s Defense Ministry, Gen. Amir Baram, said: “I stand here deeply moved because a ballistic

Friedrich Merz (left) strengthened Israeli-German ties with Benjamin Netanyahu at a December visit to Jerusalem.

missile defense system, developed by the finest Jewish minds in Israel's aerospace industry, out of our existential necessity, will now help defend Germany. ... Today's handover marks only the beginning for Israel and Germany. Our cooperation will strengthen and deepen—whether in the air, on land, or in space."

Netanyahu and these other leaders failed to mention that just a few months prior, Merz's government had imposed a partial arms embargo on Israel over its war with Hamas terrorists. While the Jewish state is arming its former enemy, Germany is placing conditions on its support for Israel. Both trends have profound implications.

Strategic Advantage

The U.S. is withdrawing from the world, and Germany and Israel are uniting to fill the void. The *Jerusalem Post* wrote, "When a superpower takes a leave of absence, both militarily and politically, it is the diverse strengths of former allies that, combined, may bring the security and stability formerly guaranteed by the withdrawing superpower" (Dec. 28, 2025).

Germany is the fourth-largest military spender in the world, with access to U.S. weaponry and a well-established European arms industry. Now Israel's battle-tested systems are poised to help Germany reach the next level of military might.

"Many modern, sophisticated military systems take decades to develop, costing billions of dollars," the *Post* continued. "The only alternative is to buy them from reliable partners. ... Israel produces multiple military platforms, such as the Arrow defense system, which Germany needs quickly and cannot rapidly produce on its own, and cannot buy almost anywhere else."

Developed by the U.S. and Israel, the Arrow 3 system helps Germany cover the gap between its short-range missile

defense systems and its higher-altitude interceptors. It can intercept and destroy long-range ballistic missiles outside Earth's atmosphere, thereby minimizing the danger posed by radioactive or chemical warheads.

On three occasions since April 2024, Iran has launched 250 or more ballistic missiles and drones against Israel. These could have devastated Israeli defenses and cities. Some made it through, but Israel's advanced air defenses prevented a nightmare scenario.

The *Atlantic* wrote that arms exports make "Israel a guarantor of German safety." With such high stakes in terms of money, business and human life, the deal binds the two countries closer.

Beyond Arrow 3

In the first nine months of 2025, German exports to Israel totaled \$4.5 billion; Israel's exports to Germany was \$2.3 billion. The fact that Israeli exports increased by 25 percent and German exports remained at roughly the same level shows that the relationship is changing in favor of Germany.

Germany has the world's third-largest economy. Israel's economy is much smaller, yet it ranks first in start-ups per capita. This creates a unique opportunity for the two countries to work together.

"Israel has developed into a leading location for innovation and start-ups—a model from which we can learn a great deal," German Economy Minister Katherina Reiche said during her December visit to Israel. She had said the goal of her trip was "to bring high-tech companies together with our strong industry." After a meeting in Jerusalem, she said, "Israel has almost perfected the start-up pipeline."

"Closer cooperation with Israel can further strengthen the competitiveness of our economy by giving us access to groundbreaking technologies, highly qualified specialists and pioneering joint research and development projects," Reiche added.

Defense was also a focus of Reiche's visit. Her 70-member German business delegation included representatives from defense and defense-adjacent industries, including aviation, space and drones.

Israel is happy to help. By forging closer ties with Germany, it hopes to strengthen its economic standing and military preparedness and to win a strategic partner against a common enemy: Iran.

Alliance Against Iran

"It is entirely possible that ballistic missiles from Iran will target Europe in the future. Arrow 3 protects against this," Israel's ambassador to Germany, Ron Prosor, said. "Israel is proud to be able to make a concrete contribution to Germany's security." In 2022, *Al Monitor* called Arrow 3 Germany's "long-term plan against Iran."

For many years, Israel has fought against Iranian terrorist proxies in the region, and it faces increasing international pressure, including from the United States, to give in to the terrorists. While governments around the world are increasingly shunning Israel, Germany is opening its arms.

German military strategists are also concerned about missiles from Iran.

The launcher for the new Arrow 3 missile defense system stands in front of the radome in Annaburger Heide, Germany, after its commissioning.



Merz said that when Israel attacked Iran's uranium enrichment facilities, it was doing the West's "dirty work."

The Israelis see Germany as an ally against Iran. In a way, they are right. Germany is keenly interested in confronting Iran. However, there is a "hidden danger in Germany's 'alliance against Iran'" as *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry pointed out in our July 2024 issue.

To understand this danger, we must understand Bible prophecy.

Daniel 11 prophesies a clash "at the time of the end" between a "king of the south" (Iran and its radical Islamic proxies) and a "king of the north" (a German-led European power). "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. He shall enter also into the glorious land..." (verses 40-41).

Germany is prophesied to conquer Iran. This becomes feasible with an effective missile protection shield, because Iran claims to have most of Europe within its range and has repeatedly threatened to use its arsenal against Europe.

This same prophecy reveals that after Germany attacks Iran, it will enter the "glorious land," prophetic language for Israel. Given that the Hebrew word for "enter" in this verse indicates a peaceful entry, Mr. Flurry explained: "The Germans will undoubtedly be *invited in* as a peacekeeping force—to militarily secure Jerusalem from the engulfing violence" (theTrumpet.com/29536).

To that point in this sequence of events, Israel will still trust Germany as an ally.

Stirring Hatred

Psalm 83 describes an unprecedented alliance against Israel (a biblical name which also includes Britain, the United States and other descendants of the ancient Israelites). Notice verse 4: "They

have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

As Mr. Flurry has explained, Germany is at the heart of this plot.

Germany's role in this prophecy is extremely dangerous because the nations of Israel believe it is their ally. This will likely enable Germany to overcome their defenses without retaliation (Ezekiel 7:14).

Other passages warn the Jewish state of Israel—biblical Judah—specifically against forming an alliance with Germany, biblical Assyria.

In his booklet *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany*, Mr. Flurry explains: "In verse 4 of Ezekiel 23, Israel is represented by Aholah, and Judah (separated from Israel at that time) is called Aholibah. Israel and Judah (modern-day Israel) become lovers to the Assyrians (verses 4-7). God then delivers Israel (mainly the U.S. and Britain) and Judah into the hands of the Germans. (The word *Jew* is a shortened version of *Judah*.)" "Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted. ... She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men" (verses 9, 12).

Isn't this an accurate description of Israel's fondness for Germany today? It sees Germany's growing economic, diplomatic and military capabilities, falls in love with its strength, and wants a close relationship with it.

But what does God think when people who have a history with Him turn to a nation that once sought to blot them out? "IT SEEMS THE ISRAELIS CAN TRUST THEIR WORST HISTORICAL ENEMY, BUT THEY CAN'T TRUST GOD TO PROTECT THEM!" Mr. Flurry writes in *Hosea—Reaping the Whirlwind*. "And God is their *only* source of help." ■

Know Germany in prophecy

Why did this dominant European nation start two world wars? Has it really repented of its warlike ways? The Bible reveals the answers.

To learn what the Bible says about Germany, request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany*.



The Fight for Greenland

One of the world's coldest places is heating up. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

THE ARCTIC IS BECOMING A BATTLE-ground: Russia is modernizing its military bases; China is sending icebreakers to open up new trade routes; the United States has threatened to invade Greenland and upend NATO if necessary; and Denmark is working on a \$2 billion Arctic security plan.

But watch Germany.

According to anonymous sources speaking to Reuters, White House officials are discussing cash payments to Greenlanders to convince them to secede from Denmark and join the United States. Even if Greenlanders reject this offer, President Donald Trump says he will find a way to stop what he sees as America's most dangerous adversaries.

"We are going to do something in Greenland, whether they like it or not," he told reporters on January 10, "because if we don't do it, Russia or China will take over Greenland, and we're not going to have Russia or China as a neighbor."

Denmark technically controls this semiautonomous, strategically



important landmass. Officials there and elsewhere in Europe have chafed at such bellicose language. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned President Trump that Danish troops have orders to defend it if Greenland comes under attack.

Officials in Germany have reacted more diplomatically.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz reminded President Trump on January 12 that Denmark is a NATO ally and reiterated that he shares Trump's concern for Greenland's security. Merz is proposing an "Arctic Sentry" mission, modeled on NATO's "Baltic Sentry" operation, to monitor threats in the High North. He does not want Trump to unilaterally take over Greenland's defenses. He would prefer that the U.S. act in conjunction with its NATO allies to protect Greenland.

In short, he wants German involvement in the Arctic.

That seems like a reasonable policy if you assume Denmark and Germany are loyal allies of the U.S. But the Bible reveals that a German-dominated Europe is about to betray America!

The United States and the British Commonwealth descended from the biblical patriarch Joseph; France descended from Joseph's brother Reuben; the Jews from another brother, Judah; the Irish and Danites from yet another brother, Dan. These and several other related nations are the modern Israelites!

The Germans descended from Assyria. These identities are key to understanding past, present and future events.

The Bible warns repeatedly of the end-time destruction of the U.S. and Britain. Deuteronomy 28:50-52 describe a nation of fierce countenance besieging end-time Israel economically. Isaiah 10:5 says Assyria will be the rod of God's anger against end-time Israel. Hosea 9:1-3 foretell the end-time Israelites being carried away as slaves to foreign lands.

Another prophecy says, "The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein. For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 8:16-17).

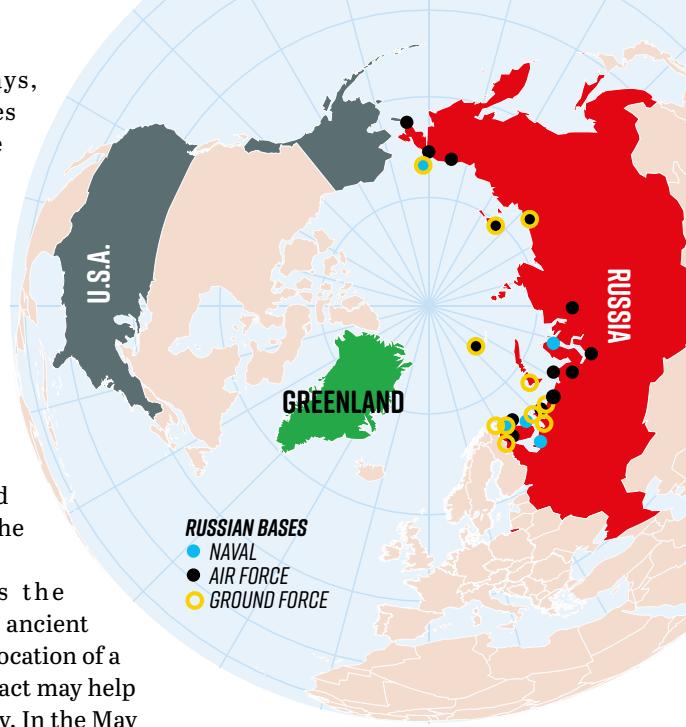
The city of Dan was the northernmost point in the ancient kingdom of Israel and the location of a famous watchtower. This fact may help clarify Jeremiah's prophecy. In the May 1996 *Trumpet*, the late *Trumpet* writer Ron Fraser pointed to this prophecy as evidence that Ireland may help an EU army conquer Britain. Yet Ireland constitutes only about half of the end-time tribe of Dan; the rest of the Danites are in Denmark and its colonies, such as Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

In ancient history, the watchmen from Dan heard the sound of the approaching Babylonian warhorses but failed to sound the alarm of an invasion. This history has strong parallels with events today.

Jeremiah 8 is an end-time prophecy of a time when the bones of the kings of Judah

Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, a man the *Trumpet* believes could become the end-time European strongman, also has eyes on Greenland. He has suggested Germany should work with Trump to defend it.

are scattered for all to see (verses 1-2). This has never happened in history; the prophecy is for today. The ruins of the ancient city of Dan are in the Upper Galilee region of today's Jewish state of Israel. The northernmost watchtower in the modern nations of Israel is Pituffik Space Base, part of the Kingdom of Denmark.



In the event of a nuclear strike on North America, troops at Pituffik Space Base are among the likeliest to hear the "snorting of his horses" and the "neighing of his strong ones." Yet Jeremiah's prophecy indicates that, for one reason or another, those who hear the approaching army fail to act.

Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, a man whom the *Trumpet* believes could become the end-time European strongman, also has eyes on Greenland. A year ago, he said about Donald Trump: "He is concerned with something that we Europeans have completely missed out on for decades, even though it should actually be in our interests. They are concerned with the geostrategic importance of Greenland, which for us has always been some kind of cold ice sheet, but where there are mineral resources under this cold ice sheet."

Guttenberg has expressed strong dislike and even hatred for President Trump in the past; yet more recently, like Chancellor Merz, he has suggested that Germany should work with Trump to defend Greenland and the wider Arctic.

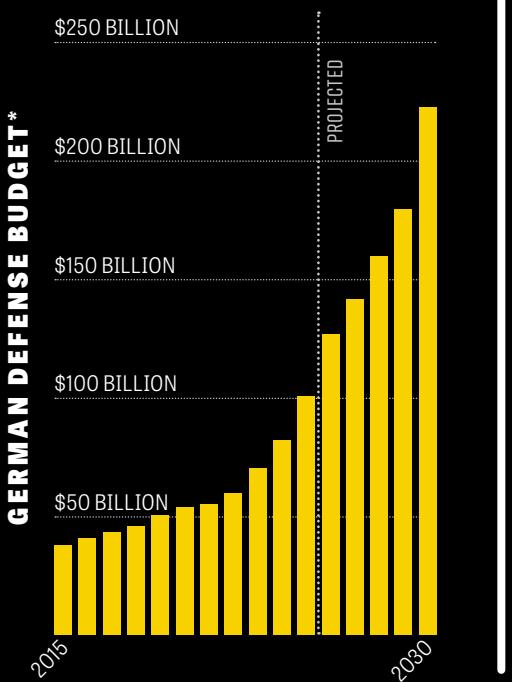
The Bible is explicitly clear, however, that America's Assyrian "lovers" are going to rise up against them (Ezekiel 23:22). This means America's trust in its German "allies" is dangerously misplaced! ■

RISE OF GERMAN

In December, the Atlantic proclaimed “The Return of the German War Machine.” Was this journalistic hyperbole? What do the facts say?

How much is Germany spending?

Once the Cold War ended, Germany began cutting its military spending. As a percent of GDP, it bottomed out in 2015, then began rising again. Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, prompting Chancellor Olaf Scholz to announce a “Zeitenwende,” or sea change, in Germany’s military stance. This year, Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced even more spending and lifted all constitutional restraints on borrowing for military spending.



*ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION

Which companies are supplying the German military?



RHEINMETALL

Europe's biggest defense company, valued at over \$100 billion, recorded a record backlog of \$75 billion last year. They manufacture ammunition, tanks, air defense systems and drones. Over the past year, they have taken steps to enter the space and naval sectors through acquisitions and collaborations. Perhaps best described as a one-stop shop for all Europe's defense needs, they are positioned to be the biggest winner in Germany's arms race.

KNDS

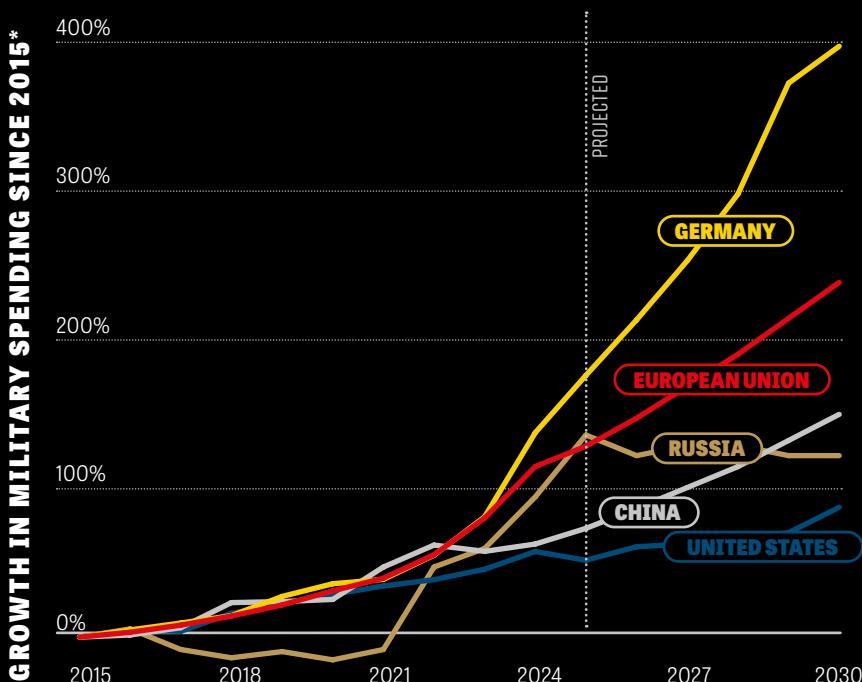
The result of a merger between Germany's Krauss Maffei Wegmann and France's Nexter, KNDS produces the main battle tanks of both countries: the Leopard 2 and Leclerc. Currently, they are working on a next-generation tank for Europe.

HENSOLDT

Formed in 2017 as an Airbus spinoff, Hensoldt—partly owned by the German government—has been equipping the German military with situational awareness tools such as radar, night-vision goggles and sensors. Since 2020, it has equipped Turkey's Bayraktar tb2 drones with optical sensors. Along with drone start-ups, Hensoldt is positioned to profit from Germany's drone craze.

How fast is the German war machine growing?

In this dangerous world, most nations are increasing their military spending. But the EU's spending is growing more rapidly than any other region, and Germany's spending dominates Europe's. Russia has shifted to a war economy and is straining to boost its military all it can. Yet Germany is still growing faster, and its military spending is on track to overtake Russia's soon.



MILITARISM

AIRBUS

Not only did this multinational company, led by Germany and France, produce nearly 800 commercial airplanes last year; it is a key builder of European military helicopters and a big investor in space defense. Airbus will likely benefit from Germany's aircraft and satellite spending.

thyssenkrupp

Through its spin-off subsidiary TKMS, Thyssenkrupp is Germany's largest warship producer. In late 2024, it received an order from the German government to build four submarines. TKMS also has a shipyard in Brazil working on four ships for the Brazilian Navy.

What are they buying?

Between 2023 and 2025, Germany approved 255 major procurement projects worth \$218.7 billion, compared to 215 projects totaling \$126.5 billion between 2015 and 2022. The chart to the right shows what the Bundeswehr spent its money on over the last three years.

A \$80,000,000

Uranos AI satellite, drone and radar surveillance system that uses AI to sort through data.

B \$250,000,000

520 Quantum systems surveillance drones

C UP TO \$8,000,000,000

Israeli Arrow 3 missile system (destroys incoming missiles in space)

D \$5,300,000,000

An upgrade from the old Taurus missiles, with a range of 310 miles with high precision; \$2.5 billion will be paid for 600 missiles; MBDA aims to invest \$2.8 billion to produce these missiles over the next four years

E \$1,200,000,000

Three Israeli Heron surveillance drones

F \$1,350,000,000

400 U.S. Tomahawk missiles

G \$520,000,000

Joint Strike Missiles for F-35

\$80,000,000,000

7,000 armored vehicles
(based on Rheinmetall's expectations)



A \$2 B
SPOCK
satellite
system



\$24,000,000,000

To clothe soldiers and provide basic equipment (helmets, vests, G95 rifles, communications systems, night vision goggles, etc)



F \$5 B
200 Puma
armored
vehicles

G

\$3.2 B
123 Leopard
2A8 tanks

\$42,000,000,000

Naval vessels (through 2041)



\$20,000,000,000

Aircraft



E \$2,880,000,000
Soldier salaries

Why Does the Bible Have So Much Prophecy?

About one third of Scripture is prophecy. What does God expect you to do about it?

BY JOEL HILLIKER



THE BIBLE'S PROPHECIES ABOUT Germany are accurate. The *Trumpet*'s warnings, and those of the *Plain Truth* before us, are proving to be true. These prophecies uttered thousands of years ago and canonized in the Bible are now coming to pass before our astonished eyes.

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of God's existence and of the inspiration of the Bible. No man could possibly bring those events about.

Many people claim to know God. But how many really know the Almighty God of prophecy? Most people pay little attention to this crucial third of the Bible. But if you ignore prophecy, *you do not really know the true God*.

Understanding how and why God reveals prophecy teaches you a lot about Him. God doesn't give prophecy to entertain us or merely to reveal His power and supremacy. Bible prophecy is God's warning to you about *your* future. Will you listen and respond?

The Ultimate Author of Prophecy

The source of true prophecy is not any man, not a righteous prophet, nor an angel. It is not even Jesus Christ, who Himself said He did not know the timing of His own return (Matthew 24:36),

an event at the center of all end-time prophecies.

The ultimate source of true prophecy is God the Father.

Read the first verse of the book of Revelation, the greatest book of prophecy in the Bible: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, *which God gave unto him*, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

This verse clearly says "the Revelation of Jesus Christ" was given to Him by God—God the Father! The Father gave it to His Son, who delivered it to an angel, who gave it to a man, the Apostle John. Yet most Bible publishers title the book "The Revelation of St. John the Divine," introducing confusion and entirely ignoring the divine Source. This is one clear example of why, in the world today—full of evangelists, preachers and self-proclaimed prophets—none truly understands Bible prophecy.

The fact that prophecy originates with the Most High God is deeply inspiring. It shows the weight God places on prophecy. And very few understand this, but it also highlights the *government structure* of the God Family. It all points back to God the Father.

Though traditional Christianity

asserts that Jesus is the center of the gospel message, Jesus Himself said: "[M]y Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). He came to Earth to declare the Father (John 1:18). The Father is the God Being who is and always will be the Head of the entire God Family. We can only truly understand prophecy when we keep the Father in the picture.

Bible prophecy reveals God the Father, His love for you and His plans for your future.

God Must Reveal His Truth

How does God reveal His truth? Again we must look to the Bible. In Revelation 1:1, we saw God revealed that prophecy through Christ, through an angel, to a man named John.

Here is another towering lesson we must learn: God specifically reveals the *meaning* of His prophecies through individuals of His choosing.

Matthew 11:25 says God the Father *hides* His truth "from the wise and prudent." Among the world's scholars, you will scarcely find anyone willing to *humble himself before God* to receive revelation. We cannot look to them to understand God's Word and His prophecies.

Throughout the Bible, we see God revealing His truth to *specific human leaders*. God worked with Noah, Abraham, Moses, the prophets and the apostles. If people wanted to know God's revelation, they had to seek it from these men. This truth is reinforced in multiple passages. Consider:

• **Amos 3:7:** "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

• **Ephesians 3:3-5:** "[B]y revelation he [God] made known unto me [the Apostle Paul] the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not

made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

• **1 Corinthians 2:7-10:** "[W]e speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

• **2 Peter 1:19-21:** "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation*. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]."

The Bible is unlike any other text in the world. Every word was directly inspired by God and *cannot* be understood without God revealing it—and He does that through "his servants the prophets."

1 Peter 1:12 shows that *even angels* do not understand Bible prophecy until God the Father reveals it to human beings.

That is why Bible prophecy is not of any "private interpretation."

Thus we see two significant reasons why the world of religion does not understand Bible prophecy: First, people do not honor God the Father, the Source of revelation; and second, they reject His human messenger.

"God's revealed word doesn't come from men," explains Gerald Flurry in *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope*. "The word *prophet* in the Old Testament means 'an interpreter of God.' In other words, God revealed Himself to these men, and they taught what He revealed! They would have been powerless without the Holy Spirit moving them. They were moved by

the Holy Spirit. This is how God speaks to mankind. God gives each person on Earth the responsibility to know when men are moved by the Holy Spirit."

Once you have proved that God exists, that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, you must prove who God's human messenger is.

All this can be done through Bible prophecy. Prophecy is a significant means by which God reveals both Himself and the men through whom He is working.

A study of the astounding work done through the decades-long ministry of the late Herbert W. Armstrong shows that God was behind that man. Today, it is clear that He is working through Gerald Flurry. In the writings of these two men, you aren't simply reading the teachings of astute Bible scholars—you are reading *revelation* given by the living Creator God to His servants—and given for specific reasons!

Advance Knowledge

Look once more at Revelation 1:1: It tells us that God gives us prophecy "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass." God gave this prophetic message to show us things that are *about* to happen—before they do. Only the omnipotent God can do that. No false god would be capable of it. (Read God's challenge to impotent idols in Isaiah 41:21-24; also Psalm 33:10-15.)

God says through the Prophet Isaiah, "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:9-10). When God says something, He ensures it happens. He follows through. We can have absolute confidence in the God of prophecy. Like Abraham, we can be "fully persuaded that, what he [God] had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21). That is faith.

Why does God want us to know *in advance* that certain things will happen?

There are times when we only recognize the accuracy of a prophecy after it comes true. Christ specifically told

His disciples that as we see prophecies fulfilled, it should vindicate God in our minds and strengthen our faith: "And now I have told you *before* it come to pass, that, *when* it is come to pass, *ye might believe*" (John 14:29).

Often, however, God gives prophecy as a warning to the rebellious and as a motivator to the righteous (2 Peter 3:10-12).

In His great Olivet prophecy, Jesus Christ gave His disciples several signs to watch for in advance of His Second Coming, and said, "[W]hen ye shall see all these things, know that it [the day of His return] is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33). Like many of the Bible's prophecies, these were advance warnings that should keep us attuned to the urgency of the time we live in.

It is through prophecy that God warns us of the consequences of disobedience to Him. Many prophecies foretell of judgment coming on the wicked and terrifying punishments befalling rebellious people. God gives them for the same reason a loving parent warns his disobedient child before disciplining him: It is a prod to correct our behavior and to turn us to Him. "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?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

Prophecy is an expression of God's mercy. He wants to help us avoid punishment and receive blessings. Bible prophecy is a warning. We must take these invaluable warnings seriously—believe God—and act.

When we come to understand there is a God orchestrating events and bringing His prophecies to pass, we see the seriousness of His warnings and we recognize our responsibility to obey Him. It is highly motivating spiritually! As Christ said after giving the signs of His return, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42, 44). Knowing the shortness of time incites us to be ready by following after righteousness.

Prophecy is an expression of God's mercy.

He wants to help us avoid punishment and receive blessings.

The Beauty of Repentance

The *Trumpet* magazine is built on the prophecies God has revealed forewarning of the future of Germany and Europe, of America and Britain, of the Middle East, of Asia. It shows where today's momentous events are taking this world.

What effect has prophecy had on you, reading about it in each issue? Has it made a spiritual impact? Has it proved the existence of the living God to you? Has it built your faith in the God who inspired and revealed these prophecies? Has it shown you where God is working?

There are many people who have heard what Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Flurry have taught and say, *If this or that prophecy comes to pass, then I will believe God sent him.* Thus they dismiss all the prophecies that have already been fulfilled.

And then, all too often, when the prophecy does come to pass, they still do not act!

If that is your attitude, then heed Jesus Christ's admonition in Matthew 12:39-40: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

What is the connection to Jonah the prophet? Mr. Flurry explains: "The Jews could observe and prove that Christ was in the grave three days and three nights. By this sign, they could prove that Jesus Christ truly was the Son of the living God—their very Creator, who is far greater than the Prophet Jonah."

"Then if they understood and believed this sign, they could learn a vital lesson. The people of Nineveh repented when Jonah warned them" (*Jonah: A Strong Warning to God's Church*).

You can read this inspiring story in the book of Jonah. God's prophet

delivered a warning: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). That is a *prophecy*. Here was the reaction: "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and

put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them" (verse 5). The king proclaimed that the people should "turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?" (verses 8-9).

How did God respond? "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (verse 10). He withheld His punishment!

What a powerful illustration of the power of prophecy—and the beauty of responding to it

as God intends!

When Jesus brought up this example to the faithless people of His day, He concluded with this fierce condemnation: "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because *they repented at the preaching of Jonas*; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Matthew 12:41).

The people to whom Christ was speaking refused to repent—and they ended up killing Him.

God wants us to react to a great many of His prophecies the same way the Ninevites did: by simply believing Him, having faith that what He says is true—before the words of the prophet come to pass—and repenting.

If we reject all the evidence God lays before us, if we cling to our skepticism

and, as Christ said, are always "seeking after a sign" that God's prophecies are sure, we will find ourselves in the midst of the prophesied Great Tribulation before we repent!

Believe His Prophets

What does God expect us to do instead? The answer is simple: "... Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20). We need to not only believe God but also *believe His prophets*. This leads us to *repent of* our evil ways, to follow God and honor the Father—and to support the man He has chosen.

God the Father is about to send His Son to this Earth a second time—this time in power and glory! What is uppermost in God's mind is the restoration of His government on Earth (Acts 3:19-21). By revealing the prophecies of the Bible to one man, God begins this restoration process. Prophecy thus not only shows where God is working but also impels us to come under this government and to accept God's wonderful way of life that it teaches and administers.

In the four decades since Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, God has continued to reveal His secrets to one man, an apostle. Today God's warning message of coming events, as well as the good news of the wonderful World Tomorrow—the work started through Mr. Armstrong—continues to be trumpeted around the world by this work as a witness.

You can escape the horror of the next few years by heeding that witness. Prove the prophecies of the Bible. Recognize the *Author* behind those prophecies, the all-powerful God who inspired them and is now bringing them to pass. Honor the Father by turning your heart to Him. Believe in Him, so shall you be established. And find and support the man He is using and the work that man is leading. Believe His prophets, so shall you prosper! ■



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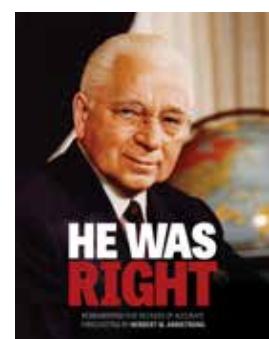
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He was right!

Learn about five decades of accurate forecasting by Herbert W. Armstrong in your free copy of **He Was Right**.





Faith leaders from across the country gather to pray over President Trump in the Oval Office on March 19, 2025.

The Rise of 'the King's Chapel'

An end-time prophecy reveals a problem with a religious movement gaining strength in America.

BY ANDREW MILLER

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE is changing. For decades, millions of American Christians have been abandoning their faith in God, the Bible and religion. Church attendance today has probably hit its lowest point since before the United States Civil War, when much of the population was isolated on the frontier.

Pew Research's Religious Landscape Survey questioned more than 35,000 Americans about their religious affiliations. It found that between 2007 and 2024, the share of Americans who identify as Christian dropped from 78 to 63 percent. Some converted to Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or some other non-Christian religion, but most gave up on religion altogether.

Is America doomed to become a post-Christian society? About 28 percent of Americans now check "none" as their religion. Fewer than half of those who check "Christian" attend church services each week.

Yet amid this dechurching, Bible prophecy foretells that a *false religious movement* will arise in end-time

America. Known as "the king's chapel," this movement will actually *persecute* true Christians and send them into exile. You need to understand what the Bible says about this movement.

Religious Polarization

A flight from Christianity is underway, but that is not the full story. Actually, America is simultaneously becoming more secular and more religious.

Most of those leaving Christianity are mainline Protestants from Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Mainline Protestants are generally more "woke" than evangelical Protestants; many of them are simply giving up the facade that they believe in the Bible. Their ranks have dwindled from 18 percent of U.S. adults two decades ago to 11 percent today. Meanwhile, evangelical Protestants are doing much better at holding on to members. Their ranks have barely dwindled from 26 percent of U.S. adults two decades ago to 23 percent today. This means American Protestantism is becoming more devout and more evangelical as mainstream liberals defect to secularism.

Exit polling data published after the 2024 U.S. presidential elections show 63 percent of Protestant voters cast a ballot for Donald Trump. Roughly 62 percent of *mainline* Protestants voted for Kamala Harris; yet there are so few mainline Protestants left in America today that they made little difference. The 82 percent of white, evangelical Protestants who voted for Trump vastly overwhelmed the mainline vote.

These statistics show that the Christians most concerned about the secularization of America have been flocking to President Trump as a way to resist the atheistic radical left. It is easy to see why.

President Trump noticed this religious support and promised to defend Christianity from the radical left. "Remember, every Communist regime throughout history has tried to stamp out the churches, just like every fascist regime has tried to co-opt them and control them," he said a month after his second inauguration. "And in America, the radical left is trying to do both. They want to tear down crosses where they can and cover them up with social justice flags. But no one will be touching the cross of Christ under

the Trump administration.”

As refreshing as it is to see a president stand up for religious liberty, we need to watch America’s changing religious landscape closely.

Protestantism used to be the common denominator underlying American society, but this is no longer the case. Evangelical Protestantism is now morphing into a political force aligned with the Trump administration against the radical left. The intentions of the Christians in the administration are probably good,

but history shows that government entanglement with the church usually corrupts the church.

Counterfeit Churches

In the weeks before the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, Hillary Clinton held a considerable lead in the polls. But in a sermon at the time, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said he thought Mr. Trump would win. Why? Because a prophecy in the book of Amos says that end-time America will be led by

a leader like the ancient Israelite King Jeroboam II. Mr. Flurry identified this leader as Mr. Trump. That is also how he correctly forecast—for four years—that Trump would return to the presidency.

Mr. Flurry emphasized that this “Jeroboam” figure would be supported by “the king’s court” (Amos 7:13), which he has identified as the U.S. Supreme Court. We witnessed that prophecy in action when the Supreme Court ruled in *Trump v. United States* that the president has legal immunity for all official

‘Come as You Are’



Turning Point USA chair Erika Kirk (left) speaks with rapper Nicki Minaj during the annual AmericaFest conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on Dec. 21, 2025.

CHARLIE KIRK’S ASSASSINATION SPARKED SOMETHING OF A religious revival in conservative circles. Many Christians say they have felt a “spiritual shift.” Is this wave of religion and spirituality real? Is it enough to save America?

Turning Point USA held AmericaFest in Phoenix, Arizona, from Dec. 18 to 21, 2025. The conservative youth organization has hundreds of thousands of members, 30,000 of whom attended the event, and is led by Kirk’s widow, Erika. On Sunday, the last day of the convention, Erika Kirk sat down with hip-hop star Nicki Minaj.

Minaj has recently been speaking out against Islamic militants persecuting and committing violence against Nigerian Christians. So Turning Point USA gave her the chance to speak and to endorse President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance at a political rally. But Sunday morning’s Kirk-Minaj conversation actually exposes the hollowness and compromise at the heart of America’s religious revival.

For 20 years, Minaj has been churning out outrageously sexual, profanity-laden rap songs and videos. She is the type of moral and sexual influence that American youth should be warned against. You would think it would be an easy decision for Turning Point USA not to feature anyone remotely like her—let

alone with Erika Kirk at the first AmericaFest since Charlie Kirk’s assassination and the resulting cultural phenomenon.

Minaj says she recently reignited her relationship with God, yet she has not stopped making profanity-laden music or obscene videos. Some conservatives expressed criticism that an active rapper was featured so prominently, but others argued, *If you don’t want Nicki Minaj in this movement, you don’t want to win.*

This sentiment reveals a dangerous flaw in American Christianity.

Nobody is saying they don’t want Minaj in the conservative movement. It would be wonderful if she cleaned up her life and stopped spreading filth. This has not happened. Minaj has basically started talking more about Jesus while living and promoting the same sinful lifestyle she has lived for years.

This is a clear case of American Christianity *compromising*.

Minaj has not embraced a Christian lifestyle; Christianity has embraced a Minaj lifestyle. This sets a dangerous precedent.

Throughout the Bible, you find people mixing truth with error and even worship of the true God with aspects of worship of false gods. God warns repeatedly that mixing the truth with sin doesn’t purify the sin; it poisons the truth! True religion, pure Christianity, does not mean holding up unrepentant sinners as an example—it means repenting: *changing* our words and deeds to *obey* God.

This is the fatal flaw in American Christianity that has existed for generations: the “come as you are” theology.

God lays out two requirements of salvation in Acts 2:38: repentance and baptism. People like Minaj are not even claiming to repent of sinful lifestyles. But people who talk a lot about God and the Bible and even the evils of sexual sins are inviting people like her to come into their movement without changing their sinful way of life. This encourages others to think they too can consume and even produce sexually obscene material and still be “conservative” and even Christian.

The leaders at Turning Point USA are accountable for their decisions. If you read the Bible, you realize that God is actually angrier with them than with Minaj, who knows almost nothing about God or the Bible. The religious leaders at Turning Point USA should have taught Minaj about repentance when she said she wanted a closer relationship with God. They did not. Instead, they compromised with evil. Their strategy might temporarily spread and empower the MAGA movement, but it will end up irreversibly corrupting it!

STEPHEN FLURRY

acts. With this July 1, 2024, decision, the Supreme Court *helped* Mr. Trump and made his ultimate return to the presidency practically inevitable.

But note that this end-time Jeroboam is also supported by the “king’s chapel.” Who or what is the “king’s chapel”?

In verses 12-13, a wicked priest tells God’s true prophet, “O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king’s chapel, and it is the king’s court.” This is important history, and it is also prophecy for today. That is why it was recorded and canonized for us. To understand the king’s chapel, you have to understand this history.

The Bible tells us that over a century before the time of King Jeroboam II, the kingdom of Israel split in two. The tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi continued with the dynasty of King David; the northern 10 tribes rebelled and followed King Jeroboam I, who had served as a type of prime minister under King Solomon.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong summarized this history in his most popular book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. “Jeroboam was afraid lest his subjects, in going once a year to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, should return to Rehoboam and he should lose his new throne,” he wrote. “The introduction of idolatry was to prevent this and to keep the people home. This idolatry with Sabbath-breaking (Ezekiel 20:10-24) was the great national sin which became such a curse to Israel. Generation after generation God pleaded with the house of Israel to turn from tradition—from their fathers’ ways—and to return to keeping God’s commandments. But through nine different dynasties under 19 kings, Israel continued these national sins—sins so great in God’s sight that finally God caused them to become a conquered, captive nation.”

King Jeroboam installed a new priesthood, constructed two golden calves in the cities of Dan and Bethel, and told his followers, “[B]ehold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt” (1 Kings 12:28).

These calves were not designed to represent pagan deities but the true God. In other words, King Jeroboam set up a *counterfeit religion* to mimic the religion

administered by the Levites of Jerusalem!

Jeroboam’s golden calves were the beginning of what the book of Amos describes as “the king’s chapel.”

King’s Chapel

“[U]nder Jeroboam the 10-tribed nation Israel completely violated God’s laws, particularly the two test commandments,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “Almost the first act of Jeroboam was setting up idols. And he *changed* God’s autumn festivals from the seventh to the eighth month. There is ample evidence that he also changed God’s Sabbath from the seventh to the ‘eighth’ day ...” (*ibid*).

Leviticus 26:1-2 identify the Second and Fourth Commandments as God’s two test commandments. These commandments are: “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” and “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:4, 8).

These commandments test our obedience and loyalty to God. Many man-made religions acknowledge that we should not murder, fornicate, steal, lie or covet. But many people who can see that these actions are wrong cannot see why it is wrong to pray toward a statue of Jesus in a chapel adorned with a cross on Sunday morning. It takes real faith and obedience to reject graven images and to remember the Sabbath.

King Jeroboam broke these two commandments, as well as God’s instructions establishing the Levitical priesthood and the annual holy days. Why? To win support for his political agenda and to keep people away from Jerusalem.

This was an insidious development within God’s nation! Whereas the histories of most other kings are much less detailed, the Bible puts significant focus on this king and his religious system.

In Amos 7, the wicked priest Amaziah who told Amos to stop prophesying against Jeroboam was a priest of Bethel. This means he was one of the priests who led the worship of Jeroboam’s golden calf on Jeroboam’s counterfeit holy days.

This system of mixing the true religion with other beliefs more expedient to his agenda didn’t die with King Jeroboam I. The Bible emphasizes that his successors “walked in the way of Jeroboam” by continuing in the basic twin sins of Jeroboam: idolatry and Sabbath-breaking.

“The Way of Jeroboam”

The history of King Jeroboam I of Israel is recorded in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. (The history of King Jeroboam II, whom Gerald Flurry has identified as a forerunner of President Donald Trump, is recorded in 2 Kings and Amos.) The Bible goes on to emphasize “the way of Jeroboam” and “the sins of Jeroboam” in:

- *1 Kings 15:34; 16:2-26; 22:52*
- *2 Kings 3:3; 10:29-31; 13:2-11; 14:24; 15:9-28; 17:22*

In fact, the vast majority of Christians today use crosses, statues, paintings and other graven images to worship Jesus, and they attend church on what could be called the “eighth day” of the week instead of the seventh, the day in the Bible that God commands to keep.

Before his assassination, Charlie Kirk was one of the few Christians to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. His bestselling book *Stop in the Name of God* admits that the early Catholic fathers changed their day of worship from Saturday to Sunday a few decades after Jesus Christ died. Yet he refrained from recognizing it as a *commandment*; he viewed it as a good principle that yielded positive mental health benefits. He never told people the Sabbath is a *test commandment* proving whether you worship the true God!

These verses do not mean that every Christian who goes to church on Sunday is a member of the king’s chapel. If that were true, 99 percent of all Christians on Earth would be members of the king’s chapel. But these scriptures do show that the king’s chapel will emerge from traditional Christianity, the dominant religion in end-time Israel, which rejects God’s weekly Sabbath and annual sabbaths in favor of pagan traditions and political expediency. This movement is swiftly gaining power in America today.

‘Prophecy Not’

The primary factor distinguishing the “king’s chapel” from the rest of traditional Christianity is its intense loyalty to Jeroboam.

In “*Is America’s Supreme Court in Bible Prophecy?*” (theTrumpet.com/17949),

Mr. Flurry noted that when Amos 7:13 refers to “the king’s court,” the word “king’s” is a different Hebrew word from the word used in the phrase “the king’s chapel.” It is more accurately rendered “the *kingdom’s court*.” This *kingdom’s court* is not a religious entity, and it is not following Jeroboam. It *helps* Jeroboam yet is not personally loyal to him.

The king’s chapel is different. It is not loyal to the kingdom; *it is personally loyal to the king*.

King Jeroboam I rejected the priesthood God had established and installed a new one among “the lowest of the people.” These new priests owed their sudden and drastic elevation completely to the king and would be debased and possibly executed if the people obeyed God’s law. So they supported Jeroboam above God.

The “way of Jeroboam” was still in force in the kingdom of Israel 12 kings and 117 years later, when King Jeroboam II was in power. He continued to rely on these false priests, even when they advised him to exile God’s true prophet, Amos, to Judah. Amaziah, a leading false priest, said the reason for the drastic action was that “the land is not able to bear all his words.” He did not like Amos’s message of repentance.

In this regard, President Trump is walking in the way of Jeroboam.

Last year, the president announced the creation of a White House Faith Office. This could have been a good initiative, but whom did he appoint to lead it? Paula White, a televangelist linked to the Pentecostal movement and the prosperity gospel. White has been married three times, has faced serious allegations of marital infidelity, and preaches a non-biblical message that neglects essential biblical truths about sin, repentance and the pursuit of righteousness.

Many Christians recognize that White’s commercialized “gospel” has little to do with the Bible. In one of her cash-for-blessing schemes, she promised that if you donate \$1,000 to her ministry, you would receive “seven supernatural blessings,” including a guardian angel, prosperity, healing and a long life. This is not the type of religious leader who will call the nation to genuine repentance—which is the message of the Bible from beginning to end. She is the type of religious leader

who has partnered with Donald Trump for the purpose of gaining power.

Amos 7 tells us that in addition to being personally loyal to King Jeroboam, the king’s chapel is hostile to God’s prophecies. The wicked priest Amaziah accuses Amos of conspiring against the house of Jeroboam (verse 10) before telling Amos to stop prophesying against the house of Israel (verse 16).

This religious movement is convinced that Donald Trump is going to make America great again without the American people needing to repent of their sins.

This religious movement is convinced that Donald Trump is going to make America great again without the American people needing to repent of their sins. They will persecute true Christians who preach the true message of Jesus Christ and true repentance! In their conceit, they will be utterly uncorrectable.

You cannot afford to ignore what the Bible says about the king’s chapel.

Utter Destruction

In the 2023 edition of his book *America Under Attack*, Mr. Flurry explains that God would give Donald Trump a second term in office so the American people would be saved from the radical-left takeover and have one last chance to repent of their sins. He writes, “If the American people do not repent and turn back to God during Trump’s second term, then God will allow America to become ‘desolate’ and ‘laid waste.’”

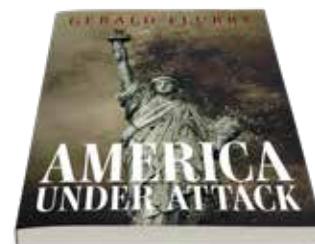
Amos 7:7-9 say, “Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more: And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

The word for “high places” in verse 9 refers to places of worship; the word for “sanctuaries” specifically means temples. This prophecy warns of divine chastisement for President Trump and his religious followers if they refuse to repent. Later, Amos says that “Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land” (verse 17), so the correction isn’t just for religious people. The *whole nation* will be punished! But the final catalyst for the punishment is American Christians rejecting God’s warning message.

“We have been watching this prophecy since June 1990, in the second issue of the *Trumpet* we ever produced,” Mr. Flurry wrote in “*Why I Still Believe Donald Trump Is Coming Back*.” “It speaks of a time when God is preparing to measure the destruction of end-time Israel—the United States and Britain—and He says, ‘I will not again pass by them any more’ (verse 8). This is just before *severe* correction comes on these nations if they don’t repent. They are receiving their *final warning*. ... So the entire context of God saying *I will not again pass by them anymore* is the time of ‘Jeroboam’—an *end-time antitype* of King Jeroboam II of Israel ...” (*theTrumpet.com/23490*).

Now President Trump is back in office, and a movement with the appearance of religiosity and piety is supporting him. Yet this movement will have to make some big changes to spare this country from destruction.

God says, “I will not again pass by them any more.” ■



Donald Trump’s return was foretold

Years before Donald Trump returned to office, Gerald Flurry proclaimed he would be back. He made this bold prediction based on Bible prophecy. These prophecies are explained in his book *America Under Attack*. Order your free copy today.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW JESUS?

Learn things you've never heard before—that come straight from your own Bible. Watch our new television program, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ*.

Christians recognize that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of mankind, and the Son of God. But what does the Bible say about Jesus? How did He really live? What did He teach? What was His gospel message? What does this mean for your life?

Many Christians focus on the person of Jesus—but they dilute, pollute and ignore most of what He actually taught about faith, obedience, the Father, prophecy and “the gospel of the Kingdom of God.”

This is why Christianity is filled with disagreement and confusion, exactly as Jesus prophesied! That is why so much of Christianity, whether “woke” or traditional, is compromised and impotent when the Bible and Christ’s own words describe true Christianity as *pure and powerful*.

Traditional Christianity is making a comeback in some circles, yet it remains much more *traditional* than it is truly *Christian*.

Did you know that Jesus Christ warned against religious tradition? Did you know He warned that “many shall come in my name” and “deceive many”? Did you know that the Bible warns of “another gospel”? Did you know that Jesus Christ warned repeatedly of false religion, specifically *false Christianity*?

Did you know, in fact, that Jesus Christ forecast that even His one true Church

would lose almost all the foundational truths that He taught in the Gospels, and that, shortly before His return, He would send someone to “restore all things”?

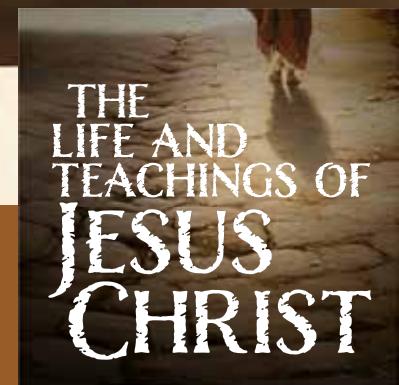
Did you know that Jesus also gave many other prophecies? Did you know that He declared the reestablishment of the literal government of God and the hope of the God Family?

Is this the Christianity you know? It’s the Christianity of the Bible!

You need to open your Bible and read the message that Jesus Christ Himself taught. A true Christian not only recognizes that “Christ is Lord” but also knows what Christ said and does what Christ did. “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

The Gospels and the rest of the Holy Bible expose dozens of core traditional Christian teachings as wrong—as myth. But Jesus Christ is real. Jesus Christ is Lord. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And His true message proclaims worship, belief, faith, repentance, obedience and love toward God the Father and the *hope of the God Family*!

You need to know the true Jesus Christ. You need to know the true God the Father. Open your Bible, watch *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ* with Stephen Flurry, and prove the truth for yourself.



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Honoring the Father

The beautiful spiritual vision in fatherhood

BY GERALD FLURRY



FAMILY IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL thing in life!

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote nearly 50 years ago, "The very foundation of any stable civilization is a solid FAMILY STRUCTURE. ... Nothing in this material world is as important as a happy home life with father, mother and well-taught, happy children—a close-knit FAMILY" (*Good News*, February 1979).

So often, you see that great men and women come from *strong families*. They had the support of a dedicated father and mother in a happy marriage.

Theodore Roosevelt attributed a great part of his success and leadership to what he learned from his father. "My father was the best man I ever knew," he said. Wayne Gretzky, perhaps the greatest hockey player ever, had a terrific relationship with his father. So did the famous runner Sebastian Coe. Football greats Dan Marino and Joe Montana said their fathers taught them how to be leaders. I find such examples inspiring.

The best family example in history, however, is that of Jesus Christ.

Declaring the Father

The Apostle John, in writing his Gospel, emphasized how Jesus *repeatedly* and *consistently* honored His Father. John wrote, "No man hath seen God at any time; the *only begotten Son*, which is *in the bosom of the Father*, HE HATH DECLARED HIM" (John 1:18). Notice what that verse says!

Jesus Christ was the only being ever begotten by God as a human being in the

womb of a woman. This shows a special *family* relationship. There was the *Father* and the *Son* in the God *Family*!

The truth is, from the very beginning, God *created* physical family to teach people about Himself and to draw people to Himself! God created marriage between husband and wife, and sex as a means of reproduction, so children would grow up in a family. All these physical realities point to *spiritual* truths! THE PHYSICAL FAMILY IS AN EXACT TYPE OF THE GOD FAMILY! You can read an inspiring and thorough scriptural explanation of these truths in Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. We would be happy to send you a free copy.

John 1:18 also says Jesus was "in the bosom of the Father," which means He had a wonderfully intimate, loving relationship with His Father. He loved, honored and respected His Father. He repeatedly gave His Father credit for His success.

This verse also tells us that Christ actually devoted His earthly ministry to *declaring His Father*! Jesus Christ *revealed* the existence of God the Father to this world. Before that time, people didn't know God in the terms of *family*.

Let me tell you an awe-inspiring, marvelous truth that you can prove from your Bible. It is very beautiful and so plain that I wonder how *so many people*—even those who profess to believe the Bible—can fail so completely to understand it!

The Apostle John absolutely *filled* his Gospel with statements showing

how CHRIST HONORED HIS FATHER! "[M]y Father is *greater than I*," Christ said (John 14:28; see also John 5:19). "[T]he Father hath not left me alone; for *I do* **ALWAYS** those things that *please him*," He said (John 8:29). "... I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but *the will of HIM THAT SENT ME*" (John 6:38; see also John 4:34). Jesus repeatedly referred to "the Father WHICH HATH SENT ME" (John 5:23, 30, 36, 37; 6:44, 57; 8:16, 18; 12:49; 20:21).

This is astonishing! Why did He keep repeating this truth? There is an INSPIRING REASON.

Family Government

Christ was the *Son of God*; He had shared in the majestic glory of God for eternity. But He came to Earth to *declare His Father*. Over and over, He said, *My Father sent me. Don't revolve your religion around me. I'm not the central figure! The FATHER sent me! HE's in charge! He's the Head of the Family!*

Never in the history of the universe has anybody honored his father more than Christ honored His. What wonderful humility and character He had in declaring His Father and constantly directing our attention to the Father!

Christ's magnificent example shows God's *family government*!

Scripture is replete with instruction to fathers that they must lead their families in love. God wants fathers involved and engaged, actively loving their wives and their children, teaching and educating their children, providing for them, disciplining them, defending them.

God the Father sets the *ultimate example* in fulfilling that role! And He inspired tremendous love and devotion in His Son, Jesus Christ.

This example shows how a strong family should work! God wants physical fathers to fulfill the *same* function that He fulfills toward His children. Such a father can lead his whole family to be strong and stable. This gives those children tremendous advantages in life. They know *love*. They have a strong foundation for stable relationships.

They have gained proper confidence, learned the value of self-discipline and hard work, and received countless other invaluable lessons. Most of all, they grow up much better prepared to have a strong relationship with *God the Father*.

But what do most Christians today believe? Why, they think that everything revolves around Jesus!

Read those scriptures again. Do you realize that Christ *specifically* and *repeatedly* told us *not to do that*? When we overlook the Father, we *insult* both Christ and the Father! That is *rebellion* against God!

WE MUST LEARN TO HONOR THE FATHER! That is true in our homes and families, and in our spiritual lives.

When I read verses like this, it makes me realize more deeply how most of Christianity rebels against Christ and the Father! Christ directed us to the Father over and over and over and over and over and over—and people *still* refuse to get it. **WHY?**

Your Father

Here is why. Christ told some hard-headed religious people, “I speak that which I have seen with *my Father*: and ye do that which ye have seen with *your father*” (John 8:38). What did He mean, “*your father*”? “Ye do the deeds of *your father*,” He told them (verse 41). Who was their “father”?

Christ continued, “If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but HE SENT ME” (verse 42). Again, He continually honored and declared the Father. Then He said plainly, “YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, and the lusts of your father ye will do ...” (verse 44).

The religious people of Christ’s day *didn’t honor God the Father*. After all, they killed His Son! They obeyed *their father, the devil*. And Satan *hates family*. He is determined to fight it with everything he has!

The same is true of so many people today—including religious people. Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He wants to *blot out the Father* and *destroy the Family of God*. Most people fail utterly to understand family.

DID YOU KNOW THAT FAMILY IS AT THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL JESUS CHRIST PREACHED? How many religious people

understand that? (Request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* to understand this truth.)

Effects on Society

Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). His society is filled with attacks against God’s plan for family. These attacks are succeeding in some frightening ways. The institution of the family is suffering the death of a thousand wounds.

Many politicians, celebrities and sports figures who receive so much adulation and attention have *wretched* family problems: loose living, adultery, drug addiction, sexual deviancy—everything you can imagine.

God says that when you find a wife, you find a good thing and have God’s favor (Proverbs 18:22). That is inspiring! Don’t those politicians realize that when they betray their wives and have shameful love affairs? Don’t they realize what a *good thing* they have, and that they are TRASHING IT?

Back in 1970, *Time* magazine warned that the implications of the family crisis extend far beyond the home. It quoted the founder of the American Institute of Family Relations as saying, “**NO SOCIETY HAS EVER SURVIVED AFTER ITS FAMILY LIFE DETERIORATED**” (emphasis mine).

Look around! Wouldn’t you say that man was right? Family breakdown has been wreaking havoc on society, and it keeps getting worse.

Remember, “**THE VERY FOUNDATION OF ANY STABLE CIVILIZATION IS A SOLID FAMILY STRUCTURE. ... NOTHING in this material world is as important as a HAPPY HOME LIFE with father, mother and well-taught, happy children—a CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY.**”

The fact that the physical family is an exact type of the God Family should inspire us all to forsake the filth of this world and **STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES!**

The Father’s Example

Every father should study the example of God the Father to learn how to lead his family. God says to His children, “I will NEVER leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). When He begets a child, He commits Himself to fulfilling His responsibility toward that child! If you study this scripture in the original Greek language, you will see it is written

for maximum emphasis. There are *five negatives*. In essence, God is saying, “I will NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER forsake you!” What a wonderful Father!

God honors His children. Think about when a physical father is watching his young child learning to walk. The toddler is bound to stumble and fall, but the father doesn’t focus on the stumbles. He looks for success! As soon as the child takes a step or two, the father is thrilled! The same is true of God the Father. He is moved when He sees His children take spiritual steps and begin to walk, live and act like Him! That kindles within Him strong feelings of love.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, He tells His people that He will never allow them to suffer a trial greater than they can bear. Yes, He does allow trials at times. He does chasten and correct His children (e.g. Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:5-11). But He knows His children so intimately that He knows *exactly* where to draw the line in a trial that will develop their character! That is a PROMISE that reveals His great depth of understanding about you and His love for all His children.

The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15) also shows that love. The son rebelled against his father and fled to the world. He soon realized that his life had become a wreck. He recognized how good he had it under his father. He decided to turn things around, and he returned in a repentant state. How did the father respond? Exactly the way God the Father responds when one of His children repents: He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him! He was full of joy! He truly CELEBRATED his son’s return.

Yes, God is a *loving Father*. He’s not *like* a father—He is the **ULTIMATE FATHER!** And He is perfect. He said, *If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more do I, in whom there is no evil?* (Matthew 7:11).

God gave His own Son to pay for our sins so that, when we repent and accept that sacrifice, God can open up His Family to us!

He gives us incredible honor. We all must learn to honor Him in return as Jesus did. As Christ told us in Matthew 18:1-4, to enter God’s Kingdom we must humble ourselves as little children. That means seeing God, and honoring Him, as our Father!

Demonstrators fill the streets in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, to protest President Nicolás Maduro's rule.

What Is the Future of Venezuela?

It depends on America—but not in the way you may think. **BY MIHAEL S. ZEKIC AND RICHARD PALMER**

ON JANUARY 3, THE GEOPOLITICS of the Western Hemisphere transformed literally overnight. In an estimated 140 minutes, United States forces neutralized Venezuela's air defenses and communications, entered its airspace, dropped special operations troops into a fortified complex within a fortified air base, located and captured dictator Nicolás Maduro and his wife before they could lock themselves in a safe room, and flew them to the USS Iwo Jima, then to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, then to New York, where he was charged with drug trafficking and terrorism crimes. No Americans died in the operation.

This has to be one of the gutsiest moves by a modern U.S. president.

But Maduro's socialist regime, despite its narco-terrorism, extrajudicial killings and other crimes, is still in place. His vice president, Delcy Rodríguez, is now in charge. At the time of writing, little has changed on the ground for the people of Venezuela. But for U.S. overseas influence and geopolitics, the raid and its effects are monumental. This could be a major turning point in America's security situation.

Could be.

America is at a crossroad. Whether this becomes a blessing or a curse depends on what President Donald Trump does next.

Crimes of the Regime

Since 1999, when socialist revolutionary Hugo Chávez became Venezuela's president, the nation has been under an authoritarian socialist dictatorship. The government nationalized major industries; worked closely with Cuba, Russia and China; and rigged elections.

In 2013, Chávez died and Maduro took over. Since then, Venezuela has become a case study for everything that could go wrong with a country. Hyperinflation has gutted the economy, leaving millions unemployed and pressuring millions to flee the country as refugees. Between 2010 and 2023, the number of Venezuelans immigrating to the U.S. grew by 318 percent. Teachers, doctors and others of formerly respectable employment

readjusted to becoming smugglers, prostitutes and drug dealers. Maduro's regime locked up hundreds of political prisoners, and has been accused of extrajudicial killings.

Venezuela's failure as a state has opened the doors to gangs perpetrating thefts, extortions, robberies, prostitution, kidnapping and murder. One human rights group estimates the cartels' trade in illegal drugs in Venezuela generated over \$8.2 billion in 2024, mostly in cocaine and mostly bound for the United States. The most notorious Venezuelan cartel is Tren de Aragua, but Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and affiliates of Colombian FARC guerillas are also involved. Then there is the so-called Cartel de los Soles. The "Cartel of the

Suns" is a generic name for a loosely connected cabal of corrupt government and military officials (the sun emblem is the insignia of Venezuela generals). They protect drug traffickers and take a cut of their profits.

All this has not endeared Maduro's Venezuela to the



U.S. or to the West at large. So Maduro turned to U.S. enemies for support. For decades, these adversaries have proved all too eager to help relieve Venezuela's debt, provide billions for its military and security apparatus, and prop up its dictatorship in return for cheap Venezuelan oil and new vectors of attack against American power in the Western Hemisphere.

Cuba also was a major sponsor of Maduro's regime. Cuba needed Venezuelan oil to function, and Venezuela needed Cuba's expertise in intelligence and repression. Maduro also hired Cuban bodyguards. The two nations were so intertwined that some analysts call the two nations "Cubazuela."

Friends Like These

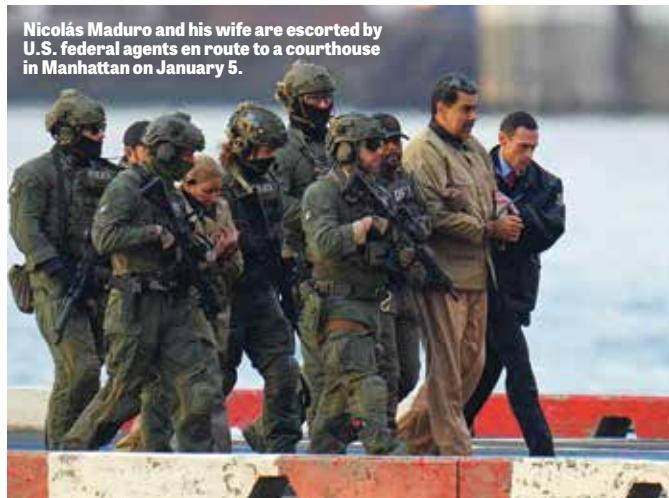
Another U.S. enemy to partner with Venezuela is Iran. Both countries are frozen out of the world financial system. They could not trade normally with each other because the world's banking systems as run by the U.S. would automatically freeze their transactions. So they used secret shipments of oil as their "currency" to buy and sell other goods. Iran refines Venezuelan oil and sells it at a higher price. Venezuela's oil industry infrastructure is quite decrepit, so even with their impressive oil reserves, getting extra from abroad—especially if it's already refined—helps put gas in the cars at home.

Reports cited by Israel's *Calcalist* Tech indicate that the value of Venezuelan-Iranian trade is in the billions. Venezuela was a major market for Iranian attack boats, anti-ship missiles and other military technology, including advanced Mohajer and Shahed drones.

But far more consequential was how Iran used Venezuela through its Lebanese terrorist proxy, Hezbollah. It provided territory for training centers, including Margarita Island in the Caribbean Sea, where Hezbollah controlled its own compound for document forgery and paramilitary training. One analyst called it "Hezbollah's most critical operational base in the

Western Hemisphere," but it's not the only one. Anecdotal reports suggest Hezbollah had similar camps on the Venezuelan mainland.

Hezbollah's largest influence in Venezuela is its participation in the drug trade. In 2016, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency estimated Hezbollah gained as much as \$400 million a year just from selling cocaine from Latin America. One Hezbollah-run program investigated by the DEA, Operation Cassandra, uncovered a drug dealing and money laundering program worth \$200



Nicolás Maduro and his wife are escorted by U.S. federal agents en route to a courthouse in Manhattan on January 5.

million a month. In 2018, the U.S. Justice Department named Hezbollah one of the top five transnational criminal organizations, alongside El Salvador's MS13 and three Mexican cartels.

Maduro's removal jeopardizes all of this, and the swiftness with which the U.S. accomplished it showed Russian, Chinese and Cuban security assurances to be ineffectual.

Will America Benefit?

America stands to benefit from possibly evicting its enemies from its backyard, and in other ways.

Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world, estimated at more than 300 billion barrels. American companies like ExxonMobil were developing these reserves, when Chávez seized them, without compensation.

"We built the Venezuelan oil industry with American talent, drive and skill," President Trump said. "And the socialist regime stole it from us during those previous administrations,

and they stole it through force. This constituted one of the largest thefts of American property in the history of our country." He said that with Maduro gone, America will run Venezuela for the time being, and "it's going to make a lot of money."

President Trump's aims are not altruistic. But if he makes good on his promises, there will be enormous benefits not only for the U.S. but also for Venezuelans. People can get normal jobs instead of having to resort to crime to feed themselves. Law and order can

be restored. Elections can be free and fair. Venezuelans can learn to live in a normal country again.

But will this one bold, successful move guarantee good results? The Caracas raid was an awesome instance of America demonstrating its power for good. But there are still many questions.

What Happens Next?

Will Maduro's regime stand down? Will America have to send in ground troops? Who will be the next leaders of the country? How will Maduro's

allies in Russia and China respond? And what are the long-term implications of capturing a foreign head of government? President Trump correctly stated that Maduro was an illegitimate leader. But many enemy leaders can be viewed as illegitimate. Will more world leaders try to kidnap their opponents? How will this affect America's reputation and power in the world?

We don't know—and that's the point.

The *Trumpet* examines world events through the lens of Bible prophecy, much of which is directed to the nations of Israel. As late theologian Herbert W. Armstrong proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the U.S. is one of the nations that descended from ancient Israel. It became the world's greatest superpower not because of American ingenuity but because of blessings from God, a fulfillment of His promise to our ancient forefather Abraham.

God also promised ancient Israel severe curses for disobeying His law

(see Leviticus 26). Many of America's problems are direct results not of policy failure or geopolitics but rather of *forsaking God*. Much of the Bible is devoted to accounts of God commanding His nation through His prophets to obey His laws—and warning of serious personal and geopolitical consequences for disobedience.

But 2 Kings 14 records a moment when God gave Israel a respite from curses, not because of Israel's repentance but because of His mercy: "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" (verses 26-27).

"The Bible shows that, anciently, God raised up the kingdom of Israel to represent Him," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *America Under Attack*. "Satan attacked that nation in every way he could. History shows that at one point in the ninth century B.C., an enemy almost completely destroyed it—but God intervened. How? He raised up a human king to temporarily save the nation."

As *America Under Attack* elaborates, this history is also a prophecy. Mr. Flurry writes that the "bitter affliction" is the self-destructive policies of the recent radical Democratic administrations, and that the strong leader to save America temporarily is President Donald Trump. It was this understanding that led Mr. Flurry to assert for four years that Trump would return to the presidency, which was fulfilled in January 2025.

Anciently, God's salvation was only temporary. Ancient Israel never repented of its sins, and so God finally allowed its adversaries to weaken and destroy the nation and enslave its people (2 Kings 17). This history too is prophetic.

An Opportunity to Repent

"Right now, there is a great focus on whether Donald Trump will return to office," Mr. Flurry wrote in the 2023 edition of *America Under Attack*. "Prophecy

shows that he will. The bigger issue is what will happen *after* Trump regains power. ... President Trump's return will 'save America' briefly. But he will have to hear God's message and realize that God saved America *through him*—and that he and this nation must repent, believe and OBEY. If the American people do not repent and turn back to God during Trump's second term, then God will allow America to become 'desolate' and 'laid waste.'

God has reduced some of the curses on America to give the nation an opportunity to repent. But Donald Trump has not accepted that he and this nation

forefathers. (Our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* explains this in detail.)

This prophecy has begun to take shape in Venezuela: Maduro was at odds with the Catholic Church. Cardinal Baltazar Porras, archbishop emeritus of Caracas, is one of his biggest critics. Maduro canceled Catholic events to prevent opposition to his regime from spreading. After Maduro's ouster, Pope Leo XIV met with Venezuela's exiled opposition leader, María Corina Machado.

In taking out Maduro, President Trump dealt a major blow to drug traffickers and enemies of the U.S. in Iran, Russia, China and elsewhere. But he may have also paved the way for Venezuela to align with Catholic-dominated Europe—a much more subtle and much more dangerous foe.

Regime change in Venezuela is an opportunity for tremendous blessings for America. At the same time, it could turn out to be a stepping-stone to America's collapse. What determines this is not policy efficacy or geopolitical maneuvering. The deciding factor will be whether America and its leadership let these events lead them to *repentance toward the God of the Bible*.

America is experiencing a reprieve and a resurgence. But unless the nation uses that to humble itself, turn to God, repent and obey, the downhill slide will resume—and accelerate.

This lesson isn't reserved only for governments and countries. God is leaving the door open for *individuals* to respond to His message, repent and turn to Him. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Donald Trump may have restored pride in America's power for the moment, but that's not enough. Individually and nationally, we need God to direct our steps.



Pope Leo XIV meets with Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado on January 12 in Vatican City.

must repent, believe and obey. He is trying to save America permanently by his own self-confident efforts.

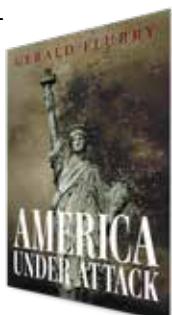
We don't know yet how these events will play out, nor all the long-term ramifications of America's actions, but God does. He offers the only secure future for America. God warns those who continue to disobey that "your strength shall be spent in vain" (Leviticus 26:20). America has great strength and President Trump has used it at times—but these victories can easily turn into defeats!

The Deciding Factor

The Bible warns that if America does not repent, God will use a union of 10 European nations, united and guided by the Catholic Church, to punish it, much as the Assyrian Empire and the Babylonian Empire punished America's ancient

Trump is back. This book forecast it. What happens next?

Find out by ordering your free copy of *America Under Attack*.



SAYONARA TO PACIFISM

If the American leaders who disarmed Japan after World War II were on the scene today, they would recognize the danger of its shift and work to reverse it. But modern leaders are cheering it on.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES



WE ARE COMMITTED to see that the Japanese people are liberated from this condition of slavery," United States Gen. Douglas MacArthur said on Sept. 2, 1945, as he dismantled Imperial Japan's military.

The slavery he spoke of was of the mind—psychological and unspeakably perverse. It had been fueled by this great people's belief that their emperor was a god and that they were a superior race, destined to rule the world. This toxic faith had compelled them to fight for 14 years with cruelty so extreme that even Nazi soldiers stationed in Asia are on record expressing their shock.

In the Massacre of Nanjing, Japanese troops murdered an estimated 200,000 Chinese civilians. Even pregnant women, mothers with infants, children and the elderly were bayoneted, tortured, beheaded, burned or buried alive. Soldiers routinely gouged out eyes and tore unborn babies from their mothers.

The brutality of Nanjing was not an isolated case. Earlier conflicts, such as the First Sino-Japanese War, the invasion of Taiwan and the Russo-Japanese War, further reveal this tendency. During World War II, Japanese troops acted with similar psychosis and violence in several other Chinese cities, as well as in Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and other nations.

By August 1945, Japan's provocation of its neighbors and nations far distant had cost it some 4 percent of its population, with millions more wounded or gravely ill. Most Japanese were starving, and the country was ash and ruin. Even then, this "condition of slavery" drove soldiers and civilians to fanatically fight to the death. Few surrendered. Nothing short of two atomic bombs could blast apart the chains of fanaticism.

And it was then, in the immediate aftermath of that unspeakable devastation, that the U.S. occupied the defeated nation and drafted its Constitution. In that document, MacArthur's occupation

government established Article 9, a clause banning war as a means for Japan to settle international disputes. The U.S. and Japan then signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, which codified Japan's dependence on the U.S. for its defense in the event of an attack.

The main goal was to prevent the Japanese people from ever again becoming armed enough to turn belligerence into carnage. The treaty was also of immense strategic value to America, providing access to Japanese bases and enabling the deployment of tens of thousands of American troops at critical nodes in East Asia, close to major current and potential adversaries.

MacArthur's team also stripped Emperor Hirohito of political power and outlawed all emperor worship. They required him to deliver his famous "Declaration of Humanity" radio address to the nation, denouncing the idea that he was a god and that the Japanese are a superior race.

More than 80 years have passed since MacArthur's landmark speech and these dramatic measures. For decades they accomplished their overall goal of preventing the Japanese from shackling themselves again to that perverse and deadly mental slavery. But as regional threats mount and U.S. commitment to its allies wavers, the Japanese now feel justified in abandoning pacifism and building stunning firepower.

ARTICLE 9

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

First Gradually and Discreetly

Japan's earliest moves away from full pacifism were limited advances that likely appeared trivial to many at the time. The first occurred back in 1954, when U.S. officials encouraged Japan to turn its National Police Reserve into the Japan Self-Defense Force (SDF). The Japanese quietly obliged, though they minimized the SDF's visibility and capped its budget at just 1 percent of gross domestic product.

Every yen was spent shrewdly, though, and by the early 1990s, the SDF was an advanced, highly capable security apparatus.

Japan's leaders were not content merely to possess this formidable military force; they sought to put it to use and to give a new generation of personnel real-world military experience.

In 1992, the Japanese government passed a law authorizing SDF participation in nonmilitary aspects of United Nations missions. This meant that, for the first time since World War II, Japanese troops could be stationed beyond Japan's borders. They were soon deployed to nations such as Angola, Cambodia and El Salvador.

At the same time, Japan's leaders kept allocating more resources for the SDF's technological advancement and integration. By the turn of the century, the Japanese military was a fully integrated, ultramodern assemblage of land, sea and air forces.

Then came the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against Japan's primary ally. This triggered what the *New York Times* called "the most significant transformation in Japan's military since World War II" (July 22, 2007). It included Japan acquiring missile defense systems, practicing dropping 500-pound live bombs, and sending maritime troops to the Indian Ocean to assist with U.S. operations.

These were *major* moves. Japan expert Richard Samuels said they

showed that, in the eyes of the nation's leaders, "the statute of limitations on Japan's misbehavior during the Pacific War had expired."

And the Japanese were just getting started.

The Quiet Era Ends

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck Japan, causing a tsunami and a severe nuclear crisis. The SDF leaped into action, carrying out res-



Japan's Type 90 battle tanks fire ammunition during the Self-Defense Force's annual live-fire exercises.

cue operations with more than 100,000 soldiers, an utterly unprecedented number in the postwar era. "It is no exaggeration to say that the earthquake has spurred the most significant Japanese military operations since the end of World War II," World Politics Review wrote (April 13, 2011).

Most importantly, the rescue efforts dramatically improved the Japanese public's perception of the nation's forces. Almost overnight, the SDF went from being a painful reminder of Japan's shameful past and "condition of slavery" to a source of pride.

Japan's leaders harnessed this tide of pride in 2013 to further accelerate the military buildup, implementing a wildly

ambitious plan to *double* annual defense spending by 2027.

In the years that followed, they voted to "reinterpret" the constitutional ban on collective self-defense and used some of the new funds pouring into the military budget to greatly expand Japan's naval power. They upgraded submarines, enhanced anti-ship missiles, purchased 147 cutting-edge U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets and, for the first time since World War II, built aircraft carriers.

Still another landmark arrived in 2022 when Japan committed to acquire long-range missiles and the legal latitude to use them preemptively. This means if an adversary has a missile aimed at a Japanese target, Japan now has the capability and legal authorization to destroy that missile before it leaves the launchpad.

At the same time, more and more Japanese leaders began calling for the development of the weapons whose extreme devastation Japan alone has suffered firsthand. "We should not put a taboo on discussions about the reality we face," former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in 2022, referring to Japan building nuclear weapons.

In 2024, shortly before becoming prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba said Japan must "consider America's sharing of nuclear weapons or the introduction of nuclear weapons into the region."

"I think we should possess nuclear weapons," a senior security official in new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's office told reporters on Dec. 17, 2025. The need is driven not only by rising threats in Asia but also doubts about America's promise to protect Japan under its nuclear umbrella. "In the end," he said, "we can only rely on ourselves."

The idea of Japan going nuclear is no longer confined to fringe debate but is being discussed at the highest echelons of government. Japan possesses

a highly developed civilian nuclear industry and a pantheon of world-class physicists and engineers, so it can develop nuclear armaments in a matter of months. Building a Japanese arsenal, analysts say, would require only a “screwdriver’s turn.”

In recent years, Japanese nationalist politicians and parties have also gained traction. They have revised history textbooks to ensure that the nation’s students learn a whitewashed, pro-Japan version of World War II and other conflicts. Along with that revisionism, they are using mottos such as “Japanese People First,” along with calls to restore political power to the emperor, to reestablish popular nationalism and ethnocentrism.

These developments make clear that Japan is undergoing a *profound transformation*, rapidly resuming a militaristic and ideological posture that could reshackle the people in the “condition of slavery” that MacArthur’s team took extraordinary steps to free them from. If he and his team were on the scene today, they would recognize the dangers of Japan’s current shift and take action to reverse it.

But modern American leaders show no concern. They are apparently too focused on the threat from China to remember Japan’s potential for belligerence. And so, far from stopping or even denouncing Japan’s transformation, they are cheering it on. In fact, they are pushing the leaders to hasten it.

At America’s Behest

In March, Japan will achieve its goal of spending 2 percent of GDP on its military—almost two years ahead of what was already a remarkably ambitious schedule. But U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby says this is *still not enough*. In a statement about Asian policy, he wrote: “Japan should be spending at least 3 percent of GDP on defense as soon as possible and accelerating the revamp of its military.”

In August, a senior U.S. defense official called Japan’s current spending and buildup “manifestly inadequate,” adding that the nation “should spend as much as possible on defense, as quickly as possible.”

These U.S. leaders view Japan only as an ally. They see a trustworthy and steadfast democracy that should take

on more of the burden of defending the free world from authoritarian regimes. They fail to remember its perverse military history or to recognize that the modern Japanese could find themselves chained once again in the iron grip of fanaticism.

“I just wonder who did this,” President Trump said in April, referring to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the way it obligates America to protect Japan, without requiring the reverse. Those responsible for the agreement are “people that either hate our country or didn’t care,” he said.

Even a cursory look into the life of Gen. Douglas MacArthur shows that he was a steadfast patriot whose devotion to America guided his career and decisions. And a look at Japan’s historic propensity for fanatic militarism shows why the extraordinary U.S.-Japan arrangement was made. But the history—both of Japan’s wartime brutality and the success of the enforced pacifism, including the immense strategic benefits the arrangement has given America—has been forgotten.

So the Japanese war drums keep pounding, and America keeps applauding the rhythm, urging an ever faster tempo.

‘Kings of the East’

The Japanese are an exceptional people with numerous remarkable aptitudes and stunning technological

and economic abilities, especially considering their nation’s limited natural resources and geographic disadvantages.

It’s no wonder why, after spending five years living among the Japanese, helping the nation accomplish its dramatic reconstruction and transition to democracy, MacArthur bestowed the highest praise on them. “The Japanese people, since the war, have undergone the greatest reformation recorded in modern history,” he said in his Farewell Address to Congress in 1951. “With a commendable will, eagerness to learn, and marked capacity to understand, they have, from the ashes left in war’s wake, erected in Japan an edifice dedicated to the supremacy of individual liberty and personal dignity I know of no nation more serene, orderly and industrious, nor in which higher hopes can be entertained for future constructive service in the advance of the human race.”

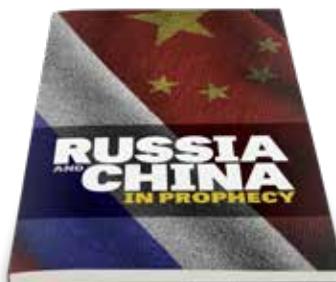
Looking back on the decades since, it is undeniable that Japan’s extraordinary creativity, diligence and cultural and technological contributions have enriched the human experience for billions around the globe, as MacArthur predicted. It seems that most anything the Japanese set their minds to do, they can accomplish with astonishing success.

Yet Japan’s disturbing wartime history still looms large. It reminds us of what those brilliant minds can accomplish when they are directed toward destruction, and it flashes giant neon warning lights about the nation’s current return to militarism.

And it is not only history that is emitting the danger signals. Bible prophecy, too, raises the alarm.

It is not uncommon to hear references to the biblical word *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16, but few discuss “the kings of the east” mentioned in the same chapter. This phrase in verse 12 describes an alliance of Asian nations that will coalesce in the near future. It will be a major cause of the cataclysmic events of Armageddon.

Revelation 9:16 says that this multi-national Asian force will consist of a stunning 200 million troops. Ezekiel 38 shows that this colossal force will be led by Russia and will include China. Verse 6 specifies that the alliance will



This is how you can KNOW Trump’s policy will backfire!

The Trump administration encourages Japan to rearm, but Bible prophecy shows that this will be a mistake. To study those prophecies, request your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

SAYONARA PAGE 32 ►

Australia's Undercurrent of Anti-Semitism



A deadly danger is flowing through Australian society.

BY CALLUM WOOD

ONE OF THE FIRST LESSONS ANY beachgoer in Australia learns about is the dangers of a rip. A rip is a strong undercurrent. To the untrained eye, the water looks calm. Yet just a foot or two below the surface, currents can sweep the inexperienced swimmer off his feet and out to sea.

In Australian society today, there is a rip, a hidden undercurrent growing in strength and threatening to carry away society to ruin. That undercurrent is anti-Semitism.

Bondi is arguably Australia's most famous beach. It has its share of undercurrents. One reality TV show depicts the near-daily rescues that occur out in the breakers. Bondi has been the site of celebrations, carnivals, festivals, riots, protests and, on Dec. 16, 2025, a fatal rip current of terror and bloodshed.

On that day, Saeed Akram, 50, and his son, Naveed, 24, draped a black Islamist flag on their vehicle before mounting a nearby footbridge overlooking the beach and opened fire on their target: a nearby Hanukkah celebration filled with hundreds of unarmed and unsuspecting men, women and children. In the end, 15 people were murdered.

It was the worst mass shooting in Australia since the 1996 Port Arthur massacre. Proportionally, it would be akin to 190 Americans gunned down in a single shooting.

The victims' ages were between 10 and 87. The oldest was a Holocaust survivor. He survived the Nazis of the 1940s, but he did not survive the rampantly anti-Semitic Australia of 2025.

Endorsing Anti-Semitism

Australia is a land historically detached from sectarian violence, from the Levant and from the plight of the Jewish people. Yet a strong undercurrent of anti-Semitism has surged in recent years. Left unchecked, and in some ways endorsed, the hatred inexorably led to the Bondi massacre.

The Australian government has been heavily criticized for its lackluster response to the steady increase in anti-Semitic activity. The strongest response came after Australian security sources discovered Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had orchestrated the firebombing of a synagogue in

Melbourne and a delicatessen in Bondi. Besides expelling the Iranian ambassador last August, little has been done to check the radical preachers who continue to preach violent Islam to receptive audiences across the country.

Equally condemning, the government has been silent on why the Iranians felt they could foment anti-Semitism in Australia. Rips generally occur when water flows back down off the beach, following the path of least resistance. In Australia, Iran saw little resistance, and it surged. It found an audience willing to be carried along with the tide.

Policies allowing rampant immigration have led to an influx of Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East. Over the decades, this has led to the establishment of Islamic schools and mosques where preachers spew vitriol against Jews. Entire suburbs in western Sydney and pockets throughout most of Australia's capital cities are now actually Muslim enclaves.

Larger Muslim populations mean more votes, and Australia's elected officials play to this increasingly important demographic. For years, they have turned blind eyes to the activities of this unassimilated population. But last year saw an important change. Despite warnings from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Australia's leaders decided to officially recognize the state of Palestine on September 21, moving from passive acquiescence to active support of anti-Semites—this with

the blood of Hamas murders, tortures and rapes still in the world's recent, vivid memory.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Sky News, "This is a positive move forward, and what it indicates is a signal that the world is getting together and saying enough is enough. We need to end the cycle of violence. I think Australians back home want to see the killing stop, whether it be Israelis or Palestinians. They don't want conflict brought to Australia."

On December 16, just over 12 weeks later, the conflict was brought to Australia. Australians witnessed firsthand what happens when anti-Semitism is left unchecked, even encouraged.



Blood Touches Blood

The Prophet Hosea warned that in the days before Jesus Christ's Second Coming, blood would touch blood. The Prophet Ezekiel prophesied that the land would be "full of bloody crimes." The Prophet Isaiah foretold the dearth of quality leadership.

The government clearly has little interest in countering the increasingly violent anti-Semitic elements of our society. Instead, it is filled with leaders who for years have worked in opposition to the State of Israel. Since the attack, decades-old videos have resurfaced of Albanese standing by a Hezbollah flag and calling for a "free Palestine." He, and many in his cabinet, have little love for Israel or its supporters abroad, even as that nation is being terrorized and its people persecuted.

Some seem to be waking up to this reality. Albanese was booed at the memorial service. He was invited to only one of the funerals for the victims. After the attack, the prime minister initially refused calls for a royal commission into the killings, signaling a total lack of interest in any accountability.

The government response has been to *avoid* talking about immigration, *avoid* talking about Islam and about domestic terrorists—a stunning decision particularly in the aftermath of mass murder of Jews at Bondi. Instead, the government has used that bloodbath to undermine the very freedoms that protect people from being targeted for their beliefs.

Disarmament

There is one way that the government has responded with strength: by making already draconian gun control laws even harsher. Strict laws were first passed after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre. Within 48 hours of the Bondi bloodbath, the government capitalized on the feverish emotions and public outcry and made new proposals that reduce the number of guns Australians can own and how or if they can modify them. There will also be more "criminal intelligence" review in the firearms purchasing process.

Mass casualty event? The government solution is to take guns away from law-abiding Australians. The reality is that if one or two citizens at the

Hanukkah event had been armed, the tragedy could have been mitigated, if not deterred. But Australians are disarmed, lacking any constitutional right to bear arms and defend themselves.

One of Adolf Hitler's earliest actions upon becoming the *führer* in 1933 was to disarm Jewish citizens. By 1936, it was illegal to give a Jew a gun permit. By 1938, Jews were banned from even owning knives. (Sidenote: The state of Victoria is currently banning machetes.)

Hate Speech

The other government response has been to implement new "hate speech" laws.

Prime Minister Albanese himself has called the measures "complex." Some are rightfully concerned that any broad efforts to clamp down on generic "hate speech" could inevitably be turned



against anyone the government deems to be offensive in any way.

An example of such abuse is Hitler's claim in January 1939 that the teachings of the Jews were harmful to society. His propagandist newspaper, *Der Sturmer*, wrote, "The Holy Scripture is a horrible criminal romance abounding with murder, incest, fraud and indecency." It also stated: "The Talmud is the great Jewish book of crimes that the Jew practices in his daily life." The Nazis deemed Judaism to be hate speech. And we know what came thereafter.

Disarming the Jews and demonizing their faith paved the way for terrible atrocities. That isn't to say Australia is on track to become a Nazi regime. But the Australian government's avid

support of anti-Israel views, and its clear ambivalence toward the plight of the Jews—even at precisely the time when such a hated, afflicted and vilified people ought to receive the most sympathy—highlight the deadly undercurrent in Australia.

Australia has become a hotbed of anti-Semitism, and government officials will not solve the problem. They too are carried away on the hidden riptides, along with many everyday Australians.

God has a direct warning for Australians and all modern descendants of ancient Israel who allow themselves to be swept away in such waters.

God's Warning

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken

the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). The government certainly has a large part to play in the rapidly deteriorating state of affairs. However, the Bible clearly indicates we all have a responsibility for the state of the world.

God has never been so forsaken in Australia as He is today. Great material blessings have fostered a spirit of materialism and selfishness, and rampant immigration has further weakened Australia's Judeo-Christian heritage.

This is the reality Australians must awaken to! "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?" (Ezekiel 33:10-11).



Aliens and UFOs— a Bible Perspective

More mainstream voices are saying that aliens interact with human beings. What does Scripture say? **BY MIHAILO S. ZEKIC**

GUESS WHICH FAMOUS MEDIA PERSONALITY made the following statements: “I firmly believe there are intelligent beings like us far away in space” “I can’t imagine that we’re the only [planet] that has life. That would be a terribly egotistical thing for us to say as a planet.” “It is interesting to speculate about life on other planets.”

These remarks are not from an atheist science presenter like Richard Dawkins or Neil deGrasse Tyson. They were made by the late televangelist Billy Graham, one of America’s most prominent religious leaders of the 20th century.

Graham wasn’t alone among religious figures who thought this way. José Gabriel Funes, former director of the Vatican Observatory, famously asked in a 2008 interview: “How can we rule out that life may have developed elsewhere? Just as we consider earthly creatures as ‘a brother’ and ‘sister,’ why should we not talk about an ‘extraterrestrial brother?’”

Many people think belief in God and belief in aliens are not mutually exclusive. And belief in aliens is growing. A November 2025 YouGov poll claims 56 percent of Americans believe “aliens

definitely or probably exist.” Prominent podcasters Tucker Carlson and Joe Rogan, who are both religious believers, have frequently stated to their millions of listeners and viewers that aliens exist.

Even governments take the potentiality of extraterrestrial aliens seriously. The governments of the United States, France and other nations have special programs investigating unidentified flying objects. Some of these programs go back decades. In 2023, Mexico’s joint sessions of Congress held an infamous meeting where a self-proclaimed “ufologist” exhibited supposed alien mummies discovered in Peru. (The ufologist, Jaime Maussen, is a notorious huckster.)

The vast majority of UFO sightings have been debunked or are otherwise debunkable. In one instance, pilots on two separate flights saw strange lights zipping across the sky over the Pacific Ocean and logged them as UAPS (unidentified aerial phenomena, another common term). It turned out those lights were Elon Musk’s Starlink satellites. One analysis suggested that of 69 UAPS reported to the Federal Aviation Administration between January and April 2023, over

a third could be explained by Starlink alone. Other common identities of mistaken UFO sightings include drones, aircraft, balloons and even birds.

But such common explanations don’t fit with every example. There are UFO sightings that cannot be readily explained through physical, scientific explanations. A famous example surfaced in 2017 when the *New York Times* released a U.S. Navy video that “showed objects accelerating to hypersonic speed, making sudden stops and instantaneous turns,” the *Times* wrote, “something beyond the physical limits of a human crew.”

Are aliens real? Are they visiting Earth? If they aren’t, how does one explain UFO sightings and other strange phenomena?

What does the Bible reveal about the existence of aliens? The *Trumpet* analyzes world events according to the premise that man must live by every word of God (Luke 4:4) and that all of God’s words are truth (John 17:17). The Bible reveals the origins of the universe and man’s place in it. It should therefore have something to say about whether there is life on other planets.

Why the Universe

The first verse of the Bible details the creation of the universe and its relationship with the creation of Earth: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The late theologian Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his landmark book *Mystery of the Ages*: “In the Authorized Version, the word *heaven*—singular—is used. But the original Hebrew as Moses wrote, and as other translations render it, is in the plural—*heavens*—implying that the whole material universe was created simultaneously with the earth. This is plainly stated in Genesis 2:4: ‘These are the generations [beginnings] of the heavens [plural] and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.’”

Notice: God created the entirety of the universe in the same general period of time. But the Earth is singled out as special. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God

created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). God made Earth the domain of *man*. Man is a special creation, made in God's image. God stresses this three times in two verses. God sees man as so special that He gave man rule over every other physical creature on this planet.

"Man was made to have (with his assent) a special relationship with his Maker!" Mr. Armstrong wrote. "He was made in the form and shape of God. He was given a spirit (essence in form) to make the relationship possible" (ibid).

This "spirit in man" is what gives man his intellectual capacity (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11). It is able to join with God's Holy Spirit, thus developing a relationship with God and making one "joint heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:16-17).

What is the converted Christian then called to inherit? The Apostle Paul continues in Romans 8, with commentary in brackets from *Mystery of the Ages*: "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation [all the suns, planets, stars, moons] was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation [stars, suns and moons now in decay and futility] has been groaning in travail together until now" (verses 19-22; Revised Standard Version).

The Apostle Paul, citing Psalm 8, further wrote in Hebrews 2:6-8: "But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him."

Mr. Armstrong continued: "Is it possible God could mean what he says ('all things')? *Nothing* excluded?" He noted that in the Moffatt translation, "all things" is translated as "the universe." "In other words, for those willing to believe what

God says, He says that He has decreed the entire universe—with all its galaxies, its countless suns and planets—*everything*—will be put under man's subjection" (ibid).

This truth of the real purpose of man is so astounding it is hard at first to comprehend. But it is biblical.

Mystery of the Ages delves into far greater detail, but the Earth's unique character, the special creation of man and his potential of entering a relationship with God, and the emptiness

the angels had caused the darkness. God is the author of light and truth. Light displays and enhances beauty, and also exposes evil. Darkness hides both" (ibid).

What kind of power do these kinds of spirit beings have? The Prophet Ezekiel, describing righteous angels, illustrates a telling example.

He describes a fantastic angelic vehicle that serves God's spiritual transportation. "And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would

The vast majority of UFO sightings have been debunked or are debunkable. But there are sightings that cannot be readily explained through physical, scientific explanations.

of the rest of the universe prior to man inheriting it, leaves no room for sentient aliens "doing their own thing" on other worlds. As Mr. Armstrong wrote, "There is no evidence either in God's revealed Word, nor in science, that any of the planets in endless outer space had been inhabited with any form of life" (ibid).

This, however, isn't the end of the story. The Bible also reveals the existence of other beings who *did* come down from the heavens.

Demons

Scripture shows that before man's creation 6,000 years ago, angels inhabited Earth. When God issued His challenge to Job, He said: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4, 7). The Bible uses stars to symbolize *angels* (see Daniel 8:10 and Revelation 1:20). Angels, as the Bible reveals, are created spirit beings on a lesser plane than God but far more powerful than mortal man.

Over the Earth, God placed an archangel named Lucifer. Lucifer allowed vanity to seize and corrupt him, motivating him to attempt a coup against God. Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-17 record this event. Lucifer became Satan the devil. Those angels he deceived—apparently one third of all of them (Revelation 12:4)—became demons.

"Satan is the author of darkness," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "The rebellion of

go, without turning as they went. Among the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire. And the living beings moved rapidly back and forth like flashes of lightning" (Ezekiel 1:12-14; Amplified Bible).

"Ezekiel saw this great, luminous vehicle with wings and revolving wheels moving at lightning speed," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*. "It never had to turn; it would move instantly in any direction. Men had never seen anything like this—it looked like torches or lightning darting around. This was quite a vehicle—so awesome that Ezekiel had trouble even explaining it."

Again, most claims of UFO sightings have natural, physical explanations. But doesn't the description of the Ezekiel 1 vehicle sound like the physics-defying flying objects governments have such a hard time identifying?

"More and more people," Mr. Flurry said in a December 2019 *Key of David* program, "even on television, are beginning to see that UFOs, or unidentified flying objects, are real. But they don't know what in the world they could be. But if they understood their Bible, well, you have armies of demons, millions of them, and they're obviously behind this if it is real. And I suspect it is."

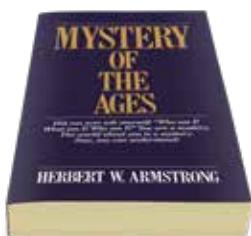
Pilots claiming to have seen UFOs "obviously were not given a vision from

God," we wrote in 2020. "But Satan and his demons have the means to show off amazing vehicles they may have access to. This could have been what [observers] saw. Of course, their reason for doing so would be to deceive mankind about the plan of God for the universe. Surely Satan would like man to believe there are extraterrestrials out there, if for no other reason than to blind mankind to God's purpose for man and the universe" (theTrumpet.com/21933).

"This invisible spirit world (Colossians 1:15-16) is very real, but because it is invisible it has been a mystery," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "The fact that holy angels and evil spirits are invisible does not negate their existence. In truth the invisible spirit world is more real than the material and the visible" (op cit).

The concept of aliens originated as atheists' attempt to rationalize things they can't explain based on their models of the universe. The devil likes it that way. It allows him to remain hidden and unexposed while simultaneously manifesting himself to unknowing victims and deceiving them into what he wants them to believe.

The more ignorant one is of Satan's "devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11), the more vulnerable one is to them. Satan is extremely active in this world today. It is only through the Bible's revelation that he can be exposed and combated. Satan's deception and involvement with mankind is prophesied to increase (Revelation 12:9-12). Only staying close to God and His Word can guarantee safety. ■



The plain truth about angels and demons revealed!

Get the Bible's explanation of the spirit world, as well as answers to life's biggest questions, in Herbert W. Armstrong's **Mystery of the Ages**. Order your free copy today!

► SAYONARA FROM PAGE 27

also include "Gomer" and "Togarmah," ancient names that refer partly to the peoples comprising modern Japan.

At present, animosity and fear are surging between the peoples of Japan and China, motivating both of these world-leading peoples and economies to build up their militaries. But these Bible passages make clear that the animosity will not last. The two nations will soon join forces, if only briefly, under Russian leadership to play a central role in the most devastating war in human history.

At this future time, the Japanese will again be shackled into a "condition of slavery"—consumed by an obsession to destroy and conquer. This time, they and their allies will have nuclear weapons, making their warfare exponentially deadlier than anything Imperial Japan could unleash in World War II.

Jesus Christ prophesied of this coming war, saying, "For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive ..." (Matthew 24:21-22; New Living Translation).

Every yen Japan spends on its Self-Defense Force today brings this extinction-level calamity nearer. Every increase in Japanese firepower pulls it closer and renders it more lethal.

But this story *will not* end with mankind's annihilation.

Right after Jesus prophesied that this war would *almost* wipe out mankind, He added this promise: "But it will be shortened ..." (verse 22; NLT).

Before the psychotic fanaticism of Japan and other nations annihilates humanity, Christ will interrupt the war with superior power! He will subdue the kings of the east and other military blocs and establish a new government. This literal government of God will liberate Japan from its "condition of slavery" far more effectively than any man could ever dream to do! It will usher in an age of unprecedented peace and prosperity for the Japanese and all nations and peoples. Of this future age of global peace, Isaiah 2:4 says that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." ■

► ANTI-SEMITISM FROM PAGE 29

Following a similar attack in the United States in 2016, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "SIN KILLS! When we suffer, God suffers. But the suffering won't stop until people heed the warning ... 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children' (Hosea 4:6). Will you turn to God? It is our responsibility to know the Bible. IF WE FORGET GOD'S LAW, HE WILL FORGET OUR CHILDREN!" (*Trumpet*, August 2016).

Even as the rip tide of anti-Semitism drags so many out into the depths, there is hope! John and many other biblical writers prophesied what would occur when we do draw close to our Maker. "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4).

Many tears are being shed in Australia today. God promises to wipe away those tears. Israel might have been God's chosen nation, but God wants *all peoples* to be in His Family. A bright future is ahead, beyond the sin and suffering of today.

But here the analogy breaks down. To break free of a rip, you don't fight it—you go with it. Swim parallel to the beach, not toward it. Eventually you could hopefully cycle out and be washed back to shore, or find the rip's edge and come loose. But defeating anti-Semitism means taking a stand. Planting your feet. Resisting the undercurrent.

Perhaps you are not caught up in anti-Semitism. But perhaps another rip has caught you. God calls our nations a people *laden* with iniquity. You need to stand on solid ground! God is calling on you to do your part and stand up to the sinful ways of our people and resist the undercurrents of the devil. Do this, take action, and be freed from the undercurrents of this world. ■

The New U.S. Dietary Guidelines Are Good. Now What?

The science finally caught up. Now the system has to.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, the United States federal government dietary guidelines point out the primary driver of our chronic diseases: added sugars and ultra-processed foods.

The new guidelines were released January 7 by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. In them, protein receives a major upgrade, with guidance to prioritize it at every meal. Full-fat dairy is now permitted when it contains no added sugars, and the fear-inducing language against whole-food fats is noticeably toned down. Previous limits on saturated fats remain. The guidance on added sugars is self-contradictory, but the 2025–2030 guidelines are a dramatic improvement, flipping previous approaches, promoting real foods and—for the first time—explicitly stating that ultra-processed products should be sharply limited. Just as importantly, they steer people away from refined grains, excess sugar and industrial fats; expand guidance across different stages of life and health; and deliver the message in a way that is far easier for consumers to understand and use.

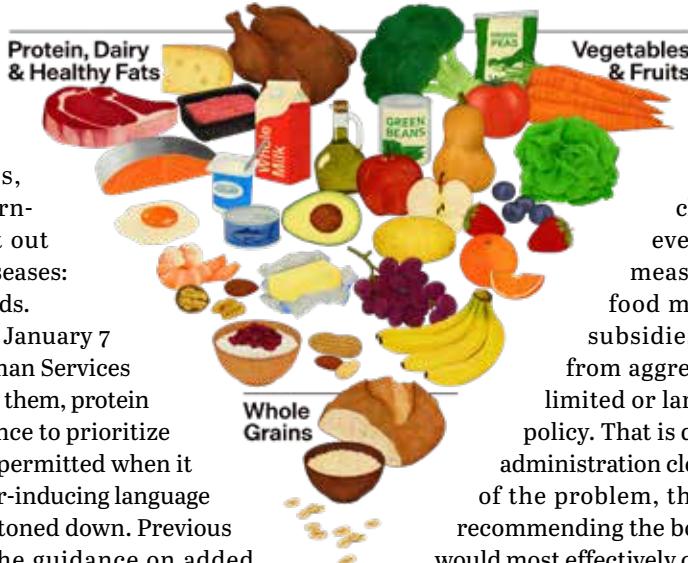
Remarkably, this reverses long-standing nutrition logic. The old system tried to manage nutrients inside an industrial food environment. The new system finally recognizes the environment itself as the problem. This is the closest that federal nutritional guidance has come to metabolic reality in decades.

Ultra-processed foods drive obesity and chronic disease, not because of one nutrient but because industrial formulations disrupt appetite regulation, insulin signaling, gut signaling, satiety hormones and reward pathways at the same time.

Higher intake of these foods is associated with increased exposure to chemical residues such as phthalates and bisphenols. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has shown that when multiple chemicals are present together, their combined biological effects can be very different, and often more harmful, than each chemical on its own.

The new guidelines finally tackle the issue of ultra-processed foods because the massive institutional framework for creating, promoting and consuming these products is still very powerful.

Independent analyses of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee itself still show extensive conflicts of interest. A systematic analysis in *Public Health Nutrition* found 95 percent of 2020 committee members had food industry or pharmaceutical industry conflicts.



The Nutrition Coalition says many committee members had ties to major food and health companies, but the way the government reported those ties made it difficult for the public to see exactly who was connected to which companies. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services have also disclosed conflicts of interest in ways that make independent review difficult, the Center for Science in the Public Interest has said.

While these ties don't mean the new advice is wrong, they do affect the conversation. The focus stays on education and "personal choice," while enforceable or even strongly recommended measures like restricting junk-food marketing, changing farm subsidies, or protecting children from aggressive advertising, remain limited or largely absent from the final policy. That is disappointing. Though this administration clearly understands the scale of the problem, the final policy still avoids recommending the bold structural changes that would most effectively confront it.

The guidelines are the legal backbone of federal nutrition policy, shaping food purchasing and preparation for public school children, hospital patients, military personnel and recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other welfare.

But this food system changes slowly. Contracts are locked in far ahead of time, and most institutional kitchens are still built around shelf-stable foods because they are cheaper and easier to manage. Will the new standards be applied at the scale the language implies? The answer is in the fine print: procurement rules, budgets, staffing levels, kitchen equipment and, ultimately, what schools and other institutions are actually permitted to serve.

The biological reality is that health improves when most of our calories come from minimally processed food, protein is adequate and spread across meals, added sugars and refined starches are rare, and whole-food fats replace industrial fat-and-starch mixtures. These improvements multiply when combined with daily movement, stable sleep and lower stress.

Here's the truth: The 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines move things in the right direction, but they're still shaped by compromise within a system that profits when people remain unhealthy. That is not a reflection of this administration's intent. In fact, the new guidelines represent the largest federal shift toward metabolic reality in decades. They identify the primary driver of disease and finally simplify the message around whole foods.

The real test is what happens next. If these changes make it into schools, other institutions and family dining rooms, we could finally decrease obesity and disease rates. If not, the document becomes another footnote in history. What matters is what we do now.

EUROPE

On January 1, the European Union passed a couple of major milestones.

Bulgaria replaced its currency, the lev, with the euro, becoming the 21st member of the eurozone. This cements **Germany**'s control over the Balkans, even though it is supported by only 51 percent of Bulgarians. The addition also makes the euro less stable. By some measures, Bulgaria is the EU's most corrupt country behind **Hungary**. Now it can borrow money with greater ease. It's also the poorest, with an average annual income of around \$20,000 per person, half the EU average. The addition of Bulgaria could accelerate another eurozone crisis that will ultimately result in the paring down of the EU to a 10-nation superpower.

On the same day, **Cyprus** took over the rotating presidency of the European Commission. Cyprus's leaders emphasized the need to boost the EU's military, with a focus on the Middle East rather than Russia. "Normally this part of the world is associated with crises, and Europeans get engaged when they have a crisis to manage," Cypriot Foreign Minister **Ioannis Kombos** said. "But this is also a region of opportunities." In the **May-June 2013 Trumpet***, Gerald Flurry asked, "Why should you be concerned about this small island in the Mediterranean? Cyprus is one of the world's most strategic pieces of property. It will play a significant role in the near future, and will probably be the launching pad for World War III!" Over the next six months, Cyprus's presidency will provide Europe and Germany with plenty of opportunities to expand its control over the Mediterranean.

After more than 25 years of negotiations, a massive trade agreement between the EU and four South American countries overcame one of its final obstacles in early January, and seems set to be law. Representatives from 21 of the EU's 27 nations voted to approve the **EU**-

MERCOSUR Partnership Agreement, a big step toward creating a new trade zone comprising more than 700 million people, the largest trade alliance on Earth. This interim agreement is part of a much wider partnership the EU and MERCOSUR are developing.

The Bible shows that Germany's interest in this agreement goes far beyond beef, cars and other economic considerations. Deuteronomy 28 reveals the curses to come on modern America for disobeying God. Verse 52 warns of an economic siege orchestrated by a "nation of fierce countenance" (verse 50). Based on this and a parallel prophecy in Isaiah 23, the *Plain Truth* under Herbert W. Armstrong warned: "The United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce." Mr. Flurry explained this prophecy in **"America Is Being Besieged Economically."**

Germany's neo-Nazi **Alternative für Deutschland** (AfD) has remained Germany's most popular party, a Forsa poll conducted in December found. It is also becoming mainstream: **Wolfgang Ischinger**, head of the Munich Security Conference, invited an AfD delegation to the high-profile security policy forum in February. Last year, U.S. Vice President JD Vance complained that it had been

TOPSHOT Protesters clash with federal agents in Saint Paul.



excluded. As the AfD receives wider acceptance, could it finally become part of a ruling coalition? That could aid in the rise of a strong authoritarian leader in



Germany.
Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg,

the man Mr. Flurry has identified as

that potential leader, said that Donald Trump might be the best thing that has ever happened to Europe. He has expressed hatred for Trump, but pointed out that the EU has been lazing on the "comfortable sofa" and "has always relied on others." But it now faces "someone who turns the world upside down, or the other way around, and we are forced to act." Clearly he has long wanted Germany to take action. Watch for Germany's government to become much more authoritarian, and watch Guttenberg. ■

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MIDDLE EAST

Reports suggest **Iran** is on the cusp of acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The Italian Institute for International Political Studies think tank reported on Dec. 24, 2025, that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah **Ali Khamenei** has "decided to give the green light to the development of compact warheads for ballistic missiles." The report claims that after **Israel** and the United States struck Iran in June, Iran's leadership has concluded that "the only true deterrent that could save the Iranian regime in the event of a conflict against Israel and its U.S. allies, short of a humiliating surrender to the Americans, would be nuclear weapons."

"Informed military sources," meanwhile, told



Iran International that Iran is also “developing biological and chemical warheads for the country’s long-range ballistic missiles” (Dec. 29, 2025).

Since the 1990s, Gerald Flurry has identified radical Islam, led by Iran, as “the king of the south” prophesied in Daniel 11:40, a power that will ignite a worldwide cataclysm. Weapons of mass destruction would give Iran’s radicals

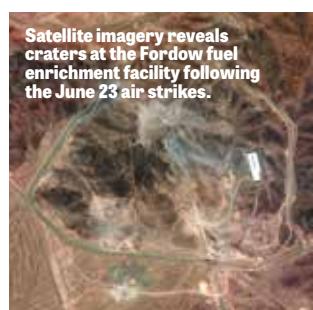
the ability to start the turmoil described in Daniel 11. Read “[Why the Trumpet Watches Iran’s Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons.](#)”

Israel and **Syria** restarted U.S.-brokered security talks on January 5, after negotiations stalled in November. This was the first time Israel has sent civilian representatives in addition to

military officials to speak with the regime of President **Ahmed al-Sharaa**. Israel and Syria agreed to establish a “dedicated communication cell” to share intelligence and to deescalate military conflict, which will be overseen by the U.S. and based in a neutral country.

Sharaa used to command al Qaeda’s Syrian branch. Since taking power in December 2024, his government has been guilty of everything from grafting foreign jihadis into the national military, to reopening prisons used for torture and repression, to ethnic cleansing. Nevertheless, the U.S. has pushed to reintegrate Syria into the international community, including pressuring Israel to make deals like this one.

A prophecy in Psalm 83 mentions “the Hagarenes” (verse 6) allying with other Middle Eastern peoples so “the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance” (verse 4). The Hagarenes were the ancient inhabitants of Syria. Based on this, Mr. Flurry wrote in “[Deadly Flaw in Mideast Peace Deals](#),” “While it seems that these nations are moving away from radicalism



Satellite imagery reveals craters at the Fordow fuel enrichment facility following the June 23 air strikes.

and violence, we must look beneath the surface. After all, this prophecy reveals that they will take ‘crafty counsel’—subtle and shrewd dealing. This sure prophecy shows that these nations will ally to try to blot out the name of Israel forever! That is intense hatred!”

[THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/MIDDLE-EAST](#)



ASIA

Chinese General Secretary **Xi Jinping** pledged in his annual New Year’s Eve speech in Beijing to bring **Taiwan** under the control of the Chinese Communist Party. The speech came just hours after China concluded its “Justice Mission 2025” military drills at locations around Taiwan, with its forces operating closer to the island than in previous exercises. It also followed a Pentagon report published on Dec. 23, 2025, saying China will attain the military capacity to capture Taiwan by the end of 2027. Xi’s speech made clear that he feels emboldened by the gains of Russian President **Vladimir Putin** against **Ukraine** and by the United States’ decision not to halt Putin’s imperialism. “The reunification of our motherland, a trend of the times, is unstoppable,” he said. The *Trumpet* maintains that mainly due to America’s weak will, the Chinese Communist Party will eventually make good on its pledge to seize democratic Taiwan.

Russia’s Defense Ministry published the first images of its new nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile system in **Belarus** on Dec. 30, 2025, claiming the system is now “on combat duty.” Called the Oreshnik, the missile’s range is believed to exceed 3,000 miles, placing most of Europe within rapid striking distance. In 2014, when Russia forcibly annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, Gerald Flurry said, based on Bible prophecy, that the move would frighten Europeans, spurring them to militarize and unify. As the peoples of Europe watch Russia’s intensifying full-scale war on

RUSSIA’S ORESHNIK MISSILE

- Penetrates any missile defense system
- Hits target at a depth of 3-4 reinforced levels
- Can deliver a nuclear payload of 900 kilotons—45 times the Hiroshima bomb

RANGE 1,000-5,500 KM
WARHEAD TEMPERATURE 4,000°C
SPEED MACH 10 (-2.5-3 KM/S)
WARHEAD ~1.5 TONS

SOURCE: SPUTNIK

Ukraine and its deployment of nuclear weapons on their doorstep, their fear is intensifying. Watch for Europe to fully unify and militarize. Read Mr. Flurry’s landmark September 2023 article, “[Russia’s War on Ukraine Is Reshaping Europe](#).”

The state-run Korean Central News Agency published on Dec. 25, 2025, images of **North Korea’s** leader, **Kim Jong-un**, inspecting what it claims is the nation’s first nuclear-powered submarine. “We regard the super-powerful offensive capability as the best shield for national security in developing the armed forces,” Kim was quoted as saying. If North Korea is able to complete and operate this vessel, it will pose a much more dangerous strategic threat. Only **China**, **France**, **India**, Russia, the United States and the **United Kingdom** are known to currently operate these advanced vessels. Nuclear-powered submarines can sustain higher speeds for longer periods than diesel-electric models, are far quieter, can stay submerged for months, and can launch nuclear missiles from hidden locations. They are perhaps the most important single military asset for nuclear deterrence, counterstrikes and surprise attacks.

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ANGLO-AMERICA

The United States Justice Department released 300,000 pages of files on the late sex predator **Jeffrey Epstein** on Dec. 19, 2025, including documents, phone recordings and videos. These files reveal that Epstein deliberately targeted teenage girls for sexual exploitation. **Marina Lacerda**, who was abused by Epstein from the age of 14, said he required girls to show ID proving they were younger than 18 years old and was furious when an 18-year-old was brought to him for sex, immediately sending her away for being too old.

Photographs in these files feature high-profile figures such as Bill Clinton, Sarah Ferguson, Bill Gates, Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, Diana Ross, Kevin Spacey, Chris Tucker and Donald Trump. One photo shows Trump surrounded by adult women in bikinis. In our **September 2025 issue**^{*}, we wrote, "Before it can truly move on from the Epstein scandal, America must lock up those who have broken the law and dismantle the culture that glorifies pornography, fornication,

adultery, homosexuality and pedophilia." The release of these files may help bring some people to justice, but if America does not repent of pervasive sexual sin among both the elites and everyday people, the nation will experience terrible curses.

The independent aggregator OnlyGuider reported that over the first 11 months of 2025, Americans spent \$2.6 billion on OnlyFans, a website infamous for providing young women a means for selling themselves online. OnlyFans does not publish statistics on its users' content or location, but independent journalists estimate that 70 to 90 percent or more of its posts are pornographic, and more than 1 million publishers to the platform are American. Last year, the most

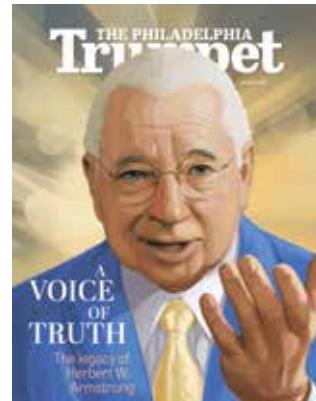
active city, Atlanta, Georgia, spent the equivalent of more than \$50 per man, woman and child.

On Dec. 23, 2025, the **Supreme Court** rejected President **Donald Trump's** request to deploy National Guard troops to Chicago.

The 6-3 decision left in force a lower court ruling that blocked the troop deployment, arguing that the federal government lacks authority to allow the military to execute laws in Illinois. The court's most conservative justices dissented. Justice **Samuel Alito** wrote, "The court fails to explain why the president's inherent constitutional authority to protect federal officers and property is not sufficient to justify the use of National Guard members in the relevant area for precisely that purpose."

President **John Adams** told the Massachusetts Militia in 1788, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ANGLO-AMERICA



Some of your latest *Trumpet* issues I have really, really liked, especially the ones focusing on Germany. God has put out a lot of prophecies, and a lot is about to happen. Thank you so much. I'm glad you guys are there.

Stuart Sack COLORADO

Thank you so much for your very informative magazine. We look forward to receiving our new eye-openers. Keep up the good work. "America at the Crossroads" (November-December 2025) was spot-on for Trump. I thought I was the only one noticing what he is doing."

Virginia Mullaney CALIFORNIA

I'd like the book on whether the Sabbath day is on Saturday or Sunday. That question has been bugging me forever. Thank you!

Pamela Werneken OREGON



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Are You a Modern Athenian?

If you've ever listened to a three-hour podcast on double-speed, the answer might be yes.

THAT'S SO FASCINATING." THAT WAS THE HOST'S REACTION TO his guest, who had just spent almost three hours laying out his pseudo-plausible, pseudoscientific arguments that $1 \times 1 = 2$, all of mathematics is wrong, gravity is an illusion, and chemistry, physics and astronomy must be reimagined in light of suppressed knowledge. This 2024 episode of *The Joe Rogan Experience* with Terrence Howard was watched, mulled over, discussed and then largely forgotten by about 11 million people.

Whether in long-form podcasts or in addictive short TikToks and YouTube Shorts, we are gobbling up infinite quantities of new content, from online courses to webinars to daily vlogs to multipart investigations to live-streaming talk shows that last 12 hours or more. Whatever your interest, whatever you stumble across, you can watch or listen to endless "that's so fascinating" content, and an ocean more always remains just over the horizon.

The troubling corollary is that, while we ceaselessly chase the next new thing, we never *hold fast* to anything, nor *act on* it. Pursuing and seeking is goal enough.

We are the modern descendants of the philosophers of Athens. Acts 17 describes how these men asked the Apostle Paul, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean" (verses 19-20; English Standard Version). Verse 21 explains, "(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)"

Nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

That same compulsion today is pouring forth oceans of media creation and its endless consumption. We want something, we recognize we lack something, and we are thus always

searching. Yet no matter how valuable or powerful the content, we engage with it but for a moment. Then we drift on to the next post or show or article, then the next hundred or thousand pieces of content clamoring for our attention.

Acts 17 warns us that there is *danger* in this drift.

So much of these long-form interviews are a futile, endless search, always seeking, never finding. No question is too abstract, no subject off limits. Facts and opinions, truths and falsehoods blend in enticing prepackaged conversations available at the click of a button. Everything is worth considering. Everything is fascinating.

God tells us, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). The modern Athenians say, *Question all things; consider all things; browse all things*. And no matter what they discover or how *good* it is, they don't hold fast to it.

Here is an important piece of content: "Sensible people keep their eyes glued on wisdom, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth" (Proverbs 17:24; New Living Translation). A wise man fixes his eyes on wisdom. He will not be led astray by foolishness. A fool is continually scanning the horizon. He is distractable; he cannot focus. This ancient proverb shows that distractability is a perennial problem, endemic to human nature. It's just that the Athenians of the high-tech information age have thrown it into hyperdrive.

Paul saw right through to the core of the Athenians' problem. He also warned that our modern-day "perilous times" would have people who were "[e]ver learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7). Does that feel startlingly familiar?

The god of this world, Satan the devil (2 Corinthians 4:4), works to draw people's minds away from God's truth. He suppresses the truth and casts it to the ground when he can. But when the truth is freely available, he uses another strategy: He obscures it within a blizzard of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan feeds the insatiable spiritual void within man with stuff that never satisfies. This strategy is so powerful and so subtle that even when people encounter the literal, actual *truth of God*—the ANSWERS to their endless questions—the content that *will* fill that spiritual emptiness—people may like it, even love it. But they are already in the habit of treating it passively, grazing over it and moving on to the next thing.

This produces the dangerous scenario described in Ezekiel 33 of people who love listening to God's message: "Son of man, your people talk about you in their houses and whisper about you at the doors. They say to each other, 'Come on, let's go hear the prophet tell us what the Lord is saying!' ... You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument ..." (verses 30, 32; NLT).

They're sharing links. They're telling their friends. But they fail to recognize that this truth is a *way of life*, that it requires *action, repentance, change!*

"They hear what you say, but they don't act on it!" (verse 32; NLT).

We all need to *slow down*. Stop and think. Tune out the noise—and even the good stuff is noise if you don't act on it. Find what is truly good, focus on it, and put it to use!

Beware the tendency in human nature to spend your time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. ■

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UNITED STATES

American Crimes Network

10:30 ET/9:30 CT/8:30 MT/7:30 PT

BUZZR 6:30 ET, 5:30 CT

4:30 MT, 3:30 PT, Sun

CHARGE 6:30 ET/PT, 5:30 CT, 7:30 MT, Sun

COMET 8:00 ET, 7:00 CT, 6:00 MT, 5:00 PT, Sun

CW PLUS 9:30, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun, 8:30

5:30 CT/MT, Sun; 5:30, ET/PT, Mon-Thurs

4:30 CT/MT, Mon-Thurs

FAMILY 7:30 ET, PT, 6:30 CT, 8:30 MT, Sun

GETTV 6:30, Sun

NEST 7:00 ET/PT, 6:00 CT, 9:00 MT, Sun

RETRO 8:30 ET, PT, 7:30 CT, 9:30 MT, Sun

ROAR 8:30 ET/PT, Sun

This TV 6:30, Sun

AUSTRALIA Channel 10 6:30, Sun

BAHAMAS FOX W Chan. 216 10:30, Sun

CANADA Vision TV 4:30 p.m. ET, Sun

CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun

FIJI MaiTV 9:00, Sun

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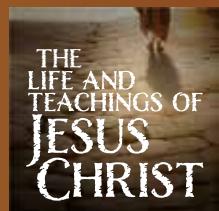
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