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SPECIAL REPORT
WHAT NEXT?

**World War III
will start with Iran**

**Real hope for
Iran's oppressed**

Will America win?

The limits of war tech

The shock waves

The regime is dug in

**Foretelling Iran's
rise and fall**

**Ali Khamenei
1939 - 2026**

SPECIAL REPORT: WHAT NEXT?

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The Shahr oil depot in Tehran burns on March 8 after U.S. and Israeli attacks.



WORLD WAR III WILL START WITH IRAN

The Iran war is accelerating a pivotal end-time prophecy.

BIBLE PROPHECY SHOWS THAT IRAN WILL TRIGGER World War III. I have been pointing to this prophecy in the *Trumpet* since 1992. In the 3½ decades since, Iran and its terrorist proxies have been responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of people, including hundreds of Americans.

Over the years I have strongly criticized America's lack of will to confront this obvious threat, especially Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

"[T]he solution to terrorism lies in DOING something about it! We must confront the source. The terrorist movement flows from Iran," I wrote in the November 2003 *Trumpet*.

"The *only* way to win the war on terror is to either subdue or conquer Iran," I wrote in 2008. "America and Israel have ample power to do so, but they cower in fear because they lack the will to strike the head of the snake. Wouldn't it be far better to act now, before Iran gets nuclear weapons? You can be sure Iran will cause a much more dangerous war in the Middle East when that happens." (*Trumpet*, April 2008).

America "simply will not receive the blessings God would like to provide until it heeds what God tells us to do, even in our foreign policy," I added in 2018. "Look at the Middle East right now, and you get a clear picture of the danger in ignoring this truth" (*Trumpet*, January 2018).

Now we have a U.S. president and an Israeli prime minister who are taking action. Both have recognized Iran's nuclear threat and have acted to confront it. Their bold strikes last summer, and this recent war, show a fighting spirit that God can use to hold back the evil forces of nuclear aggression and annihilation!

But big questions remain. Will these strikes be enough to destroy Iran's terrorist threat? Last summer, President Donald Trump said the U.S. had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program. But just eight months later, we had to go back. Iran's nuclear program *wasn't* obliterated—it was delayed. And its nuclear ambitions were *undeterred*.

Will this war have a different result? Will it slow down the fulfillment of Bible prophecy? Or will it *speed up* events?

Confronting Evil

For decades, America and Israel have been unwilling to confront Iran. FOR YEARS we have left Iran unchecked and allowed this problem to grow. Iran's influence has been expanding in many countries in the Middle East and beyond. "This radical nation has proved over the years how *dedicated to the death* it is to its cause," I wrote in 2018. "How CAN America or any other power effectively push back? It will take some determined *violence* on the ground. And America is proving unwilling to make such a commitment" (*Trumpet*, January 2018).

Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons, mount them on ballistic missiles, and fire them at Israel. IT WANTS TO WIPE ISRAEL OFF THE MAP AND, IF IT COULD, THE U.S., TOO! It continually threatens to kill Americans, including the president. Iran is the main source of terrorism in the region and has brutally suppressed its own people. Can you imagine what it would do if it got nuclear weapons?

I am glad to see Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu express such determination to prevent that from happening. But it also concerns me that President Trump has been so intent on trying to get the Iranians to *negotiate* an end to their nuclear program.

Do the president and his officials realize what kind of force they are up against? Iran is not a normal power. The Iranian ideology is evil through and through. No other nation matches its fanatical thinking and extreme religious beliefs. These leaders believe they have a religious duty to bring upon the world a nuclear cataclysm so their messiah can return!

No *words* will stop this KING of terror. Their actions have proved for decades that they use negotiation only as a ploy. Iran believes the harder it fights, *the sooner its messiah will return!*

This toxic ideology is deeply entrenched. America cannot win this war unless it recognizes this fact.

The Folly of Negotiation

President Trump appears to have a certain readiness to fight, but some of his statements signal that he is unwilling to finish the job.





Real Hope for Iran's Oppressed

The Iranian people, and the world, need better.
God promises to give it to them! **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

WHEN NEWS SPREAD ON FEBRUARY 28 that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was dead, Iranians' reactions were sharply divided—almost like two countries.

Loyalists held pro-regime mourning rallies in Tehran and nationwide, drawing tens or hundreds of thousands. Many people expressed fury at the United States and Israel for the assassination. The government declared 40 days of public mourning. Emotional broadcasts filled state media. One television presenter broke down in tears.

At precisely the same time, streets nationwide filled with people dancing, honking horns, lighting fireworks, and waving pre-Revolution Iranian flags. Regime-linked monuments and symbols were toppled. It was the emotive outpouring of a people who have suffered for nearly half a century under the nightmare of tyranny.

What comes next for these people?

Biblical prophecy gives us a prescient overview. It reveals which of these two Irans will dominate the immediate future. It shows the outcome of America and Israel's war. It exposes the fate of this radical Iranian regime.

Most importantly, it holds out a beautiful promise to the Iranian people. Their suffering is nearly over. The grip of the regime's tyranny *will* be broken.

A People Betrayed

The public jubilation following Khamenei's death was *nothing* compared to the triumphant, millions-strong celebrations that filled Iran's streets in February 1979.

The Islamic Revolution had just ended the shah's autocratic rule. A broad coalition of Iranians—leftists, liberals, nationalists, merchants, students, religious conservatives—had sought an end to a brutal police state, censorship, intimidation, torture and dictatorship. The revolution promised freedom, justice and independence.

Ruhollah Khomeini offered a vision of a democratic system with genuine political liberties, free speech, fair elections, accountable government, equality, free electricity, better housing, education, water, health care, prosperity and dignified life for ordinary people. It was the dawn of a beautiful new Iran. Or so they thought.

Then, summary executions of shah-era officials began. Within weeks, Khomeini publicly rejected the term “democratic,” calling it a Western concept. He said the revolution was not democratic but Islamic. A referendum was held asking a single binary question: “Should Iran become an Islamic republic?” (details of what that meant to be decided later). It passed with a suspiciously high 98 percent approval. By that summer, revolutionary committees and militias began enforcing strict Islamic codes. Secular, leftist, nationalist and liberal groups were sidelined, banned or attacked.



In August, the Assembly of Experts was elected, filled with Islamic clerics. They drafted a constitution giving supreme power to a religious leader, Khomeini, and approved it that December.

And on November 4 of that year, 1979, a mob of Khomeini's radical supporters stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran. They seized terrified Americans—mostly diplomats and staff—and brazenly demanded the return of the deposed shah for a show trial. Fifty-two hostages endured 444 days of brutal captivity while Khomeini openly mocked America's president, sneering, "Carter does not have the guts to engage in a military operation." A desperate rescue mission collapsed in flames in the Iranian desert, killing eight U.S. servicemen in a spec-

tacular humiliation for the supposed superpower. The crisis further radicalized Iran, poisoned U.S.-Iran relations, and shattered American prestige.

Many Iranians who had marched for freedom and democracy felt betrayed. Within a few years, full consolidation of the theocratic system—with banning of opposition parties, mass purges and executions—was largely complete.

The bitter words of Solomon resonated: "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power ..." (Ecclesiastes 4:1).

Since then, Iran's theocratic dictatorship has been a plague on its people and on the world.

Life Under Tyranny

The revolution was carried out in the name of "the oppressed." Yet it has produced hyperinflation, a currency in

free fall (\$1 bought 70 rials in 1979; today, 1.4 million), and total failure to employ, house or feed its population.

In place of the shah's autocratic monarchy, Iran became a repressive, totalitarian, joyless, moral police state. "The aim of creation was for mankind to be put to the test through hardship and prayer," Khomeini famously declared in August 1979. "An Islamic regime must be serious in every field. There are no jokes in Islam. There is no humor in Islam. There is no fun in Islam."

Many Iranians who had marched for freedom and democracy felt betrayed. Within a few years, full consolidation of the theocratic system was largely complete.

There is, however, sex. The regime permits a man to have up to four permanent wives, as well as temporary marriages for pleasure or short-term arrangements. It sets the legal marriage age for girls at 13, but exceptions below that tender age can be made with parental or judicial approval. Ayatollah Khomeini's "Little Green Book," *Tahrir-ol-vasyleh*, considered a manual of Islamic jurisprudence, explains gravely, "A man can marry a girl younger than 9 years of age, even if the girl is still a baby being breastfed." But, he insists, one must respect the girl's "rights"—which he explains as follows: "A man, however, is prohibited from having intercourse with a girl younger than 9; other sexual acts such as foreplay, rubbing, kissing and sodomy is allowed. A man having intercourse with a girl younger than 9 years of age has not committed a crime, but only an infraction, if the girl is not permanently damaged. If the girl, however, is permanently damaged, the man must provide for her all her life. But this girl will not count as one of the man's four permanent wives." Look at a little girl—maybe your own daughter—and imagine her growing up under this kind of demonic villainy.

Such inhumane, perverse thinking promoted by the power of the state makes life horrific for many Iranian women and

girls. Morality police enforce stringent rules on dress, speech and public behavior to control "dangerous sexual desires" and shield society from moral corruption. In 2022, a woman detained for improper hair covering was killed. It ignited an uprising among young women and many others—which was then brutally crushed. A subsequent Amnesty International report gathered testimonies from dozens of Iranians, including children as young as 12, who had been raped and tortured by intelligence and security agents.

Political opposition in the Islamic "republic" is strictly bridled, independent parties banned, elections heavily vetted by religious authorities, and critics—journalists, activists, academics—routinely imprisoned. Trials in Revolutionary Courts are grossly unfair, often lasting mere minutes, with no real defense. Cruel punishments like flogging, amputation and public hangings are routine. Torture is widespread and systematic in facilities like Evin Prison, including sexual violence, electric shocks and mock executions. Iran ranks among the world's top executioners of its own people. Capital crimes include drug offenses, vague "national security" charges and political activities.

French-Iranian sociologist Azadeh Kian described how Khomeini's regime treated young women it had arrested for political offenses; her shocking charge was later confirmed by a British parliamentary report. The clerics believed that if a young woman was a virgin when she was executed, she would go to heaven. Their solution? *Rape her, then execute her.* Kian explained, "A temporary marriage was organized and a dowry in the form of sweets sent to the girl's family." Such practices expose just how *satanic* this movement and its authors are!

Little wonder, then, that millions of oppressed and desperate Iranians have risked death to take to the streets and chant, "Death to the dictator." Little wonder that many Iranians *supported* the U.S. and Israel even as they bombed their country. Yet time and again, security forces have crushed these uprisings with lethal force.

These people need relief. They need justice. Not a return to the shah's royal dictatorship but the dawn of a government that will truly will help them flourish!

Psalm 103:6 promises, “The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.” God is not indifferent. He sees the Iranians’ oppression, hears their cries, and has promised to bring justice in His time. Dozens of prophecies promise that tyrants will be deposed and people freed. “But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible [the tyrant, the oppressor] shall be delivered ...” (Isaiah 49:25). This vision will ultimately be realized across the Earth.

Plague on the World

Today, however, Iran’s regime remains determined to do more than just crush its own people. It views the Islamic Revolution as ongoing and asserts its duty to spread its Shia Islamist-revolutionary model and promote its anti-Western ideology far beyond the borders of one nation-state. “We shall export our revolution to the whole world,” Khomeini said. “Until the cry, ‘There is no god but Allah’ resounds over the whole world, there will be struggle.”

Pursuing this goal, Iran has used vile, malevolent means. As the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, it funds, trains, arms and directs violent groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Houthis and Shia militias across the Middle East and beyond. Iran has thus built proxy architecture that has enabled it to project power and encircle rivals, fighting indirectly while avoiding full-scale conventional war. Its network of allied governments and militias has destabilized nations, prolonged wars and left millions displaced or dead. Its troops and gunmen have killed Americans, British, French, Saudis and Emiratis.

Iran fuels conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, the Palestinian territories, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Turkey and elsewhere. Its official military strategy is to build missiles and drones to fire into civilian areas of densely populated cities. It exports suicide drones that Russia has used in Ukraine (when you see children die in a Ukrainian playground from a suicide drone, Iran is directly or indirectly responsible). It assassinates dissidents overseas, uses embassies for terror plots, and spreads paranoia and anti-Western hatred. It has plotted numerous assassinations, both

failed and successful, globally, including more than 160 critics of the regime living in other countries.

The regime explicitly seeks to destroy the Jewish state. “Israel is a malignant cancerous tumor in the West Asian region that has to be removed and eradicated,” Ayatollah Khomeini said in 2018. “It is possible and it will happen.” Iran systematically indoctrinates its children to hate Jews. State-controlled textbooks and school curricula teach students to chant “Death to Israel” and frame Zionism as a global conspiracy against the Muslim world. Through its proxies, the regime has launched thousands of rocket, missile, drone and terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians, including a major war via Hezbollah in 2006 and repeated conflicts with Hamas in Gaza. It masterminded and enabled the demonic Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas massacre that killed over 1,200 souls.

Israel, though, is only the “little Satan.” The “great Satan”—the primary source of global arrogance, imperialism and corruption that must be defeated for the revolution to succeed—is America.

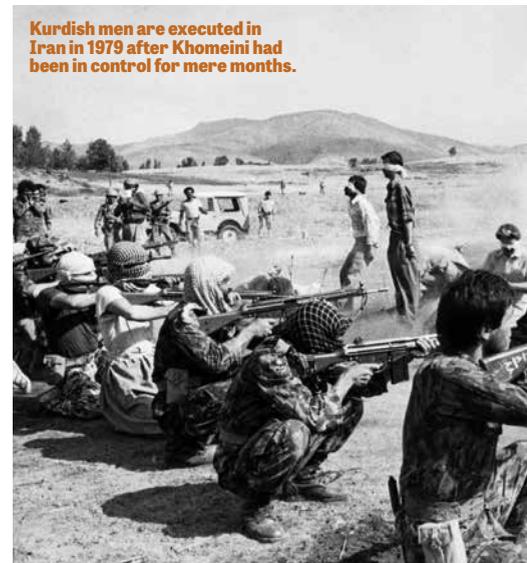
‘The Great Satan’

The regime yearns to drive the U.S. from the Middle East, undermine American power globally, and hasten the humiliation and collapse of the U.S.-led world order. It has struck U.S. interests across the Middle East, killing hundreds of Americans. During the Iraq War, Iran’s Quds Force and Shia militias supplied weapons and training for insurgents who killed or wounded hundreds of U.S. troops. In recent years they have carried out over 180 attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq, Syria and Jordan.

But Iran doesn’t restrict its strikes to the region. It indirectly supported the murderous 9/11 attacks—training al Qaeda in explosives, intelligence and security; facilitating travel for the hijackers; offering safe haven after the attack. It has long used Hezbollah, which maintains extensive criminal networks in Latin America, to traffic mountains of cocaine and other drugs into the U.S. (which weaken and even kill thousands of Americans each year), then funnel the hundreds of millions in annual profits into terrorist activities. Iran has conducted influence and

espionage operations inside the U.S., with documented cases of agents and sympathizers infiltrating policy circles and government positions during the Biden administration. It has organized assassination plots against American leaders, including several in 2024 to kill presidential candidate Donald Trump.

And all the while, this radical terrorist state has pursued nuclear weapons and consistently lied about it. It views its nuclear program—as well as its ballistic missiles that can deliver nuclear warheads—as a source of national pride and leverage, the ultimate guarantor of



Kurdish men are executed in Iran in 1979 after Khomeini had been in control for mere months.

regime survival. And among its hard-line clerical and Revolutionary Guards factions, it even has prophetic implications. They believe the messianic return of the 12th Imam to establish global Islamic justice and rule will only occur in a time of apocalyptic war (the earth being “stained with infidels’ blood”). Some regime radicals want to hasten the Mahdi’s return by using nuclear weapons as a divine tool to fulfill prophecy—destroy Israel, confront America, and trigger the cataclysm. This is their nonnegotiable conviction that transcends citizens’ welfare, national interest, self-preservation and even sanity.

President Trump has rightly insisted that Iran must never obtain nuclear weapons. This motivated the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities last summer. But clearly, the attack didn’t obliterate the threat. When the Trump administration sat down with Iranian negotiators in February, Steve Witkoff

said they flatly, shamelessly claimed to have enough enriched uranium to make several nuclear warheads and “an inalienable right” to keep enriching. He said Iran’s negotiators “were proud that they had evaded all sorts of oversight protocols to get to a place where they could deliver 11 nuclear bombs” (Fox News, March 2).

Iran isn’t just an evil regime. It is a regime that treats its own people as subjects to be broken and the world as a battlefield to conquer. It is a regime that has repeatedly attacked America and that was about to hold the world at nuclear gunpoint.



Prophecy shows that it cannot endure. It will not stand.

However, prophecy also reveals that limited efforts by America and Israel will fail to defeat the regime. Much greater force is needed to uproot this cancerous plague.

Head of the Snake

After 9/11, President George W. Bush launched America’s “war on terror,” first by striking the Taliban, then by decapitating Iraq. *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry criticized America for ignoring Iran. “The only way to win such a war is to deal with the main source of the terrorism, or cut off the head of the terrorist snake,” he wrote in November 2003. “But neither the U.S. nor Israel has the will to tackle Iran—even though it is the *key part* of the ‘axis of evil’ in the Middle East” (“**Why We Cannot Win the War Against Terrorism**,” *theTrumpet.com/833*).

At the time, Iran’s regime was economically isolated, militarily conventional, and still recovering from the devastating Iran-Iraq War. Its nuclear program was in its infancy, its ballistic missile arsenal rudimentary. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had not yet achieved the economic empire, regional proxy network or domestic surveillance apparatus it commands today. A decisive U.S. strike could have exploited these weaknesses and might well have succeeded.

Mr. Flurry foretold terrible consequences of this strategic blunder. Those consequences are unfolding to this day.

America exhausted its strength in Afghanistan and Iraq. Those wars cost over 7,000 American lives, more than 50,000 wounded and nearly \$8 trillion. They crippled the nation’s will to fight, deepened public distrust in its leaders, and gutted its global prestige. And removing Saddam Hussein eliminated Iran’s single greatest regional competitor, enabling and accelerating Iran’s rise.

The fundamental reality America faces now is that the Iranian regime it is fighting is far more entrenched, sophisticated and resilient than it was in 2001.

A quarter century of missed opportunities, let alone active support from Barack Obama, enabled Iran’s radical regime to transform from a vulnerable theocracy into a hardened security state.

Replacing it with a less-radical, less-provocative, less-lethal government would take much greater resolve—resolve that, frankly, America does not have.

Built to Survive

The Islamic Republic was built to survive a siege. Its ideologically driven leaders assume hostility from abroad and dissent at home. Its primary purpose is not prosperity or popularity, but power—and survival.

The IRGC is at the center of the survival machine. Unlike a normal military, this is an ideological army, a huge force of hundreds of thousands of men tasked with protecting and promoting the revolution. Over decades, it has expanded into a sprawling network that includes intelligence, domestic security and regional militias. Its commanders wield enormous political influence, control lucrative industries, and supplement their economic empire with massive smuggling and black market operations. There is evidence that economic sanctions, while hurting legitimate businesses and everyday Iranians, have enriched the IRGC by expanding their black-market opportunities.

Meanwhile, Iran’s opposition movements—courageous though they may be—are fragmented, leaderless, heavily surveilled, and ruthlessly attacked. The IRGC oversees the Basij militia—between half a million and a million strong—for internal repression, meeting waves of domestic unrest with crackdowns that have refined its tyrannical tactics and tools. Because demonstrations are closely monitored by security services, who often use them to identify and punish dissident networks, some believe the regime actually *allows* these occasional protests periodically to smoke out—then snuff out—disloyalty. Each crisis, far from weakening the system, allows the hard-liners and IRGC to purge moderates and tighten their grip.

Driving its determination and resilience is the regime’s radical ideology. It views its struggle with the West as deeply rooted in Shiite history: endurance under oppression, sacrifice in the face of enemy force. As Ali Hashem wrote in *Foreign Policy*, the regime has been using language signaling “the glorification of resistance in the face of existential threat over compromise. The idea of ‘dying on one’s feet and not living on one’s knees’ challenges the United States’ logic of proportional response and coercive diplomacy” (February 23).

In other words, America errs in thinking that, since *we* are pragmatic and willing to compromise our religion and our principles, *all the world* is also. In truth, we cannot bomb these fanatics into renouncing their ideals.

Foreign attacks are a badge of honor, proving that they are ideological troops on a civilization-conquering mission. The soldiers of Allah are fated to fight and die.

Soon after Israel and America launched attacks in February, President Trump made this stunning statement: “Hopefully the IRGC and police will peacefully merge with the Iranian patriots and work together as a unit to bring back the country to the greatness it deserves.” He promised “total immunity” to “the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, the armed forces and all of the police” who laid down their weapons.

This comment betrayed the president’s fatal naivety about the people he is fighting. He has learned nothing from what has happened in Gaza. That place has been pulverized to dust, yet Hamas has steadfastly rejected all demands to disarm. They will remain ideologically pure even if it means ruling a dung heap. (Of course, many Islamist leaders, particularly Gaza’s leaders, live elsewhere, and live richly.)

On February 17, in his final speech before he was killed, Ali Khamenei said the “U.S. empire ... truly is crumbling. They have problems in their economy, problems with their policies, and problems in their society. More than 50 percent of the U.S. population don’t approve of their current president. ... The Americans themselves who are constantly threatening that ‘there will be a war’ or that ‘such and such will happen’ know that they don’t have the staying power for such a thing. Their economic problems, their political problems and their international reputation and standing cannot endure a confrontation of that nature.”

Sadly, evidence supports this bleak assessment. Limited wars rarely topple systems like the one leading Iran, and an operation of the current scale will not. The Islamic Republic is braced to absorb the shock—far more than America is braced to win victory at any cost. These are the hard facts.

What Is Victory?

This regime is determined to fight to the death and to enhance its claim as the ideological “king” of radical Islam.

President Trump announced that he wanted a say in selecting Iran’s next leader. Iran responded by installing the exact man Trump vetoed. Mojtaba Khamenei (though as of this writing, he has not appeared in public and is rumored to be wounded) is reportedly even more hard-line than his late father and in close league with the IRGC. Will the U.S. and Israel kill him too? Will they keep liquidating successors until Iran installs a Persian Thomas Jefferson?



A Tehran street mural shows Ruhollah Khomeini, Ali Khamenei and Mojtaba Khamenei.



A female student protests censorship at Tehran University.

Assassinations and bombings only get you so far. They don’t win wars (“Why American Tech Can’t Win Wars,” page 10).

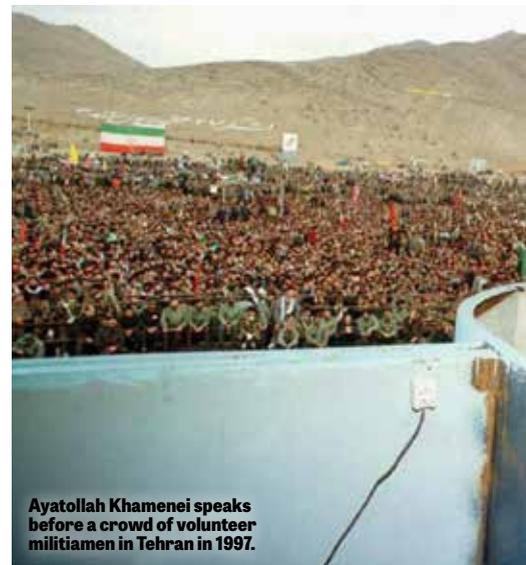
What *would* win this war? President Trump’s description of victory has shifted a few times: simply preventing Iran from developing a nuke; encouraging the Iranian people to rise up and take control over their government and shape their own future; suggesting openness to working with a new leader in the current regime; demanding “unconditional surrender”; simply “wiping out” Iran’s military capacity; insisting on a “fair and just” leader who will “treat the United States and Israel well.”

Throughout, Iran has remained utterly unbowed. Its Revolutionary Guards said, “We are the ones who will determine the end of the war.”

A fair and just leader who will treat the U.S. and Israel well would require

nothing less than subjugating, if not reforming the hearts of, hundreds of thousands of hard-liners who control Iran’s military and clerical infrastructure. The *Washington Post* reported on a classified report by the National Intelligence Council (which synthesizes the analytical work of all 18 U.S. intelligence agencies) saying that even a large-scale assault on Iran wouldn’t do the job.

President Trump has shown himself more than willing to ignore such assessments from experts who have often discredited themselves. But this intelligence assessment agrees with history: Considerably larger and longer military



Ayatollah Khamenei speaks before a crowd of volunteer militiamen in Tehran in 1997.

operations didn’t bring favorable regime change to Vietnam, or to Afghanistan, or to Iraq, or to Libya.

Most importantly, this assessment agrees with Bible prophecy.

Who Decides the Outcome?

Men plot and plan, men strategize and war, men struggle to steer the course of events. They brawl and buck against oppressive regimes, then succumb to—or become worse than—the regimes they overthrow. They mix weapons, money, promises, deceit and faith in attempts to exert power and determine the future.

But they forget: “The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples” (Psalm 33:10; English Standard Version).

Pompous potentates believe they can simply impose their will on the world through muscle and might. But history

repeatedly exposes the limits of man's power. "There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength" (verses 16-17).

Who decides the outcome of wars? Scripture reveals that world leaders have power only because God has allowed it (Romans 13:1). His purposes prevail. "... 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. ... I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me" (See Isaiah 46:9-10 and Jeremiah 27:5.)

(It is crucial to understand that this present evil world is not God's world, but Satan's. And while God is ultimately in charge, during this limited age He is letting mankind get the bitter taste of rejecting His rule. This profound biblical truth is explained in *Mystery of the Ages*.)

And God *communicates* to us in advance many of His purposes, and the outcomes of events—through His Word, in Bible prophecy. He then ensures what He has foretold unfolds as He has said.

This includes the outcomes and consequences of wars. "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But

deliverance and victory belong to the Lord" (Proverbs 21:31; Amplified).

This is perspective that Americans, Iranians and the world are missing! God trumpets that "the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance ..." (Isaiah 40:15).

Even best-case scenarios offered by the most naively optimistic watcher of the Iran war pale in comparison to what God is planning *and actively working out* for the Iranian people, as well as for the American and Israeli peoples and the other peoples descended from ancient Israel. While this wicked world is the unhappy product of our sins, God in His mercy is about to bring a *better* world!

Few believe real justice and the transformation of men's hearts is coming, but this is exactly what these and other tumultuous events are leading to. Bible prophecy says so!

God is going to rebuke the evils that envelop us. He is going to do it directly, very soon. Yet even in the world today, He uses other nations to execute a measure of that correction.

While this wicked world is the unhappy product of our sins, God in His mercy is about to bring a better world.

Iran is deeply, demonically immoral. It must be and will be corrected. Is God using America and Israel to do that to some degree even now? "[H]e removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21). In this war, some of these murderous, lecherous clerics and officials have already received their comeuppance for their sins.

The *Trumpet* has written for decades of the need to attack the Iranian "head of the snake" of terror. America and Israel have just done so, albeit in a belated and limited way. These nations' power is truly fierce when used. You get a sense of what could be accomplished if America and Israel were *blessed nations* fighting for a righteous cause.

But America is *not* being blessed. We are *cursed*—because of *our own* sins, for which God must correct us ("**Will America Win?**", page 8).

Unintended Effects

God is *withholding* true military victories from America today. He has permitted or overseen the rise of a power in Iran that has been a thorn in America's side for nearly 50 years and even today is *frustrating* the U.S. despite its best efforts. Just as little Vietnam did half a century ago, and just as Afghanistan and Iraq did a generation ago.

Can you recognize a *curse* when you see it? America's and Israel's costly exertions to confront our enemies and solve problems, if they are not fruitless, are actually boomeranging and backfiring. Consider: The considerable firepower we directed at Iraq had the inadvertent effect of enabling Iran's rise. Last June's 12-day war apparently had the unintended effect of hastening the regime's contingency plans for the ayatollah's death. In the end, this present conflict will prove to have accomplished little that America and Israel hoped for and much that they did not: It will have further radicalized Iran, divided America, galvanized Europe, weakened NATO, enriched Russia, united the Arab world, strained relations with Israel, intensified global resentment against the U.S., and surely accelerated still more prophecies (article, page 13).

America is spending its strength in vain, fulfilling a prophecy of curses for disobedience, plainly delivered to our ancestors by God through Moses in Leviticus 26:20.

God is teaching us an agonizing lesson, showing the fault of trusting in our decisionmakers and military capabilities, just as He warned our ancestors not to trust in their own counsels and chariots. He wants us to realize that our worst national security vulnerability is *our sins*. He seeks to bring us to repentance, to draw us back to Himself.

In fact, He is teaching the world lessons that will ultimately bring all nations out of ideologies, deceptions and sin and to the true knowledge of the true God!

Outcomes to Expect

What are the outcomes God is bringing about from this present war?

Prophecy shows that Iran will yet rise to provoke Europe into war. Further, it will do so after having built a new "axis of resistance," including Egypt, Libya

REAL HOPE PAGE 17 ►

Will America Win?

Warning: The vulnerability is located within the homeland.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY AND RICHARD PALMER

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER AND MANY of its officials are dead. Within 72 hours of launching Operation Epic Fury, 1,700 targets were struck. Within 10 days, the figure rose to 5,000. More than 30 Iranian ships were sunk or blown up. Runways and hardened aircraft shelters were destroyed.

About 200 Israel Defense Forces pilots led the way with the initial strikes, followed soon after by the Americans, who employed stealth bombers, jet fighters, drones, Patriot missiles, cruise missiles, JDAMs and bunker busters, satellite observation, cyberwarfare, spying and more.

President Donald Trump did what American leaders had feared to do for four decades—directly confront Iran. He deserves credit for his boldness.

Nevertheless, Iran has not surrendered. The Iran regime is down, but not out. It has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, driving up global energy prices. America is struggling to find a way to finish the war without launching a ground invasion.

America seems unsure of what the end of the war will look like. President Trump has said, “There will be no deal with Iran except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!”—yet he also had Steve Witkoff negotiate with Iran’s leaders. He demanded “the selection of a GREAT and ACCEPTABLE leader(s).” Then Iran selected Mojtaba Khamenei as supreme leader—a man neither great nor acceptable to President Trump.

Compare this to Winston Churchill, who from the moment he became prime minister stated his war aim as VICTORY—“victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be.” Throughout World War II, that message never

wavered. Every British subject, every ally, every enemy, knew exactly where Churchill stood and exactly what would be required to end the war.

Now we are unsure of not only *when* this war will end but *how*. Why such uncertainty, given America’s overwhelming power?

More Dangerous Than the Bomb

President Trump explained in his executive orders that he attacked because the Iranians’ “nuclear program, ballistic missile program and support for terrorism” constituted “an unusual and extraordinary threat ... to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States.” Just before the attack, Iranian nuclear negotiators reportedly bragged directly to the U.S. team that they possessed enough enriched uranium to construct 11 nuclear bombs. Nuclear warfare indeed constitutes an extraordinary threat.

But America is succumbing to another threat, even *more dangerous*, that lies at the root of its inability to defeat Iran.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong made a poignant statement in his 1964 book *God Speaks Out on the New Morality*. He said the “downward plunge” in morals was “rapidly becoming a greater threat to humanity than the hydrogen bomb!”

The Apostle Paul made a similar point. He warned that “in the last days perilous times shall come” (2 Timothy 3:1). We are living in the last days now. And what makes them so dangerous? Is it nuclear weapons? Jesus Christ Himself described a time when man would have the ability to wipe himself out (Matthew 24:21-22). Was Paul about to list fearsome weapons of mass destruction?

No. Instead Paul focused on *our sins*. Read carefully: “For men shall be lovers



of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:2-4).

That is stunning. What makes these days so perilous is our vanity, greed, pride, arrogance! Our ingratitude, unreliability, lack of self-control, self-indulgence, irreverence! How *dangerous* these sins are! How they jeopardize our lives, even our civilization!

Weapons of mass destruction are a civilizational threat physically. But moral breakdown devastates us spiritually and undermines the very foundation of civilization. It entraps us in sins and invites curses that weaken and destroy us individually and nationally.

Virtuous Pacifism?

Truth be told, the reason America hasn’t won a major victory since World War II is not because of any weakness in our military. Our *moral breakdown* is our foremost weakness.

In Iran, President Trump is taking on a deeply evil regime. It’s one that has attacked America repeatedly, has attempted to assassinate Donald Trump,



An F/A-18F Super Hornet lands on the flight deck of the USS Gerald R. Ford during Operation Epic Fury.

continues to plot worse attacks, and crushes its own people (article, page 2).

Yet most Americans oppose the attacks. A Reuters-Ipsos poll on day one of the war found that 47 percent of respondents disapproved of the war and only 27 percent approved. A YouGov poll found that 45 percent believed Trump had made the wrong decision, compared with just 31 percent who thought he had made the right one.

Why? For many Americans, it is fear for their wallets and the economy. After a few days, only 18 percent of registered voters polled by Morning Consult said they wanted to keep fighting regardless of what happened to gas prices.

Others view a refusal to fight as an act of moral strength not weakness. After all, Jesus refused to take up arms and fight. Surely a Christ-like nation would sit down and talk rather than bomb.

If the nation were bowing before God, repenting of its sins, and asking Him to deal with this evil and rescue America from this threat, then not taking up arms may be righteous. But the Bible does not praise every refusal to take up arms.

To take one example, God barred David from building the temple because he had “shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars” (1 Chronicles 22:8). It would have been better for David to rely

more on God for his victories rather than doing the killing himself. Yet in 2 Samuel 11, David stayed away from the fighting—not because He had drawn close to God but because he had drifted far from Him. He seduced the wife of one of his top generals and then had that general killed.

David’s aggressive, fighting spirit was a characteristic God could use. David could have learned to leave more of the fighting to God—but God clearly wanted a leader who aggressively confronted problems. As David descended into sin, he lost that fighting spirit. He was no longer enthusiastic about protecting the nation, dealing with threats and punishing the guilty.

Similarly, God condemned Israel’s King Ahab, not for fighting a war but for lacking the character to finish it (1 Kings 20:42). Joash, too, is condemned for not being thorough enough in his warfare (2 Kings 13:19).

The same is true of America today.

“[O]ur refusal to use our military might is often not because of righteousness, as we like to believe, but despicable weakness resulting from our sins,” writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his booklet *The King of the South*. “We simply lack the faith, character and courage to fight against Iran, the number one terrorist nation today.”

President Trump had enough courage to begin the confrontation—but the nation lacks the will to end it.

“In the end, we will prove too weak to survive!” Mr. Flurry continues. “HISTORY THUNDERS FOR US TO AWAKEN.”

But most Americans want to go back to sleep.

Dealing with problems before they explode requires accepting hardship. It requires sacrifice by the people. To achieve godly victories requires living in obedience to what is right so that when you fight, you are fighting for the good.

But sin saps the will. It has us pursuing immediate pleasures rather than planning for and securing our future. It takes the easy road that guarantees later disaster. Like David, we become too entrapped by sin to really fight.

This moral weakness is America’s greatest national security threat.

Yet the religious leaders around President Trump are proclaiming the opposite message. They assure us that America is more righteous than ever!

Broken Will

Just before the war started, President Trump attended the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Paula White-Cain, the senior adviser to the White House Faith Office, praised the president as “the greatest champion of faith that we have ever had in the executive branch.”

White-Cain invited a group of Christian leaders into the Oval Office to pray over President Trump, to beseech God’s blessing on America’s war against Iran, and to reaffirm that America is “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and the Department of War have repeatedly invoked God, the pressing need to confront evil, and the willingness to use American power.

But is it true that America is one nation under God? Is America living a way of life that God can bless?

God promises that victories will come *if His people obey Him*. And the American people are “His people” in the very real sense that they descended from the same people He directly spoke these words to. (To prove that the United States, Britain and the Jewish nation called Israel

descended from the ancient Israelites, request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. See back cover to order.)

Leviticus 26:3-8, preserved for us today because they *apply to us today*, promise that if the people “walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them,” then “five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.”

When America is unable to finish its wars, is God blessing the nation? No!

America is experiencing the *curses* described in verses 15-20: “[I]f ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments,” then “I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain ...”

Now, as then, it is *God* who determines the outcome of wars. Whether

or not American forces succeed in weakening or toppling an evil regime, whether or not American citizens are protected from an unusual, extraordinary, nuclear-armed terrorist threat, depends less on U.S. military technology and strategy than on *whether we are correct* when we say we are pursuing a righteous cause.

For eight decades, our unprecedented military strength *has been spent in vain* because Americans are *steeped in sin*.

Sin *naturally* saps our fighting spirit. And God lays on additional curses to help us wake up and see the destruction we are bringing on ourselves.

You Are to Blame

The way God and the leaders He used in the Bible speak is quite different from American religious leaders today. The Bible teaches that God’s law is good, that it alone distinguishes good from evil, that we must not only truly believe but also obey God’s law, with His help,

and that the greatest enemy is not the approaching army or the neighboring empire but *our sins against Him* (e.g. Psalm 19:7-11; Romans 7:7, 12; 3:20; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3; Proverbs 14:34).

Even great presidents like Washington, Adams and Lincoln, and many other great Americans of the not-so-distant past who were not even ministers, *warned us* that we would survive as a nation only if we *lived right* before God.

After World War II, Herbert W. Armstrong repeatedly made an extraordinary forecast, based on the prophecies of the Bible. He said America, flush with victory, had won its last war. He warned in 1961, “Unless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars: ‘In GOD we trust,’ the United States of America *has won its last war!*” (*Plain Truth*, October 1961).

He was right! Every war and conflict America has waged since has resulted in mixed results, at best, and never full

Why American Tech Can't Win Wars

BY RICHARD PALMER

Thanks to a combination of American technology, Israeli pluck and brilliant intelligence gathering, Iran’s supreme leader, one of the world’s most evil dictators, is gone.

Defeating the regime, however, will require still more.

Since World War II, the United States has repeatedly tried to use its economic and technological edge to win wars without substantial loss of life. Again and again it has failed.

During the Korean War, America dominated the skies. That dominance played a key role in the war—but it wasn’t enough to win it. Over 36,000 Americans and 137,000 South Korean soldiers died to achieve the stalemate that ended the war. A decade later, America sent 1,500 men to the Bay of Pigs in Cuba to overthrow a regime that had 300,000 troops, hoping

the oppressed populace would rise and help. It didn’t.

America committed many more troops to Vietnam and suffered many more casualties. Even then, it failed to win. In Afghanistan, America defeated the Taliban on the battlefield, only to withdraw years later and hand power back to the Taliban.

President Donald Trump has launched a series of short, bold, dramatic military interventions of a kind that only the U.S. could pull off: bombing Iranian nuclear sites last summer, capturing Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro, and now helping Israel decapitate Iran’s leadership structure.

These have been much more successful than debacles like the Bay of Pigs. But there is nothing yet to show that they are true victories that will produce lasting change. Why?

Science is the promised solution for so many of our problems:

poverty, disease, peace—even war. Herbert W. Armstrong called science a “false messiah.” This is equally true of the American military. Whereas the Americans and before them the British once trusted in God for victories, now we trust in technology.

In World War II, America suffered close to *half a million deaths*. That huge number was minor compared to other nations. Still, naturally, the nation did not want to go through anything like that again. So it poured its economic, educational and cultural efforts into a solution: technology.

Science in the form of aerospace technologies, intelligence gathering, precision-guided missiles, satellite imagery, signal jamming, drones and now artificial intelligence held out the promise that America could win without a major commitments of manpower or hefty death tolls.

Science did, in fact, give America a tool it could use to guarantee victory in most wars, with little cost to its own men: the nuclear bomb. But given its terrifying destructive power, leaders have recoiled from using it.

Ironically, the presence of this option worsened the problem of America’s flagging will. During the Korean War, many U.S. generals believed they could have won a total victory—taking all of the north—but doing so would have required greater manpower and a death toll closer to that of World War II. Could a U.S. president ask that of the nation when he had a bomb that could end the war without major American loss of life? Yet President Harry Truman feared using a nuclear bomb, with all the resulting death and unknowable global reactions.

What the Soviet Union might do in Europe was another important concern. The result was that

victory. (Read more about this in our booklet *He Was Right*, especially the “America Has Won Its Last War” chapter. Find it at theTrumpet.com/go/hwr.)

God will not grant America total victory in Iran no matter how many missiles we fire and no matter how many prayers preachers make over the president, as long as American Christianity leaves American sin undefeated, unopposed, untouched and almost completely unaddressed.

In that article, Mr. Armstrong placed the blame for America’s sins squarely on the shoulders of “YOU—ALL OF YOU!”

“You have departed from your living GOD!” he wrote. “You are worshipping at the shrine of pleasure, luxurious living, material interests! You are in a moral toboggan-slide, and although your lands are full of churches, wherein you conduct pagan worship, your lands are also full of fornication and adultery, full of crime, of vanity, greed and selfishness—full of lying, dishonesty and graft, full

of cheating, stealing, and murder—full even of *injustice* in your courts!

“Your ministers and your organized religions teach that God’s spiritual LAWS are done away. You profane His Sabbath, you profane His holy tithe of your money, and His holy NAME! You teach your children materialism and base your public school systems—your colleges and universities—on the concept of evolution, which denies the existence of the Creator, and on the pagan philosophies of the ancient Greeks and Romans. ...

“You *profess* to be God’s people—you mention Him in your prayers, *but not in sincerity or in TRUTH!* You have a FORM of godliness in your churches and synagogues—but you DENY THE POWER OF GOD and fail utterly to RELY ON IT! Your preachers preach lies, and you love to have it so!”

After years of atheistic radical leftism dominating the nation, many are glad to hear the top leaders of this nation talk about God. But we must face reality.

We haven’t even returned to the morality and comparative righteousness of 1960s America, to whom that powerful warning from God was addressed. Our churches are compromised and weak, and have been for generations! We have, *even in our churches*, rejected God’s law and the need to obey Him.

This *defeat* is the result: in our families, our education, our finances, our law and order, our politics, our culture—and, yes, defeat for our military!

A Guilty Nation

To anyone who would argue that America is actually a righteous nation, consider some facts.

About a month after people met for the National Prayer Breakfast in D.C. members of Congress met on Capitol Hill to discuss the Renewed Hope Act of 2026, which addresses a crisis in our homeland: online child sexual exploitation.

America neither used the bomb nor rushed in more conventional forces. The Korean War was the first limited war in American history—and the first time the U.S. finished without a victory.

But if science could provide one war-ending weapon, could it provide another? One with a less terrifying death toll? That question has spurred the development of miniature nuclear bombs, bunker-busting bombs, stealth bombers, precision-guided missiles, intelligence services and special forces. Some of these have been used impressively at times, and the cost in blood, if not treasure, has been lowered. Still, full *victory* has not been achieved.

Why?

America lacks, first, the morality and, second, the righteous will to win a major engagement. So it tries to deal with the effects the same way it deals with other issues: It turns

to its false messiahs of money, science and technology.

The goal is to enable a divided and unconvinced nation to win a partial victory at low cost. But true victory would demand tackling the *cause* of the problem.

America’s lack of will is a disease of the spirit. It is a matter of the human psyche. It can’t be solved by scientific experimentation.

The Bible explains clearly.

God warns in Leviticus 26:19 that if the nation sins, “I will break the pride of your power” God and His blessings were the true source of America’s strength, prosperity and technological edge. But the nation has not obeyed Him, so its unity and fighting spirit have been broken. That technological edge has enabled a weak-willed America to remain a major power for decades. But it has not won full victories—and it will not do so now.



A guided-missile destroyer fires a Tomahawk missile at Iran on March 1.

In fact, the Bible warns that the nation’s high-tech systems will fail. “They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle ...” (Ezekiel 7:14).

Deuteronomy 28, a parallel to Leviticus 26, warns that “thy high and fenced walls ... wherein thou trustedst” shall be destroyed (verse 52). America is trusting the wrong messiahs.

However, the Bible holds out the true hope. To fight and win, we must obey God, keep His Sabbaths and other laws, and trust in Him and Him alone

for protection. God says that if the U.S. and the other modern nations of Israel (a name that specifically means “overcomer with God”) will do that, then “five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight ...” (Leviticus 26:8).

In an evil world, a nation will have deadly enemies. Turning to God in repentance is the only sure way to guarantee victory and national survival. This bombardment of Iran is no exception. Without repentance, this will be, at best, a temporary victory. ■

An estimated 20 percent of pornographic images on the Internet involve *depictions of children*. One study of over 400 million web searches found that the most popular term related to sexual searches was “youth.” Pornhub receives over 100 million visits. One of its most frequently used search terms is “teen.”

This is some of the worst evil imaginable, and it is common and mainstream. It is a national crisis, yet how many are confronting this evil? America lacks the will to confront our physical and our spiritual problems.

Consider God’s view of a related sin that has become “normal,” that we consider “tame” by comparison. In Matthew 5:28 Jesus Christ says: “anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (New Living Translation) Paul writes, “... Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; NLT).

God hates these sins! Yet *most of the nation* is guilty of them!

Millions of Americans “look at a woman with lust” every day, using *adult* pornography. In fact, nearly half of Americans have watched it *in the last week*. It is destroying their minds, their society and their nation! And it is worth noting: Much of what they are consuming is not between consenting adults but involves, whether seen or unseen, coercion, intimidation and rape.

What about the other sins that Paul says will keep people out of the Kingdom of God? How common is *greed*? It’s the foundation of America’s economic sins. The average American owes nearly \$7,000 on his credit card. Companies like Klarna, PayPal, Afterpay and many more allow people to “buy now, pay later” on just about anything they want. Nearly two thirds of GenZ have used them to buy things they cannot afford.

Paul condemned *drunkenness*, which we could update from Paul’s time to include all substance addiction. Nearly 1 in 6 Americans have a “substance use disorder” to use the modern jargon. Nearly 200,000 deaths a year are linked to excessive drinking. A similar number

die of opioid and fentanyl abuse each year. Americans—individual Americans—have literally sent *billions of dollars* to cartels, elevating them into paramilitary forces and dooming thousands of communities south of the Rio Grande to poverty, violence and chaos.

Appalling sins have become so common that we think of them as normal. We definitely don’t think our “flaws” and “foibles” are significant vulnerabilities that are *losing wars*. The average *Trumpet* reader isn’t sinning, right?

God has to get our attention. He is allowing us to experience defeat because we are living the way that causes defeat.

The only way to answer that is to look not at the radical leftists or the Christians we disagree with or our neighbors—but rather at *ourselves* and what *the Bible* says!

The Bible’s great warning is against *sin*. What is sin? It’s not what you don’t like—it is what God *hates* because it destroys us, our family, our society and the human race! *We* don’t naturally know what sin is. *God defines what sin is*.

What Sin?

Look at the sins God singles out in Leviticus 26: idolatry and Sabbath breaking. The vast majority of Americans don’t even see these as problems. Yet as Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, “These were the main test commandments! They were the test of obedience and of faith in and loyalty to God.”

How few in America keep God’s Sabbath! How many worship idols! How many pursue wealth for the things money can buy, worshiping their homes, their vehicles or their clothes. And how many blend images of Jesus, crucifixes and icons with their worship. How many who call themselves Christian and say they are keeping these commandments are breaking them? How many who say they are Christian believe they don’t even have to *try* to keep God’s commandments?

America’s religious leaders are *leading the way* into these sins. They are telling

the nation how righteous we all are while teaching us to disobey God! God’s Word, the Bible, commands faith and obedience; it says you cannot have faith *without* obedience (James 2:14-26). Yet they teach the opposite.

Paul concludes his list of “perilous” factors in this end time by warning about those “[h]aving a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5). That is religion today. They talk about God and the Bible, but they deny its power over their life. They don’t tell America to submit to that power and to make changes. God calls that *dangerous!*

God’s law reveals cause and effect. It shows us what is good for us, our families, our neighbors, even if we don’t realize it. It reveals what is good, such as keeping the Sabbath, precisely *because* we don’t realize it. It defines evil—yes, appalling evils that we can recognize in others, but also evils in ourselves!

We are succumbing to evil, *even as we think we are righteous*. Even those few who understand that true Christians *do* keep God’s law can fail to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22).

God has to get our attention. He has to wake us up! He is allowing us to experience defeat because we are living the way that causes defeat.

Why can’t America finish off the regime in Iran? The fault belongs with “YOU—ALL OF YOU!” thundered Mr. Armstrong. Not only the political leaders. Not only the religious leaders. Not only those who never go to church. Not only those engaged in vile pedophilia. But also with *you*, the Bible-believing Christian who believes God’s law is “done away,” or who is a “hearer only.”

You must wake up. *You* must act. *You* are needed! Your faith—living faith—in God and obedience to God will have an impact on your future, your family, your neighbors and, yes, your nation! ■

TAKE ACTION. TURN TO GOD.

Turn to a power that wins when American and Israeli firepower cannot. Learn what the Bible says about truly turning to God in your free copy of **Repentance Toward God**. See back cover to order.



THE SHOCK WAVES

The Iran war is hastening several prophecies worldwide.

“There are decades when nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.” Vladimir Lenin’s famous observation has certainly applied to the weeks following Israel’s and the United States’ attacks on Iran that began on February 28. This war is proving to be a catalyst accelerating many crucial prophetic events.

Daniel 11:40-43 prophesy of a “king of the south” power bloc that rises “at the time of the end.” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified this bloc as radical Islam, led by Iran and incorporating other Middle Eastern and North African radical Islamist nations and groups. It is prophesied to clash with “the king of the north,” German-led Catholic Europe.

How can Iran rival and “push at” Europe when so much of its military and security power has been ground into dust by Israeli and U.S. strikes?

Other articles in this issue show how Iran will remain on the Daniel 11 trajectory. But this war is also accelerating a number of other key trends that will fulfill other Bible prophecies. What is happening in Iran is already having massive geopolitical implications throughout the region and beyond.

BRITAIN’S DANGEROUS WEAKNESS EXPOSED

Britain’s response to the Iran war risks ending its special relationship with the United States, losing key strategic bases and confirming to the world that the nation can no longer defend itself.

Far from being America’s closest ally, Britain has done all it can to avoid the war. Afraid that British bases would come under attack, Prime Minister Keir Starmer initially refused to let U.S. warplanes use British bases to bomb Iran. When Iran retaliated and attacked those bases anyway, Starmer still refused to get involved, but gallantly allowed the U.S. to use those bases to defend the United Kingdom.

President Trump expressed disappointment, saying that Starmer is “no Winston Churchill.”

One of those bases was Britain’s sovereign base territory in Cyprus. Only after a strong European response did Starmer announce

he would send HMS Dragon to protect it. But Dragon was in dry dock and unable to leave for several days. Britain also has a naval base in Bahrain—but no ships.

“[F]or an exposed and strategically important island state, controlling the surrounding seas is existential, and it demands unceasing and expensive effort,” wrote historian Robert Tombs. “... Have we forgotten we live on an over-crowded island? ... We rely on the ships that carry our food, fuel and goods. The pipelines. The offshore wind turbines. Perhaps most vulnerable of all, the net of flimsy cables that carry the digital information on which our economy and our everyday life depend. And we struggle to send a single warship to defend our base on Cyprus, the most important intelligence hub we possess. ...

“Weakness invites aggression, and we have never been so vulnerable since the Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway and captured the Royal Navy’s flagship in 1667. If we don’t wake up to this ourselves, I fear we shall have a

rude awakening at the hands of our enemies” (*Telegraph*, March 9).

It is also clear that Starmer wants to avoid the war because of pressures at home.

The week before the Iran war began, Starmer’s Labour Party suffered a major defeat, coming in third in a by-election for a seat the party had held since 1931.

For decades, Labour has supported immigration because Muslim migrants tend to vote Labour. Now the Green Party is outflanking Labour with an even more extreme pro-Islam position. It won the by-election with a campaign video entirely in Urdu—the language of Pakistan—and used images of Labour politicians meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and India’s Narendra Modi to imply that Labour was not on the side of the Pakistani-British voter. After the war started, Green Party deputy leader Mothin Ali attended a pro-Iran rally where the crowd shouted, “Death to the U.S.A.!” and “Death to Israel!”

The latest polls show the Greens are more popular than Labour and number two in the UK, behind Nigel Farage’s Reform UK.

Starmer is putting party before country, fearing that any support for the U.S. will lose him the Muslim vote at home.



The book of Hosea contains a warning for Britain. Today’s situation is precisely foretold in several passages. Britain is described as a moth-eaten garment (Hosea 5:12) and a burnt-out cake (Hosea 7:8). It looks good on the outside, but when put to the test, it falls apart. Why?

“Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not,” God says of Britain (verse 9). It lacks the strength to stand up to Iran because it has let in millions of people who side with Iran over Britain. Migration has also increased the massive welfare and health-care costs that make a proficient military unaffordable.

In its relations with other nations, Britain behaves like a “silly dove” (verse 11), naively taken advantage of by foreign powers.

How could a book written over 2,500 years ago precisely diagnose Britain’s problems today? Why does this book apply so specifically to Britain? Herbert W. Armstrong answered these questions in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It is the fundamental book for understanding what the Bible says about world events. Request a free copy.

RICHARD PALMER

EUROPE'S MILITARIES SWARM CYPRUS

The Iranian drone that hit a British air base in Cyprus on March 2 killed no one and reportedly did little damage. Yet the implications for the future of the Middle East could be huge.

Britain's response was sluggish, and Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides made a point of spurning Britain and calling on the European Union for help instead.

Greece promptly dispatched two frigates, including its newest and most advanced model. France sent an aircraft carrier strike group, and President Emmanuel Macron went to Cyprus to announce some of the deployments. Italy, Spain and the Netherlands also contributed ships. A British destroyer arrived more than a week after the attack.

None of these moves are necessary to keep Cyprus safe from drone attacks that barely damaged anything. But European powers seized on the opportunity to demonstrate that they have the will and the power to defend Cyprus—and Britain doesn't.

A Cypriot government spokesman expressed the government's "dissatisfaction" with Britain's lack of clear communication. They have demanded that "British bases in Cyprus would under no circumstances be used for any purpose other than humanitarian reasons." Asked if Cyprus would renegotiate the status of the bases, he



Leaders from France, Cyprus and Greece address the press at Paphos Military Base, Cyprus, on March 9.

responded: "We are not ruling anything out."

The bases remain British, but clearly Cyprus is looking to the EU for protection, and the EU is eager to offer it. It won't be long before these bases, like so many others, slip away from Britain.

Cyprus's intelligence facilities are probably more important than its air bases, and they almost certainly contributed to the attacks

on Iran. Leaks released by Edward Snowden show that the U.S. National Security Agency helps fund these listening posts. Britain's Government Communications Headquarters wrote that one of these, the RAF Troodos, "has long been regarded as a 'jewel in the crown' by NSA as it offers unique access to the Levant, North Africa and Turkey."

The U.S. is believed to have helped Israel in its war in Gaza by passing on intelligence gleaned from Cyprus.

After the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacks, Cyprus became a crucial hub for nations evacuating their citizens from the region. Germany and the Netherlands deployed troops to aid in the evacuations, and 16,000 Israelis fled there.

Britain may have bases in Cyprus, but Germany established its economic dominance there after bailing out the country during its economic crisis of 2012-13. In recent years, Germany's military relationship with Cyprus has stepped up, with Germany basing its naval presence in the region as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. In 2022, the two signed their first Bilateral Defense Cooperation Program and began joint military exercises.

"Justified as it might be, Brexit puts the future of those bases on Cyprus in doubt," Mr. Flurry wrote in 2019. "I forecast that Britain is going to lose control of those bases. This means it is only a matter of time before the United States is pushed out as well" (*Trumpet*, November-December 2019).

In 1980, Herbert W. Armstrong told Cyprus Acting President Georgios Ladas, based on specific Bible prophecies, that a German-led Europe would take control of the island.

Revelation 17 describes a beast power, a resurrection of previous iterations of the Holy Roman Empire but this time comprised of 10 kings. Based on this prophecy, Mr. Armstrong said in 1945 that Germany would rise again as part of a "European union." This power would be led by a woman (a prophetic symbol of a church) and would focus on Jerusalem.

"Previous resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire have launched more than one crusade from Cyprus," explained Mr. Flurry. "That last resurrection of this empire will be led by the Catholic Church, and it will embark on one more crusade. You can see this empire moving toward Jerusalem *already* in its conquests" (*ibid*).

This is why the EU is so interested in Cyprus. It's not doing much to strike Iran now, but it is preparing for great military advancements in the Middle East—on its own terms.

RICHARD PALMER

GERMANY BREAKS WITH AMERICA

After Trump's reelection, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz warned that "NATO may soon be dead." This is quickly becoming a self-fulfilled prophecy.

Three weeks into the Iran war, President Trump called on Europe to help keep the Strait of Hormuz open. "If there's no response or if it's a negative response, I think it will be very bad for the future of NATO," he said.

Germany was quick to reject the request.

"This war has nothing to do with NATO. It's not NATO's war," a German government spokesman told reporters on March 16. "NATO is a defensive alliance, an alliance for the defense of its territory. As long as this war continues, there will be no involvement, not even in an option to keep the Strait of Hormuz open by military means."

"Washington did not consult us. We would have advised against it," Merz told the Bundestag, reiterating that Germany won't help while the war continues.

Other NATO allies responded similarly.

Trump was reportedly outraged. He posted on social media, "I wonder what would happen if we 'finished off' what's left of the Iranian terror state and let the countries that use it, we don't, be responsible for the so-called 'Strait?' That would get some of our nonresponsive 'allies' in gear, and fast!!!" (March 18).

The gravestone of the NATO alliance is being carved before our eyes. Even war with an evil terrorist regime is straining rather than unifying the alliance.



Trump receives Merz at the White House on March 3, where they discuss the Iran war.

On March 19, things appeared to turn when Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Japan issued a joint statement to express “readiness to contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the strait.” But a German government spokesman quickly clarified that this didn’t change Germany’s position.

The chapter “Atlantic Rift” in our booklet *He Was Right* explains how this break was prophesied in your Bible. As the *Plain Truth* wrote in March 1974, “The next few years will bring forth more misunderstanding, conflicts of interest and, at times, outright hostility between the United States and Europe.”

JOSUÉ MICHELS

ARABS UNITE AGAINST IRAN

After Israel and the United States bombed Iran, Iran retaliated—by bombing U.S. partners in the Arab world. It highlighted a rift that is prophesied to widen.

Bahrain, Iraqi Kurdistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have thousands of American soldiers, sailors and aircraft operators stationed on their soil. All have been targets of Iranian missile and drone barrages. (Iran also attacked Oman, a neutral party with good relations with both sides; Iran’s statements afterward suggest this may have been caused by trigger-happy Iranian soldiers who lacked government approval.)

One of Iran’s earliest targets was Saudi Arabia’s largest oil refinery in the city of Ras Tanura. The economies of Saudi Arabia and most other Gulf Arab states are almost entirely dependent on the oil trade. Iran is effectively threatening to kill the Gulf Arabs’ economies overnight.

Perhaps the most surprising target so far is Qatar. Iranian drones targeted Qatar’s energy infrastructure, forcing its enormous state-owned liquefied natural gas company to halt production. The nation claims to have shot down two Iranian bombers over its airspace.

Qatar is a major sponsor of some of the same terrorist groups Iran supports, such as Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. It has used its connections with the West to protect these groups diplomatically and financially. It has also used its diplomatic and cultural clout to dissuade the U.S. from harming Iran. In the war’s opening hours, even as its

interceptors were downing Iranian missiles, Qatar appeared to be trying to deescalate the war. But after Iran targeted Qatar’s main civilian airport, Majed al-Ansari, adviser to Qatar’s prime minister, said: “This cannot go unanswered. A price has to be paid for this attack on our people.” The *Jerusalem Post* and Israel’s Channel 12 news claimed that Qatar launched air strikes on Iran in retaliation.

Another striking example is Turkey. Like Qatar, Turkey has relatively good relations with both Iran and the West, and it sponsors terror groups like Hamas. But Turkey also belongs to NATO and thus falls under the alliance’s “Article 5” collective defense. America even stores nuclear weapons at Incirlik Air Base.

On March 4, Iran launched a missile apparently aimed at Incirlik. A U.S. destroyer under NATO obligations intercepted it. But the possibility that Iran willfully targeted America’s nuclear weapons base in a NATO country is still shocking. What kind of counterattack was Iran expecting had the missile hit its target?

The Turkish Defense Ministry responded, “We reserve the right to respond to any hostile act directed at our country.” This is unprecedented. Even threatening such action against Iran marks a drastic change from before this war.

On March 1, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E., together with the U.S., released a statement saying they “strongly condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran’s indiscriminate and reckless missile and drone attacks against sovereign territories across the region” and “reaffirm our right to self-defense in the face of these attacks.”

It is challenging to unite the Arab world on any issue, unless that issue is Israel. Some of these countries have sponsored proxy wars against each other. Yet in this case, the Arab world is uniting against *Israel’s enemy*. In other words, Iran’s pushiness is achieving the impossible.

President Trump has close connections with Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other Arab governments. The Gulf Arabs have previously influenced Trump not to attack Iran. They

were trying to do so this time. In attacking them, Iran may have been trying to goad them into pressuring Trump. Iran also knows that one of America’s weak points is unfavorable public opinion. Attacking Arab



A plume of smoke rises after Iran strikes the U.A.E.’s Fujairah industrial zone on March 3.

petrostates means attacking the worldwide oil trade, which drives gasoline prices up. For various reasons, some in Trump’s electoral base are accusing him of betrayal.

Regardless of Iran’s motives, its actions against other Islamic nations appears to have hastened other prophecies.

Psalms 83 records an alliance of various Middle Eastern peoples formed “that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance” (verse 4). The alliance’s composition is described in verses 6-7: “The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre.” Mr. Flurry has proved that this a prophecy for the 21st century, but to understand it, you must know the modern descendants of these peoples. Pointing back to Mr. Armstrong’s writings, he has shown these to be Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Syria, the Palestinians, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey (read “[Deadly Flaw in Mideast Peace Deals](#),” *theTrumpet.com/23199*).

The nations listed in Psalm 83—the same nations that normally cannot stand together—are now standing united against Iran.

Verse 8 establishes Assur, or Assyria—modern Germany—as the leader of this alliance. This is already beginning to happen. But pairing this prophecy with Daniel 11 (as we do in the rest of this issue), it becomes clear that one of the motives for this alliance is to counter Germany’s enemy: Iran. *Iran’s strikes, and the Arab world’s response to them, are helping to solidify this alliance.*

MIHAÏLO S. ZEKIC

LEBANON BREAKING WITH IRAN

Hezbollah, Iran's Shiite terrorist proxy in Lebanon, attacked Israel on March 2 to support Iran. Israel responded with air strikes against over 50 communities in Lebanon, including the capital, Beirut. On March 6, Israeli commandos entered southern Lebanon to fight Hezbollah. On March 15, Israel announced expanded ground operations.

The scale of the conflict is huge. One fifth of Lebanon's population—1 million people—are estimated to have been displaced.

In previous rounds of fighting, the Lebanese government has tried to avoid getting involved. A year ago, it announced a ban on armed Hezbollah members, but the terrorist group, which has quasi-government influence in southern Lebanon, ignored it.

This time, remarkably, the government has *blamed Hezbollah*, not Israel, for the conflict. Shortly after active hostilities began, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam announced that all Hezbollah security and military activities were unlawful and that its armed members must surrender their weapons. With Iran under fire, it may actually be possible to disarm Hezbollah this time.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese government is asking its former colonial master, France, to mediate with Israel over its incursions into Lebanese territory. This may include brokering an Israel-Lebanon peace treaty, which would require Lebanon's government to recognize Israel, an unprecedented step if it happens.



Israeli strikes hit a solar farm and electricity generation facility in southern Lebanon on March 4.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly interested in normalizing relations with Lebanon. The Iran war may be opening a window of opportunity for a treaty.

A prophecy in Psalm 83 mentions "Gebal" and "Tyre" (verse 7), two Phoenician city-

states that are major Lebanese cities today, as members of an alliance that forms "that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" (verse 4). This alliance will be led by Assur, modern Germany (verse 8), which is prophesied elsewhere to dominate the rest of Europe.

"Lebanon was—and is—dominated by Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy terrorist group," Gerald Flurry wrote in 2020. He explained that Psalm 83 prophesies Lebanon's future: "It shows that Hezbollah will forfeit much of its power and that Iran will lose its grip over Lebanon—that the nation will instead ally with Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states, along with German-led Europe" (*Trumpet*, October 2020).

Israel's 2024 war with Hezbollah weakened the group enough for Salam, Aoun and other anti-Hezbollah politicians to gain power. They vowed to neuter Hezbollah's ability to function as a parallel government, but they were unable to follow through. Now, though, conditions may develop to facilitate Lebanon's transition away from Iran and toward France and the rest of Europe, as prophesied.

MIHAILO S. ZEKIC

RUSSIA CASHES IN

Though the picture is somewhat mixed, the Russian Federation is largely benefiting from the Iran war and becoming stronger and better equipped to carry out its prophesied role in end-time events.

At the center of Russia's economic fortunes stands a single commodity: oil. Accounting for roughly 60 percent of the country's total exports, it remains the fuel of the Russian economy. But since the start of Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine four years ago, Russian oil has been under Western sanctions. A price cap was also imposed that prevents the nation from selling its black gold for more than \$60 per barrel.

Russia adapted, selling less to the West and far more to China and India. But even with that shift, the price cap slashed

Russia's oil revenue and put serious strain on its economy. Then in 2025, the global oil supply increased and demand slowed, driving oil prices considerably lower. At the same time, the U.S. convinced India to reduce purchases of Russian oil from 2.1 million



Smoke rises from a Thai bulk carrier near the Strait of Hormuz after an attack by Iran on March 11.

barrels a day in mid-2025 to 1.1 million per day in January 2026.

The strain on Russia grew more intense, forcing the nation to sell at ever lower prices—well below the \$60 price cap. With certain refineries, Russia was making negligible profits. With others it was even selling *at a loss*. This was cataclysmic for Russia's economy. Reuters wrote on February 4: "Russia's public deficit could balloon to almost triple the official target by end-2026 as a fall in Indian purchases of oil and growing oil trade discounts eat into revenues while spending may be higher than expected."

The situation for Russia and its ability to keep funding its war was looking bleak. But then came the Iran war and the strangling of the Strait of Hormuz.

Global oil prices shot up, and Russian oil profits rose 14 percent over the daily average before the conflict. Russian crude still sells at a significant discount compared to Brent crude, but the country can now easily sell at \$60 per barrel. And with its shadow fleets that disregard the price cap, Russia can now take in \$65 or even \$70 per barrel.

The Trump administration also issued a 30-day waiver to India on March 5, letting it buy some Russian oil once again to ease rising prices. Russian President Vladimir Putin commented on the turnaround four days later, telling Russian moguls and policymakers that it was "important for Russian energy companies to make use of the current moment."

The good news continued on March 13 when the Trump administration temporarily allowed *any* nation to buy Russian oil and petroleum products currently out at sea.

The result has been a significant windfall for Russia. In just the first two weeks of the Iran war, the nation profited some \$7 billion in oil and gas sales—enough to buy 17,000 Shahed attack drones *every single day*.

"U.S. sanctions have forced Russian crude



to trade at a steep discount,” said Alexander Kirk of the Urgewald nonprofit. “A rollback closes that gap overnight and hands the Kremlin a revenue boost worth billions, at the very moment that pressure is starting to bite.”

It is true that the war imposes some costs on Russia. Iran’s regime has been one of Moscow’s most important partners in recent years and a significant supplier of military equipment.

With it now fighting for its own preservation, it will be less willing to part with ballistic missiles, artillery shells and other matériel. The conflict also chips away at Russia’s prestige since Moscow aims to present itself as a protector of its embattled partners. Now, as with Bashar al-Assad’s regime in Syria and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, the Iranian government finds itself under attack with little visible assistance from Moscow.

These are black eyes for Putin’s Russia. But analysts largely agree that the increase in oil revenue offsets those other factors. And if prices remain high, it could mean a significantly better-funded and more brutal Russian military.

Taken together, these developments are yet another reminder that Russia is not going anywhere. In recent months, many voices in the West have insisted that the Russian system cannot endure much longer and that it can’t survive the strain of sanctions and the pain of selling oil at a loss or barely any profit. The headlines have carried a tone of increasing urgency: Russia cannot sustain this. The pressure will build. The economy will crack. Perhaps Putin himself will even be swept aside.

But now instead of collapse, Russia is flush with billions of dollars in energy revenue, and Putin appears as secure as ever at the helm of the nation.

For readers of the *Trumpet*, this should come as no surprise. For more than a decade, based on prophecies in Ezekiel 38 about an end-time superpower called “Rosh” (verse 2; New King James Version), Mr. Flurry has explained that Putin is prophesied to play a major role in events the Bible says will unfold in the end time—events that still lie ahead. Because of that understanding, we have long maintained that whatever pressures Russia may face—economic strain, sanctions or geopolitical isolation—both the nation and its leader will endure. **JEREMIAH JACQUES**

► **REAL HOPE** FROM PAGE 7

and Ethiopia, to replace what it has lost (see Daniel 11:42-43; this is explained in Mr. Flurry’s booklet *The King of the South*). And it will continue to find ways to attack Israel. This plainly indicates which of the two Irans—that of the mourning hard-line loyalists or of the reveling moderates—will dominate the immediate future.

By all appearances, the current war is making these outcomes less likely. But just watch and see how events ultimately work to bring about exactly what God has foretold. History shows this is often how the Bible’s sure prophecies mysteriously, miraculously unfold.

God *often* works circumstances to serve His purposes even when they seem directly opposed. His purposes likely include punishment for some evil men in Iran through these operations by America and Israel! But they definitely include correcting the U.S. and Israel.

Barring these nations’ repentance, God *is not* going to use America or Israel to end the Iranian regime. No, He will punish these nations with yet another military loss.

Iran is a long way from regime change. It will require far more than dropping bombs to destroy it. In fact, it will take “a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships”—a force that enters in and overflows, not just passes over (Daniel 11:40). That will not be led by America.

God prophesied through Daniel that He will use “the king of the north” to correct Iran. The Iran-led “king of the south” will *push* against this king—Catholic-led, German-dominated Europe—and provoke this shockingly violent response. The war Europe wages will be significantly more powerful and comprehensive than the one we are now witnessing. The present war vividly shows that nothing less will eliminate the king of the south.

This prophecy exposes the grim, imminent fate of this evil Iranian regime.

Think of Europe being capable of such ferocity, militarily, operationally,

morally. It is hard to imagine, yet it too is prophecy that *will be fulfilled!* In fact, the Continent is acquiring this kind of power right now—with America’s blessing.

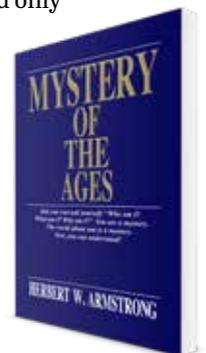
Astonishingly, many other prophecies warn that God is also going to use this fierce European empire to *correct America* and the other nations of modern Israel! This will involve world war and terror on a scale the world has never seen. You need to read this warning in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*—we will gladly send you a free copy.

The Bible’s forecasts don’t end there: They show that God will *then* correct the king of the north with an attack from an incomprehensibly vast Asian army He calls “the kings of the east”! (Revelation 16:12; 9:16).

These catastrophic blows of world war will be the final acts of the age of man before Jesus Christ returns to make good on His promises to all mankind: to establish judgment and justice worldwide.

This is God’s beautiful pledge to the Iranian people and to all peoples. The day is coming soon when *all* the world’s tyrants will be deposed. God, Defender of the downtrodden, will deliver justice and liberty. “He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:4). God is about to rout ALL the evil rulers over mankind and establish a kingdom ruled by the King of kings (Revelation 11:15). That kingdom will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44).

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice ...” (Proverbs 29:2). At that time, the celebrations won’t sprout up and then die. They will go on and on. The oppressed have hope. *Even the oppressors have hope*, once God brings them to repentance. He is about to destroy not only sinful men but the *sin in men*, and—whether in this life or in the prophesied resurrection—He will subject all men to the one and only good government there has ever been: the literal Kingdom of God on Earth. ■



REAL HOPE FOR THE IRANIANS

Find out what the Bible says regarding the “Mystery of Civilization,” in your free copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.

See back cover to order.

THE REGIME IS DUG IN

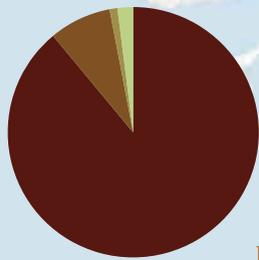
POLICE STATE

Power centers on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a parallel paramilitary force (~190,000 active personnel per 2025–2026 estimates like IISS Military Balance) reporting directly to the Supreme Leader. It commands the Basij militia (core/active elements 90,000 to 450,000). The IRGC controls major economic sectors (estimates 30 to 60 percent or more of the economy via conglomerates and foundations). This military, intelligence, repressive and patronage power makes dismantling the IRGC essential for change. Absent foreign invasion, only the conventional Artesh (regular forces) could theoretically challenge it—but IRGC surveillance, rivalry and resource advantages render this improbable.

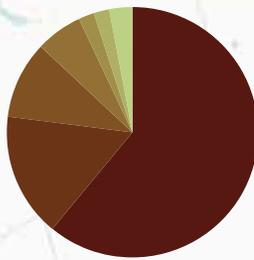
The Islamic Republic of Iran, established after the 1979 revolution, was deliberately structured to withstand external military threats, invasions, economic sanctions, internal dissent, and targeted leadership strikes.

DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE

Iran has a population of approximately 93 million.



RELIGION
 SHIITE ISLAM 90%
 SUNNI ISLAM 8%
 CHRISTIANITY 1%
 OTHER 2%



ETHNICITY
 SHIA MUSLIMS 90%
 SUNNI MUSLIMS 8%
 PERSIANS 57%
 AZERIS 16%
 KURDS 10%
 LURS 6%
 ARABS 2%
 BALUCHS 2%
 TURKMEN 1%
 QASHQAI 1%
 OTHER 5%

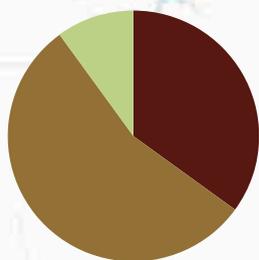
Religiously, Shia Muslims comprise 90 percent of the population. Regime-change efforts would pit Shia against Shia rulers, limiting externally exploited sectarian divides and forcing challengers to contest deep Shia religious legitimacy.

Ethnic Persians dominate the central plateau, bolstering state cohesion. Minorities are scattered peripherally, hindering unified separatist threats.

ROLE OF THE CLERGY

Governance follows Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the

Islamic Jurist), vesting ultimate authority in the Supreme Leader and loyal senior clerics. Many clerics remain politically neutral, prioritizing scholarship. A small minority openly challenges the regime's legitimacy or its "absolute" interpretation of Velayat-e Faqih. Neutral or critical clerics are largely excluded from power, as institutions loyal to the Supreme Leader (e.g., Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts) vet and restrict broader clerical involvement.



CLERIC ROYALTY
 REGIME-ALIGNED 63,000
 APOLITICAL 99,000
 DISSIDENT 18,000

POLITICAL OPPOSITION

Independent surveys (e.g., GAMAAN's 2024–2025 polls inside Iran) show

around 70 percent opposition to the Islamic Republic's continuation, with only 20 percent supporting retention and declining backing for the 1979 revolution and Supreme Leader). Opposition fragments across preferences: gradual theocratic reform, secular republic (unitary or federal), constitutional monarchy, or decentralized models. This split—strongest among youth, educated, and urban groups—enables the regime's core supporters (20 percent or less) to use divide-and-rule tactics effectively.

Support a Islamic Republic
 Support a Secular Republic
 Support a Monarchy
 Other

Proponents of the Supreme Leader and the principles of the Islamic Revolution
 Proponents of gradual reform within the framework of the Islamic Republic
 Proponents of structural transformation and transition away from the Islamic Republic
 Proponents of regime change as a precondition for change
 None of the above



FARAJA is Iran's national police force, with about 260,000 personnel including border guards. It handles public order, traffic, crime prevention and border security. It suppresses dissent, monitors dissidents through its intelligence unit, and coordinates closely with the IRGC's Intelligence Organization and the Ministry of Intelligence

Iran's conventional military, the **ARTESH**, predates the revolution and focuses on national defense. With about 420,000 personnel, it is the only force capable of challenging the IRGC, but this is unlikely due to IRGC intelligence networks monitoring the Artesh.

GROUND FORCES 350,000

NAVY 18,000

AIR FORCE 37,000

AIR DEFENSE FORCE 15,000

The **ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS (IRGC)** is a parallel military reporting to Iran's Supreme Leader, with about 190,000 personnel. It controls over half the economy and commands the Basij paramilitary, able to mobilize hundreds of thousands. Combined forces, including all reserves, exceed one million.

GROUND FORCES 150,000

NAVY 20,000

AEROSPACE FORCE 15,000

QUDS FORCE 5,000

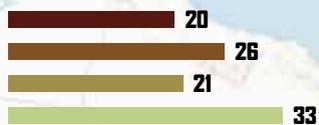
BASIJ (RESERVES) 450,000

PARALLEL INSTITUTIONS

Power disperses across overlapping bodies: the Guardian Council vets laws and candidates for Islamic compliance; the Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader; the presidency and parliament manage daily affairs but remain subordinate. This redundancy absorbs shocks: If one pillar falters, others sustain continuity. Analysts warn that incomplete attacks on the regime could paradoxically strengthen the IRGC by weakening rival branches.

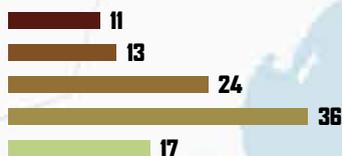


PERCENT OF POLITICAL SUPPORT



OMAN

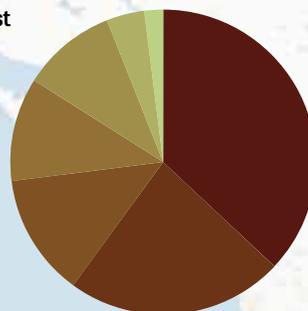
PERCENT OF REGIME SUPPORT



OMAN

STRATEGIC DETERRENT

Iran's strongest asymmetric tool is control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which some 20 million barrels of oil flow daily—20 percent of global petroleum consumption and 25 percent of seaborne oil trade. Prolonged disruption could spike prices, trigger inflation, and cause global economic havoc. While full closure faces naval resistance and limited bypasses, partial interference raises invasion costs dramatically.



OIL TRAFFIC THROUGH HORMUZ

- SAUDI ARABIA 37%
- IRAQ 23%
- U.A.E 13%
- IRAN 11%
- KUWAIT 10%
- QATAR 4%
- BAHRAIN 2%

ARABIAN SEA

► **WORLD WAR III** FROM PAGE 1

On a Truth Social post after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed on February 28, he wrote: “Hopefully, the IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] and police will peacefully merge with the Iranian patriots, and work together as a unit to bring back the country to the greatness it deserves.”

The U.S. has designated the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization. They conduct weapons smuggling, kidnappings and assassination plots. They, especially their overseas operations branch, the IRGC Quds Force, have been responsible for most of the terrorist attacks on U.S. interests abroad, including Amer-



icans killed in Iraq by Iran-supplied weapons or militias. **THEY ALONE ARE GUILTY OF KILLING ABOUT 600 SOLDIERS IN IRAQ!** They are also responsible for the deaths of **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF IRANIAN CIVILIANS!**

Trump’s hope that these terrorists can be useful in a peaceful transition is **DELUSIONAL**.

In the first few days of the war, Trump expressed eagerness to return to the negotiating table, but the Iranians refused.

God wants us to trust Him. Not only individually—He also wants *our nations* to trust Him! If you’re going to trust God, you must trust Him **COMPLETELY**. You can’t be halfway about it—just invoking His name or offering up a few token prayers—and expect Him to protect and deliver you.

Our world has chosen the way of warfare instead of full trust in God. And if you are going to war in this evil world, you had better go all the way! Weakness in a world full of beasts will get you killed!

War Weariness

There is an even bigger problem than Donald Trump’s naivety: Americans’ unwillingness to fight.

Again, **IRAN HAS BEEN PROVOKING AND ATTACKING AMERICA FOR 47 YEARS!** If we won’t defend ourselves, how can we **SURVIVE** in this dangerous world?

Yet most Americans do not support this war. A Quinnipiac University poll of 1,002 voters nationwide from March 6-8 found that *only 20 percent* of Americans would approve putting boots on the ground.

America is tired of fighting wars. That is because for decades we have been warring and losing many lives in vain. This is a *fatal disease* in a world where we have so many powerful enemies.

Even if Trump wanted to, could he win this war without the backing of the American people? The truth is, we cannot win wars without a fighting spirit and a measure of *faith* in God!

I have long warned, based on the prophecy of Daniel 11:40, that Iran’s actions **WILL CAUSE** the start of World War III—unless our nations repent. **SADLY, WE ARE FAR FROM REPENTANCE!**

Curses

In Leviticus 26, God describes the blessings He will give to the nation that obeys Him and the curses we will suffer when we disobey. America is actually descended from biblical Israel, to whom God made these promises (prove this in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*; we will gladly send you a copy at no cost). So this warning from God applies directly to us: “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments ... I will break the pride of your power; ... And your strength shall be spent in vain ...” (verses 14, 19-20).

Our sins against God have brought these curses on us. Broken pride in our power is a **CURSE** for our sins. Spending our strength in vain is a **CURSE**.

Mr. Armstrong cited the prophecy of Leviticus 26:19 in 1980, when Iranians were holding Americans hostage. “The United States has been held at bay by little Iran—held up to scorn and ridicule before the world,” he wrote. “She [the U.S.] is on the way **DOWN**—and **OUT!**” (*Plain Truth*, June-July 1980).

The reason America has not been able to claim true and lasting military victories is *because of sin!* The real fault lies not with any one leader or political party but with the sinful nation as a whole.

Yet instead of recognizing and confessing the sins that led to those losses, we are withdrawing from the world and indulging in our sins all the more!

This is why world events are escalating toward World War III. Having failed to repent of its sins, America has lost the *will* to confront Iran, the head of the terrorist-sponsoring snake—just as Chamberlain lacked the will to confront Hitler.

Negotiations with an evil regime led to World War II. And negotiating with evil regimes like the one in Iran **WILL** lead to World War III!

This is not my human prediction—it is God’s biblical warning! Anything short of total victory against Iran and its radical ideology will prove a **CURSE** on America, the Middle East and the whole world. It will once again be strength “spent in vain” as God warned. It will set the stage for the fulfillment of Daniel 11:40.

This prophecy reveals that the Iranian regime will not only survive this military onslaught but grow more aggressive—and provoke World War III!

America and Israel’s attack will not end up cutting off the head of the snake. **IT WILL INSTEAD ENRAGE IT AND MAKE IT MORE AGGRESSIVE.**

God has given America a brief window to repent of its sins, including in its foreign policy. But if America does *not* repent, God is going to bring bloody world war to it—**AND WITHOUT DELAY!** America’s halfhearted military actions against Iran will thus accelerate its own downfall.

Iran to Push Against Europe

For years Iran has been terrorizing commercial ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. Iran's retaliatory strikes after the American and Israeli attack quickly caused shipping lanes to shut down. Many Europeans were infuriated, not only by Iran but also by the U.S. and Israel ignoring European interests.

But this war is also an economic burden on the U.S. America has a massive debt problem, and it could soon run out of money to fight expensive wars. A banking crisis in the U.S. would put a sudden end to its military operations abroad.

That is why Europe is watching America's engagement with skepticism and is starting to take matters into its own hands.

In 2024, Europe sent warships into the area on its own mission, called EUNAVFOR Operation ASPIDES. After Iran's recent attacks, the EU quickly set out to reinforce this mission. EU officials are now discussing expanding this mission or another into the strait that could bring them into direct confrontation with Iran.

All these events are leading toward the fulfillment of Daniel 11:40: "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."

This is a MUCH LARGER WAR than we are currently seeing!

Since 1992, I have identified the king of the south as radical Islam, led by Iran. This prophecy reveals that radical Islam will PUSH at the king of the north—a German-led European empire—provoking a war. The Europeans will counterattack and DESTROY IRAN and take their allies captive.

Presently, the German people lack only a strongman to lead them into battle. But Bible prophecy shows they will get their man (Daniel 8:23).

The push will revolve around Jerusalem. It could also involve Iran shutting down trade routes. This clearly shows that the Iranian terrorist network, if not dealt with, will grow stronger and more aggressive. If the U.S. doesn't repent and deal with this problem, Germany will. But it will not be in America's favor.

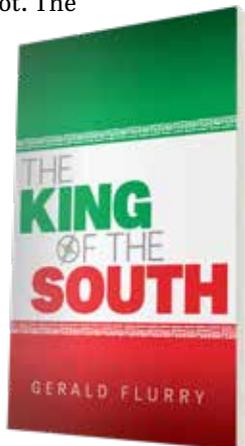
Germany started World War I and World War II, and it is prophesied to turn to the dark side one last time.

In the same week that America attacked Iran, France announced that it would share its nuclear weapons with Germany. I have long warned that Germany's attack on Iran could be nuclear. Once Germany takes out Iran, the whole world will fear a militarized Germany! But then it will be too late.

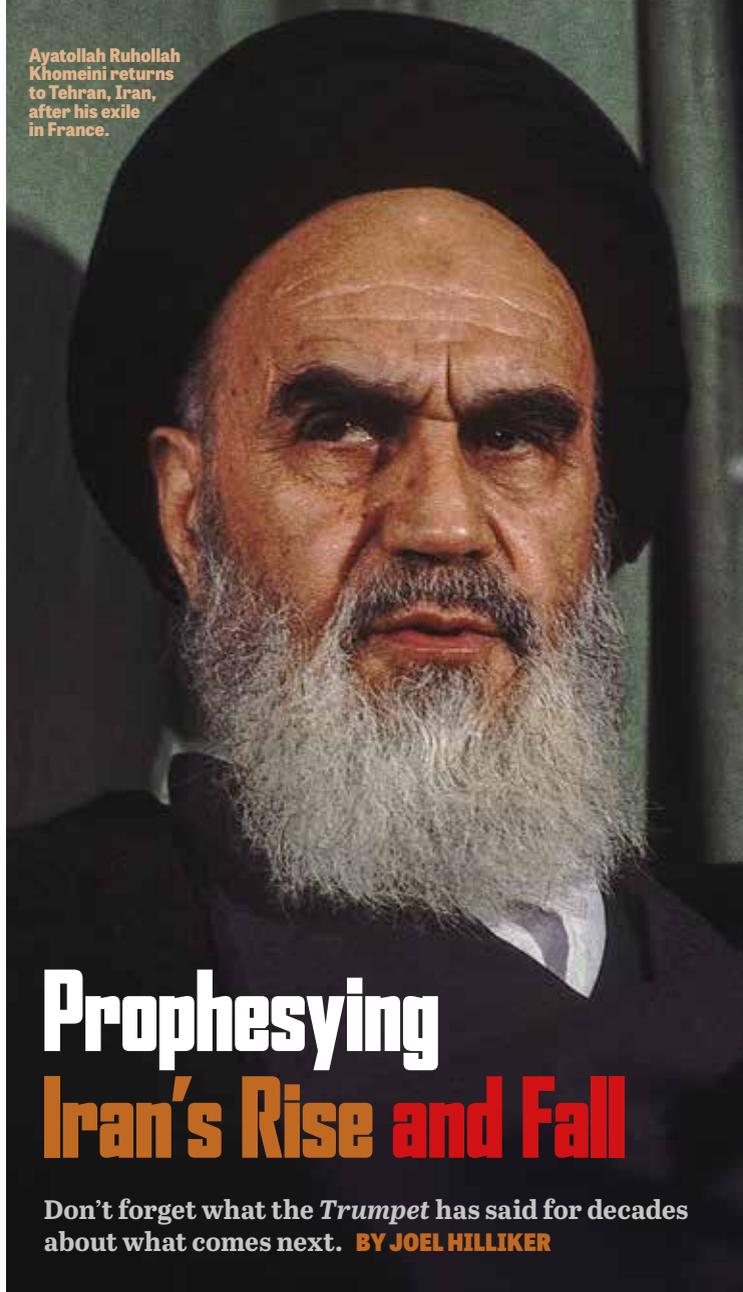
Keep watching this prophetic hotspot. The current Iran war is setting the table for the events that are prophesied to ignite a nuclear world war!

THE BIBLE PROPHECIES WORLD WAR III.

The Middle East will be the flash point, but the foreign power will be Europe. What will happen to America, Britain and Israel? Find out in Gerald Flurry's free booklet **The King of the South**. See back cover to order.



Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns to Tehran, Iran, after his exile in France.



Prophesying Iran's Rise and Fall

Don't forget what the *Trumpet* has said for decades about what comes next. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

WHEN AMERICA AND ISRAEL ATTACKED IRAN, KILLING the ayatollah who had led the country for 37 years, the status of the Iranian regime and the future of the country instantly leaped into top headlines around the world.

But it has been making *Trumpet* headlines since our earliest issues, starting a year after Iran selected its new supreme leader.

1989

Rewind to 1989. The Reagan years had just ended. Rent was \$400 a month, a new Ford Taurus cost \$13,000, gas was \$1 a gallon. People were buying their first microwave ovens, answering machines and camcorders. Someone somewhere was describing a wild idea for something he called the "World Wide Web."

The big news of the year was the Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill, the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, and the atrocities of communism in Tiananmen Square.

And most Americans had heard almost nothing about Iran.

Iran was a rogue nation with a struggling economy and a spent military. The “Islamic Republic” had expended eight of its 10 years of existence in a vain war of attrition with Iraq that killed between half a million and a million people. Many Iranians were still prisoners of war in Iraq, hundreds of thousands were widows and orphans, and portions of cities and crucial oil terminals and tankers were still bombed out.

This was Iran in 1989. There, in June, the revolution’s founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died, and a man named Ali Khamenei became supreme leader.

And in December, in Oklahoma, a man named Gerald Flurry established the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) to proclaim the warning of Bible prophecy. Two months later, he published the first issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*.

These two events would prove to be connected.

Why did Mr. Flurry establish the PCG, with less than \$100 in “funding” and only 11 supporters? Because he was compelled to carry on the work of Herbert W. Armstrong and the *Plain Truth*. For decades Mr. Armstrong had preached the truth of the Bible, including a strong, God-inspired message of Bible prophecy—a warning of coming tribulation and a hope-filled message of God’s soon-coming Kingdom. But after he died in 1986, that message was suppressed. His successors subtly subverted it—then brashly destroyed it.

Mr. Flurry fought back. He gave everything to preserve, proclaim and publish that message, taking a leap of faith to uphold the truth as God had revealed it through the Bible to Mr. Armstrong.

That makes the connection between Mr. Flurry, Bible prophecy and Iran all the more intriguing. Because, unlike almost everything else Mr. Flurry was teaching about the Bible and prophecy—from the Sabbath and the holy days to Israel to weapons of mass destruction to healing to the Holy Spirit to Church government to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—his teaching on the prophesied “king of the south” differed from Mr. Armstrong’s.

God was *continuing* to reveal Bible prophecy, now to someone new.

The history of Mr. Flurry’s “king of the south” prophecy is almost as fascinating as what the prophecy itself foretells.

‘The Rise of the King’

In the *Plain Truth* magazine, *World Tomorrow* broadcast and hundreds of articles and other publications, Mr. Armstrong had taught and proved since the 1930s that Bible prophecy is *alive* and applies to nations, institutions and individuals in our time. God used him to declare powerful and specific prophecies about the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, Europe, Russia and other nations. The book that most directly built the Church under Mr. Armstrong was *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

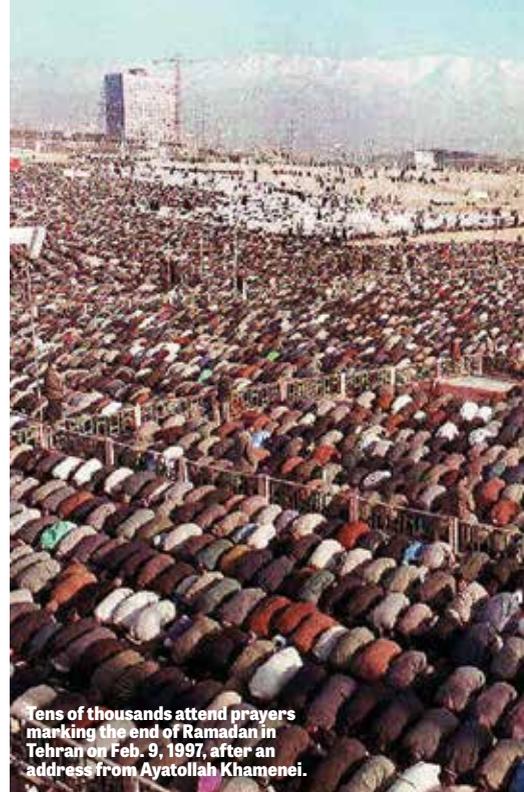
In the black-and-white photocopied fifth issue of a new magazine as rudimentary and small as the early *Plain Truth* had been, Mr. Flurry wrote that Mr. Armstrong had taught from the Bible “an outline of prophecy that has been fulfilled precisely. However, his understanding of the king of the south was incomplete. Partly because he couldn’t see what we see today, [Mr. Armstrong] ERRED about when this king would appear on the world scene” (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, September-October 1990).

This was a bold statement since it differed from what Mr. Armstrong had taught and since, obviously, no human being has any control over the future. Mr. Flurry had written in the June 1990 issue that true Christians were commanded to “hold fast” the truth God had restored through Mr. Armstrong, but that God was *continuing* to give new revelation about prophecy.

“Egypt was the king of the south in past history. But who is this mysterious man and nation today? This king is a key player in the book of Daniel—and *at the very end time*” (ibid).

“Mr. Armstrong thought Daniel 11:40 transpired in World War II and expected the global war prophesied in the Bible to occur during his lifetime,” Mr. Flurry later wrote in his booklet *The King of the South*. “A number of prophecies were fulfilled or began to be fulfilled before he died in 1986, but some did not click into place until after his death, and some still have yet to unfold. The rise of the king of the south is one of these prophecies that was revealed *after Mr. Armstrong died*. ...

“Only God can reveal the meaning of Bible prophecy. He did so through Mr. Armstrong with many prophecies that



Tens of thousands attend prayers marking the end of Ramadan in Tehran on Feb. 9, 1997, after an address from Ayatollah Khamenei.

other churches never taught correctly or at all. But God waited until after Mr. Armstrong was gone to make clear the timing of the king of the south prophecy.”

Mr. Flurry focused in on the detail that “at the time of the end shall the king of the south *push* at him”—that is, the king of the north (which Mr. Armstrong had showed to be German-led Europe). The word *push*, he wrote, is key.

Mr. Flurry wrote in that September-October 1990 article, “King of the South—Is He Now on the World Scene?”, that from the unification of Italy in 1870 “to the present, no king of the south PUSHED at the king of the north! ... No such *push* has caused the king of the north to respond in kind—yet! *But the stage is being set—RIGHT NOW—for this to occur!*”

This new identification of the king of the south was built on the *foundation* of prophecy Mr. Armstrong had taught. Ninety percent of prophecy is for the end time, and Daniel 11:40 specifically says the king of the south would “push” at a specific time: “the time of the end.”

“Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied for decades that we should focus on the Middle East. That is where the world order would begin to unravel—triggering World War III!” (ibid).

Perhaps the signature geopolitical prophecy Mr. Armstrong emphasized was the rise of a unified, Catholic,

The September-October 1990 Trumpet cover story was about the “king of the south.”



“It looks very much like the end-time king of the south will rule the

radical Islamists!” he continued. “Iran is a natural leader for many of them today. Iran also has a goal to lead this group.”

What an extraordinary forecast. Between the early 1990s and now, *anything* could have happened. Forecasting Iran’s future would be like trying to forecast the weather 35 years from now. The new ayatollah could have been compromised, exiled, had a heart attack. Sectarian divisions could have weakened the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basij could’ve been abolished. The economy, currency or financial system could have faltered or collapsed.

Numberless analyses, articles, forecasts and speeches have come and gone since. And many notions about who the king of the south is have been voiced by streetcorner preachers, megachurch pastors and commentators like Glenn Beck.

The three decades that have transpired have witnessed several threats to the regime, widespread protests, uprisings, attempts to throw off economic impoverishment and political repression. Some have brought millions of Iranians into the streets with shouts of “death to the dictator!” The regime could have weakened or fallen.

People *want* this radical regime to fall. They have protested and sacrificed, risked deprivation, torture and murder. The regime has responded by jailing

protesters and killing many, sometimes hundreds, sometimes thousands.

Many such regimes *do fall*. Many have been writing this regime’s epitaph for *decades*. Yet through it all, Mr. Flurry has held firm that radical Islam, led by Iran, is the king of the south.

In 2001, after 9/11, when the U.S. started the “War on Terror,” Mr. Flurry said that somehow Iran would emerge stronger. In 2003, the U.S. toppled Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and U.S. troops parked in Afghanistan and Iraq, flanking Iran. Mr. Flurry said this would pave the way for Iraq to fall—to Iran.

Last summer, when President Trump was bombing Iranian nuclear facilities with stealth bombers and the largest nonnuclear bombs in America’s arsenal, Mr. Flurry said the regime would survive.

Over and again, the regime has survived. Over and again, it has tightened its grip on radical Islam. Over and again, censorship, information blackouts, Internet shutdowns, mass arrests, brutality and murder have succeeded in preserving and increasing the regime’s power rather than eroding it, as has occurred in many other revolutions in many other countries.

For 34 years, the Iranian regime *could* have fallen. But Bible prophecy forecast otherwise, and the *meaning* of Bible prophecy has been accurately explained by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry.

The Bible explains the role Iran plays in end-time events. Despite the drubbing it has taken at the hands of American and Israeli power, don’t expect this to change. Don’t expect it to transform into a Western-friendly democracy. Somehow, Iran will remain a pushy, radical, ideologically driven power. Expect this war to end prematurely. Expect Iran to draw together the loyalties of several other radical states in the region, as well as Shia Islamist groups and cells around the world. Expect it to provoke Europe into a catastrophic war.

And as you see this happening, think on the God who foretold it and the prophetic voice to whom He revealed it in this end time so *you* could know it! God gives these warnings for a purpose: to inspire awe—and *repentance* and *obedience*—in all of us. Ultimately, the whole world will come to know the living God of prophecy!

German-led European empire, the “king of the north” in Daniel 11:40.

One could argue that the identity of “the king of the south” is Mr. Flurry’s signature geopolitical prophecy. He locked into Daniel 11:40 from the earliest issues of the *Trumpet* and has held to it and emphasized it ever since.

‘Radical Islam, Headed by Iran’

In that first article on the king of the south, Mr. Flurry wrote that Iraq, which had just invaded Kuwait in August 1990, could be this prophesied power bloc.

On Jan. 16, 1991, the U.S. went to war against Iraq, leading a 35-nation coalition. The 43-day Persian Gulf War drove Iraq out of Kuwait and destroyed much of Iraq’s army. Though Saddam Hussein’s regime remained in power, leading to later conflicts, the war dealt a major blow to Iran’s primary regional competitor and enabled Iran’s rise.

In the July 1992 *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry zeroed in on a statement in *Islamic Affairs Analyst*: “The main strategic aim of Iran is to dominate the Persian Gulf and environs. An important step in achieving this goal is to gain undisputed leadership of the radical Islamic camp.” He returned to the Bible, to Daniel, to “the king of the south” prophecy and wrote, “[I]t is looking more now like IRAN may produce this king.”



Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor is arrested regarding his links to Jeffrey Epstein on February 19.

The End of British Royalty?

How much longer before Great Britain abolishes its scandalized monarchy? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY IS FACING its worst crisis in generations.

The flurry of scandals surrounding Princess Diana's 1997 death, Prince Harry's 2020 departure, and Meghan Markle's 2021 accusations of racism have not helped the royals' popularity. A majority of British teenagers and young adults already believe the Crown serves no useful purpose. Remaining support for the monarchy is largely driven by fond memories of the late Queen Elizabeth II; her successor, King Charles III, is not nearly so well-loved. And the shameful behavior of her second-born son, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the former Prince Andrew, duke of York, is making matters worse.

Will Britain abolish its monarchy?

Royal Scandal

The public has known for years that Andrew was a close friend of the late Jeffrey Epstein and his partner in crime Ghislaine Maxwell. Epstein confessed to having sex with a 17-year-old girl and was credibly accused of heinous child rapes with apparently *hundreds* of girls as young as 14. He manipulated, coerced, transported and raped girl after girl after girl for *decades*. He was

constantly accompanied by teenage girls in public and in private. His main private jet was nicknamed after a character in an erotic novel who is repeatedly raped by a pedophile. In a world of evil people, Jeffrey Epstein was a monster.

Epstein was finally "caught" and pled guilty to solicitation of prostitution and procuring of a minor in 2008, and received outrageously light and brief punishment.

And Prince Andrew, a representative of the British throne, was his friend the whole time.

In 2011, photos emerged of Andrew and Epstein recently strolling together in Central Park. Allegations of Andrew having sex with minors including "Jane Doe 102" surfaced, and he was forced to step down as UK trade envoy. In 2014, "Jane Doe 102" revealed her name: Virginia Giuffre. The next year, court documents were unsealed and the allegation became global news. In a 2019 television interview, Andrew implausibly claimed that he had gone to New York, and taken the walk with Epstein, and stayed at Epstein's house, specifically to *end the friendship*. In 2021, Giuffre filed a civil suit, and the next year Andrew settled out of court without admitting guilt, and was stripped of his military titles and royal patronages.

The fallout within the royal family continued even beyond these years of shame. Virginia Giuffre's tortured life ended, apparently by her own hand, in

2025. Her autobiography, published posthumously, asserted that Andrew had sex with her in London, New York and on Epstein's "pedophile island" in the U.S. Virgin Islands when he was in his 40s and she was 17.

King Charles III subsequently stripped his brother of all his royal titles, but the scandal continues. Even though her claims, not to mention other allegations that had earned this man the nicknames "Randy Andy" and "party prince" in the British press, had not been conclusively proven in court, the U.S. Department of Justice released files on Epstein that show that he kept in close e-mail contact with Epstein even after he supposedly stopped talking to him in 2010.

Andrew continued to avoid the law until this year, when, on February 19, local police detained him for about 11 hours, questioned him and released him. He remains under investigation for possibly illegally sharing government trade information with Epstein.

Regardless of what happens next, the fact that the King's brother was arrested on suspicion of providing secrets to a child rapist whom he lied about being close to is one of the most disgraceful moments in centuries of royal history.

Public Backlash

No senior British royal has been arrested in nearly 400 years. The last senior royal to be arrested was King Charles I, who was then beheaded in 1649. Public opinion had turned so hard against King Charles I that Britain replaced its monarchy with a republic for 11 years thereafter. For many reasons, not the least of which is the shameful and apparently criminal behavior of the royal family, some would like to see this history repeat itself under King Charles III.

Polling data collected by the British Social Attitudes study last year found that 15 percent of respondents explicitly supported abolishing the monarchy, up from just 3 percent in 1983. Most of the royals' support comes from the elderly. Among Britons ages 16 to 34, 60 percent favored replacing the monarch with an elected head of state. Royal scandals will push this figure higher.

Richard Burgon, a member of Britain's Labour Party, wants to begin with an independent inquiry into what the royal

family knew about Andrew's Epstein links and end with a "serious national debate about abolishing the monarchy." Public trust in the monarchy has tanked.

British commentator Piers Morgan said this scandal could end the royal family. "[T]his is the King's brother, who remains eighth in line to the throne," he told *Fox and Friends*. "So this might just be the tipping point of a gigantic scandal which represents, I would argue, an existential threat to the monarchy itself. It is that serious. ... I have never seen a bigger threat to the future of the monarchy than what is unfurling right now" (February 19).

Lawmakers in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have expressed support for removing Andrew from the line of succession. Yet this would require complex legislative changes in 15 Commonwealth realms, which would open up debate about the role of the monarchy itself.

"Charles is acutely aware that any hint of interference would be enormously damaging," one palace insider told Radar. "From his perspective, the only responsible course of action is to support the authorities and allow the investigation to proceed without obstruction."

Is this really "the only responsible course of action" for the King to take? Presumably, he knows whether his brother is innocent or guilty, so shouldn't he be taking the lead in ensuring justice is served? Thus far, Charles's hands-off approach has made Andrew appear guilty of serious crimes and the royal family too permissive and weak to confront them. As Britain's head of state, King Charles should be taking the lead in condemning Epstein's sins and in investigating to what extent his brother was involved.

"In largely secular, godless Britain, there is a strong element of the sacred in this relationship between the people and the crown," British journalist Melanie Phillips wrote after Queen Elizabeth's death in 2022. "The monarch in Britain is consecrated to a higher King. At the coronation, which will take place next year, Charles will be anointed. The oath that he takes is not to the people but to God. That's why his duty to serve the people is unbreakable. And that's why the monarch is a unifying force and melds the people into a united nation."

Thus far, King Charles has not upheld his oath to God to serve the British people by seeing sex traffickers brought to justice, whether they are in his own family or not. That is one major reason Britain has become so divided on whether or not the Crown serves a useful purpose in Britain today.

Ancient Monarchy

Britain's royal family is the world's oldest continuous hereditary monarchy, with a lineage that spans millennia. The idea that the British may abolish it is shocking.

Turning the United Kingdom into a republic seems even less likely when you know, as some monarchs and other Britons of the past knew, that this royal line actually goes all the way back to King David of Israel. The Bible emphasizes God's history with Israel before and during its time as a monarchy. It records that the kingdom split into the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. It records that each of these kingdoms was destroyed and the sitting king deposed.

Yet it also records a promise from God to David that "thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16). God repeated this promise to the Prophet Jeremiah, who saw the second of those two kingdoms fall to invaders and almost all of the royal line executed.

"For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" (Jeremiah 33:17).

There are only 26 active sovereign dynasties in the world today, and only two of them have histories that stretch back to the time of King Zedekiah: the throne of Great Britain and the throne of Imperial Japan. The Bible further specifies that David's throne would "overturn, overturn, overturn" before the coming of the Messiah (Ezekiel 21:27). Only the throne of Britain has a 3,000-year history with three overturn events.

The first overturn occurred in 569 B.C. when Jeremiah transplanted the throne of David from Jerusalem to Tara Hill in Ireland. The second occurred in A.D. 513, when Fergus the Great moved the throne to Scotland. The third occurred in 1296 when Edward I brought it to England.

The English almost abolished this throne in 1649, when they executed

King Charles I, but God intervened to restore his son, Charles II, to the throne *because He had promised that David would never lack a man to rule over Israel*. A descendant of David, up to and including Jesus Christ at His Second Coming, will always rule the descendants of the patriarch Israel (Jacob).

The incredible history of *how* that throne was preserved is recorded in biblical and secular history and explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. Nothing will make your Bible and history come alive quite like that book!

Queen Victoria knew of her direct line of descent from King David, as did her son King Edward VII. One of Victoria's granddaughters, Countess Alice of Athlone, served as patron-in-chief of the British-Israel World Federation until her death in 1981. But the current generation of British royals never talk about their biblical heritage, if they still believe it, and are not providing their kingdom with any moral leadership.

A New Throne

In his 2018 book *The New Throne of David*, my father, Gerald Flurry, writes that Britain's throne was doomed to disaster and is no longer the throne of David!

The New Throne of David focuses on Ezekiel 21:27, where God prophesied, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more" Many people, including those in the British-Israel World Federation, believe that this means the throne will be no more overturned once it reaches England, but that is not what the Bible says. "It shall be no more" doesn't mean it will "be no more overturned" but rather that the throne would be *erased!*

How is that possible? How can God erase and destroy that throne in Britain, and still keep His promise to David?

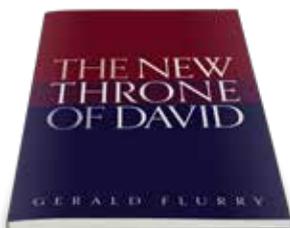
God established a *new* throne of David! When Jesus Christ returns, He will take possession of a throne from the line of David. That throne will not be reigning over Great Britain but rather over God's Church. This is the only way God can establish a new throne in Jerusalem without overturning the throne of Britain a fourth time. To understand this prophecy, you need to request your free copy of *The New Throne of David*.

The scandals in the British royal family have signaled the erasure of that old throne of David. My father has said that the Hosea 3:4 prophecy that “the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king” was not referring to the past but to the coming Great Tribulation that Jesus Christ prophesied of. These days are already being fulfilled since God erased the old throne several years ago.

“When God gave the revelation about the new stone on Jan. 16, 2017, the royal family of Britain was *displaced* as the royal family of David’s throne,” my father wrote. “That was a signal of terrible things to come upon Britain, as well as a sharp decline of America and Judah. It was also an indication that we would see a rapid decline in Britain’s royal family. Look at what began happening to Britain’s royal family almost immediately after this change.”

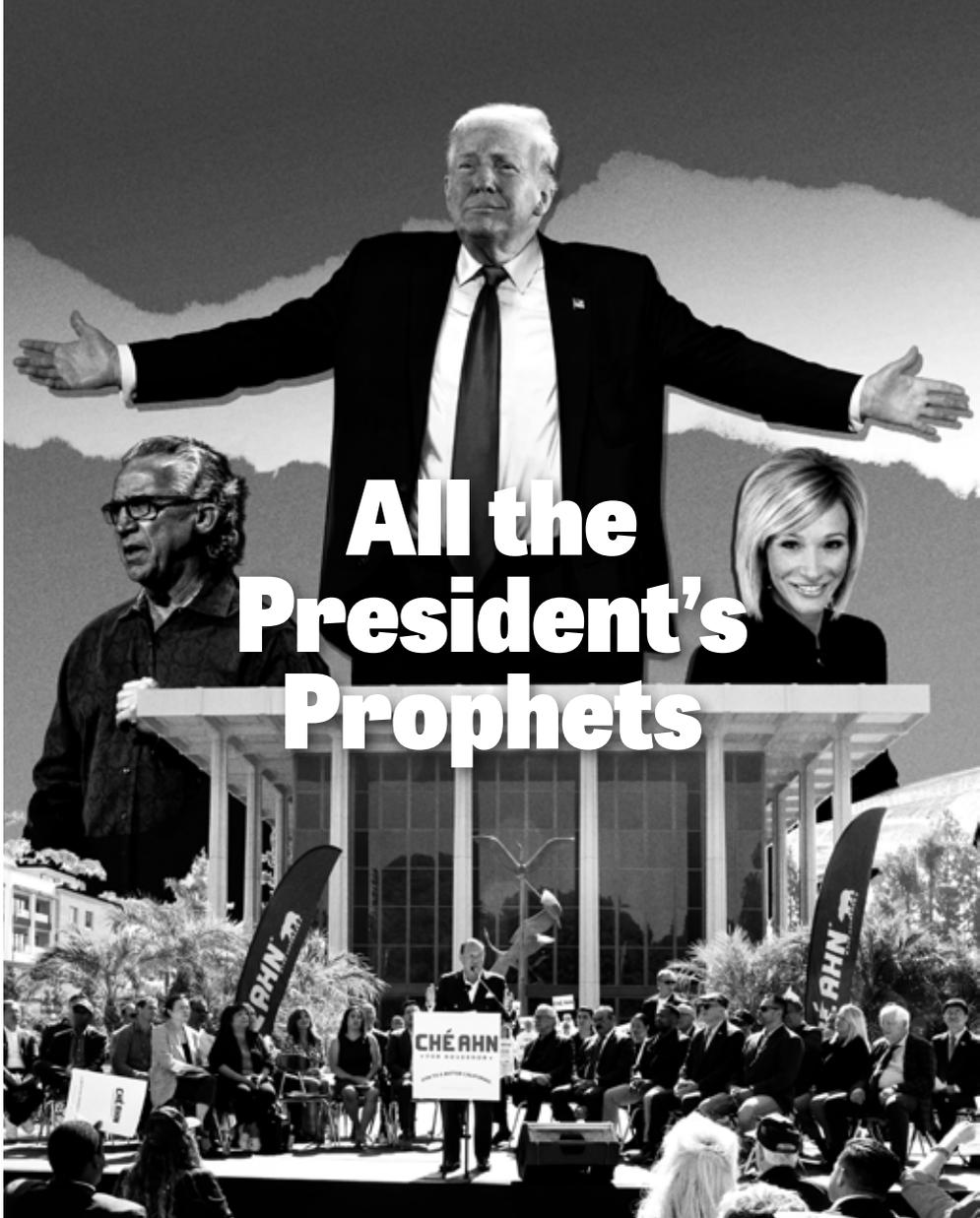
When those words were written, Queen Elizabeth II was still alive, and, besides the Prince Andrew scandal, the monarchy’s worst publicity largely involved Prince Harry and his wife acting like spoiled children and Prince William working with a pop star to normalize mental health problems. Things are far worse today. The King’s brother was arrested for apparently giving classified information to a child rapist, and he apparently committed child rape. We still don’t know what happened and who knew, but an institution that began with King David *and God* has become a source of shame and evil.

The New Throne of David says, “God wants to bury what is happening with that throne in Britain today! He doesn’t want to have anything to do with it again!” God’s focus has already shifted to the new throne. ■



God promised David an eternal throne.

Does it still exist? Where is it?
Find answers in ***The New Throne of David***,
(See back cover to order.)



All the President's Prophets

A look at the religious movement influencing the Trump administration
BY ANDREW MILLER

THEY BELIEVE JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD. They believe the Holy Spirit gives them the power to speak the tongues of angels. They believe God uses apostles and prophets today. They believe America is under attack from demonic forces. They believe God is using Donald Trump to save America. They believe Jesus will not return until the end of a 1,000-year golden age. They believe that Christians have a responsibility to bring about this golden age by establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth. And they know their way around the White House.

Ever since President Donald Trump first took office in 2017, a group of

Pentecostals known as the New Apostolic Reformation has been rising to prominence. Paula White-Cain, President Trump’s longtime spiritual adviser, has introduced him to many key figures in the New Apostolic Reformation and now leads a West Wing-based, cabinet-level White House Faith Office that makes religious policy recommendations.

Under the influence of the New Apostolic Reformation, President Trump is moving to rededicate America to God. At a National Prayer Breakfast on February 5, he invited Americans from across the country to gather on May 17 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to give thanks for 250 years of blessings and

rededicate the U.S. as “one nation under God.” This move has many religious leaders excited about America’s new direction.

“I can say without hesitation that no president in modern history, or perhaps all of history, has done more structurally, substantially and sincerely to elevate and protect religious liberty,” White-Cain said.

Yet not all Christians share White-Cain’s enthusiasm. In fact, many fear that a small, well-organized group of “false prophets” is trying to hijack the Make America Great Again movement by flattering the president.

What is the New Apostolic Reformation? Who is part of it? Who is being influenced by it? Is it teaching from the Bible? Is it right? These are all important questions to answer. The radical left has been destroying America’s Judeo-Christian foundations for decades, so America definitely needs to be rededicated to God.

Yet the Bible also prophesies that a false religious movement will gain political influence in end-time America.

This movement will reject God’s warning message, persecute true Christians and send them into exile. It is crucial that you understand what the Bible says about “the king’s chapel.”

False Gospel

The term “New Apostolic Reformation” was coined in the 1990s by C. Peter Wagner, and it has become one of the fastest-growing movements in evangelical Protestantism. The movement teaches that the Christian Church has entered a new “apostolic age” and therefore should be led by apostles and prophets. Paula White-Cain considers herself one of these prophets and has introduced President Trump to others: Bill Johnson, Ché Ahn, Chuck Pierce, Cindy Jacobs, Dutch Sheets, Greg Locke, Lance Wallnau, Lou Engle and Wayne T. Jackson.

Mr. Trump first saw the *Paula White Today* program in 2002, about a decade before Paula White-Cain publicly identified herself as an apostolic leader associated with the New Apostolic Reformation. After watching her program, Trump invited her to Atlantic City (where he owned three casinos) on multiple occasions for Bible studies and prayer sessions. Her “prosperity gospel” message, which aligns faith and positive thinking with financial success,

resonated with Trump’s own world view and desire for success.

White-Cain’s cash-for-blessing schemes has many worried about her influence over the president. Last year, she promised that if you donate \$1,000 or more to her ministry before Easter, you would receive “supernatural blessings,” including a guardian angel, healing, a long life and prosperity.

This is superstitious nonsense. It has nothing to do with Americans repenting and rededicating their nation to God. Yet cash-for-blessing schemes are not unique to White-Cain’s preaching. They are part of the larger New Apostolic Reformation movement.

Bill Johnson, the leader of Bethel Church in Redding, California, also promotes the prosperity gospel, teaching that God desires to bless believers with wealth to advance His Kingdom on Earth. He does not promote cash-for-blessing schemes like White-Cain, but his teachings about the Kingdom of God are deeply flawed.

New Apostolic Reformation doctrine is correct that God’s Church is led by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11). But Jesus called His followers *out* of this world (John 15:19) and instructed them to wait for His Second Coming (Matthew 24:42-44; Hebrews 9:28). The Bible is clear that the saints will live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years after He returns and they have been resurrected as spirit beings (Revelation 20:6), yet it grants God’s apostles no civil authority until then. The relationship the New Apostolic Reformation is trying to establish with President Trump is similar to the relationship the Catholic Church established with Constantine in A.D. 325—a relationship the Bible condemns as harlotry (Revelation 17:5).

The New Apostolic Reformation ignores most of what the Bible says about being separate from the world, however.

It uses Genesis 1:28 to argue that Christians are called by God to exercise “dominion” over every aspect of society and culture, reclaiming the authority Adam supposedly lost to Satan in Eden.

Some civil rights groups consider the New Apostolic Reformation to be a threat to democracy. America was founded on the idea that the “garden of the church” should be “separated from the wilderness of the world,” yet many of the president’s closest religious advisers want America to be ruled by influential apostles and prophets.

Political Power

New Apostolic Reformation member Lance Wallnau, together with Bill Johnson, authored a 2013 book titled *Invading Babylon: The 7 Mountain Mandate*, which teaches that the seven mountains in Revelation 17:9 represent seven aspects of society controlled by the secular left: business, education, entertainment, family, government, media and religion. The authors call on Christians to

seize control of these mountains in order to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth.

The seven mountains in that prophecy have nothing to do with American society. The Apostle John was prophesying about the Holy Roman Empire, comparing it to seven mountains. Just as valleys separate mountains,

Request *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*

there have been lulls in the power and activity of the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire that distinguish these seven peaks, or resurrections.

After publishing this book, Wallnau rose to prominence in the New Apostolic Reformation due to a “prophecy” he made in 2016 about Mr. Trump being

As much as President Trump may want to believe that faith in God always brings wealth, the Bible makes no such claim. God does promise blessings when we obey Him, but these are not always material. He will supply our needs, including clothing, food and shelter (e.g. Matthew 6:31-32; Philippians 4:19). But Scripture also tells us God gives us trials to build our faith and patience (e.g. James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13). Many great men suffered through financial trials as God worked with them. Read the *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong* to learn how God tested his faith through 28 years of poverty and in countless other ways.



elected president. Wallnau compared Trump to King Cyrus the Great, who allowed the Jews to rebuild the temple. He taught that while Donald Trump was not a devoutly religious man himself, God was using him to give Christians a foothold in the U.S. government.

The New Apostolic Reformation teaches *postmillennialism*, a doctrine that says Jesus will not return until after Christians have established and ruled the Kingdom of God for 1,000 years. Therefore, religious leaders like Paula White-Cain, Bill Johnson and Lance Wallnau are not waiting for Jesus to return; they are trying to make America Christian *now*, largely by lobbying for influence within the Trump administration.

Another prominent figure in the New Apostolic Reformation is Ché Ahn, the founder of Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena, California.

The *Trumpet* has particular interest in Ahn, Harvest Rock and Pasadena. This magazine carries on the Bible prophecy-based warning work God established through Herbert W. Armstrong. Mr.

Armstrong founded the Worldwide Church of God; presented the *World Tomorrow* program; wrote hundreds of articles, books and booklets, including *Mystery of the Ages*; founded Ambassador College, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and other initiatives; and built Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena. After he died in 1986, his successors intentionally destroyed the Church from within, from the top—much like radical liberals have worked to intentionally destroy America from within, from the top. They shut down the TV program, took the magazines and books out of print, closed the college, and sold Ambassador Auditorium.

Ahn bought it, uses it for his church and launched his political campaign for governor of California there. He takes the Seven Mountain mandate further than other Pentecostal leaders by advocating for the direct involvement of apostles and prophets in government to “transform” society and bring about a religious “revival.”

During a rally on Oct. 12, 2024, at the National Mall, Ahn compared Trump

to the biblical King Jehu, who cast down the wicked Queen Jezebel and purged Baal worship from the nation. He compared Kamala Harris to Jezebel and predicted Trump’s victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, issuing a “decree” that “Trump will win ... and Kamala Harris will be cast out.”

On the surface, Ahn’s forecast sounds like a prophecy *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry made in 2016 that Donald Trump would be elected president because he is an end-time type of King Jehu’s great-grandson, King Jeroboam II. Yet the key difference is that Ahn says God is using President Trump to help usher in the Kingdom of God on Earth, while Mr. Flurry teaches that God is using President Trump to temporarily spare America to give people one last chance to repent of their sins before the Great Tribulation and the return of Jesus Christ to personally establish the Kingdom of God. This is a crucial distinction. Only one is biblical, and you can prove which one.

The New Apostolic Reformation is pursuing power over business, education, entertainment, family, government, media and religion to establish a 1,000-year golden age for America under their own might. Mr. Flurry is warning about a nuclear apocalypse if America doesn’t wake up and start relying on God.

King’s Chapel

Ché Ahn’s “prophecy” about King Jehu is noteworthy primarily because the relationship his New Apostolic Reformation is developing with President Trump is similar to the relationship an ancient religious movement called the “king’s chapel” had with King Jehu and his successors, including Jeroboam II.

Because of the role Jehu played in purging Israel of Baal worship, God promised: “Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth generation” (2 Kings 15:12). Yet the fact that Jehu fought against Baal worship does not mean he was a righteous king who worshiped the true God. In fact, 2 Kings 10:29 says, “However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan” (New King James Version). In other words, Jehu replaced the foreign Baal-worshipping cult

Is End Times Theology Influencing the Iran War?

Misreading biblical prophecy can have terrible consequences.

In the 19th century, John Nelson Darby (1800–1882) popularized the belief that Ezekiel 38–39 portray a future war where Persia and Russia align against Israel and God brings judgment against them. Many Christians believe the creation of the State of Israel was a necessary step toward the fulfillment of this specific prophecy. Some even believe that President Donald Trump’s strikes against Iran are the beginning of God’s judgment on Persia.

While Scripture is clear that the 12 tribes of Israel will be regathered to the Promised Land at the Messiah’s return (Isaiah 14:1–3; Jeremiah 23:7–8; Ezekiel 39:25–28), most Christians do not know that the Jews descended from only one tribe of the ancient nation of Israel, the tribe of Judah (mixed with some Benjamites and Levites). This means that the prophesied regathering has not yet occurred; therefore, President Trump’s war against Iran has nothing to do with God’s ultimate judgment on Russia, Persia and their allies.

Herbert W. Armstrong (1892–1986) proved in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the “lost tribes” of Israel dwell today in Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom and its dominions. These lost tribes will return to the Promised Land at Jesus Christ’s return, but first He will have to liberate them from slavery in “the north country” and lead a Second Exodus (Isaiah 49:3, 6; Jeremiah 31:8, 18).

God’s judgment on Russia and Persia will not occur until after this regathering takes place. This is an important distinction. Some Christians believe God is using Donald Trump to humble Iran, when the truth is that God is about to use a revived Holy Roman Empire to enslave the peoples of the United States and British Commonwealth unless they repent. This means that a U.S. victory over Iran is not a preordained conclusion.

established by Jezebel with the counterfeit religion of King Jeroboam I.

Jehu's son Jehoahaz also refused to turn away from the sins of Jeroboam I, as did his grandson Jehoash and his great-grandson Jeroboam II. The main reason these kings "took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel" (verse 31) was because they were listening to false prophets at Bethel and Dan. So in the days of King Jeroboam II, God sent His true prophet to warn Israel about the impending Assyrian invasion, a punishment for sin. Yet the false prophets rejected the Prophet Amos's message and advised Jeroboam to ignore and exile him to Judah.

"Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, 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" (Amos 7:10-13).

Like the prophets in the New Apostolic Reformation, the prophets of Bethel and Dan thought Israel was about to enter a prolonged "golden age." They hated Amos for preaching that "Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land" unless they repented, so they exiled him. Like the people who heard the preaching of Isaiah decades later, these religious leaders wanted to hear only smooth things (Isaiah 30:10).

Amos 7:10-13 is not mere history; it is prophecy for today. Gerald Flurry is delivering an Amos-like message that will bring him into conflict with the modern-day "king's chapel" advising Jeroboam. Specifically, it will bring him into conflict with an evil priest called "Amaziah," a man who infiltrated God's own Church. (Read our booklet *The Lion Has Roared* for more information about this Amaziah figure.) He is not on the political scene yet, but he will soon align himself with the "king's chapel" forming around President Trump.

In the 2023 edition of *America Under Attack*, Mr. Flurry forecast that God

would give President Trump a second term so the American people would be saved from the radical-left takeover and have a chance to repent before Christ returns. 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.'"

It's easy to see why the New Apostolic Reformation would dislike such a message. Yet there is something important about the true nature of the Kingdom of God that this movement needs to learn.

God's Kingdom

America's founders separated church and state because they understood that human nature is evil and that God has not given humans "dominion" over other humans. Genesis 1:28 grants humans dominion over animals.

"What is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature?" James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 51. "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

History is full of examples of human religious leaders trying to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. But in every case, these religious leaders fail to overcome their own human nature and thus become theocratic tyrants.

America's Founding Fathers tried to prevent this by crafting an elaborate system of checks and balances that restrained politicians' human nature by using the human nature of other politicians. But Herbert Armstrong understood that the only lasting solution was the abolition of human nature.

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong explained the Bible's teachings about the Kingdom of God. Chapter 7 explains

that Jesus will return to set up a literal world-ruling Kingdom. The saints who will be given positions of authority in that Kingdom will not be carnal human beings. Rather, they will have become perfect spirit beings, working under Jesus Christ's authority.

"No human will be given any government office," Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. "All in government service will then be divine Spirit beings, in the Kingdom of God—the God Family. All officials will be appointed—and by the divine Christ, who reads and knows men's hearts, their inner character, and abilities or lack of ability. ... There will then be two kinds of beings on Earth—humans, being ruled by those made divine."

This astonishing statement is backed up by Revelation 20:4-6, which describe the saints ruling over the Kingdom of God as spirit beings who live and reign alongside Jesus Christ for a 1,000-year period. Only true religion can successfully unite church and state.

These prophecies show us that Jesus is about to return, whether or not Pentecostals gain control of parts of American society and government. God does not need Donald Trump to give Christian nationalists a foothold in U.S. government. God is using that man to save America temporarily—long enough to give people a chance to repent of the sins that are dooming this nation and the other modern nations of Israel. Unlike the message Trump gets from his religious advisers, God is also calling *him* to repentance. If people take advantage of this opportunity, they can be spared the horrors of World War III. If they refuse it, they will have to be humbled by enslavement before they are ready to accept Jesus Christ's literal rule on Earth.

This is what makes the king's chapel dangerous. By preaching that Trump has been sent to help usher in the Kingdom of God on Earth, they convince people that they do not need to repent of their own wicked human nature and so doom their nation to a time of intense suffering that could be avoided. ■

Does Christ lead *your* church?

Jesus Christ warned against false religion and false Christianity and taught that He leads *only one Church*. Learn what He taught in your free copy of *Can You Prove Which Church Is God's?* at theTrumpet.com/go/church.

CAN YOU
PROVE
WHICH
CHURCH
IS GOD'S?



Why Anti-Semitism Is Anti-Western

Hatred for Israel is turning conservatives against the very civilization they seek to save. BY ANDREW MILLER

THE MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN movement is splintering over its view of Israel.

For decades, radical leftists have portrayed the Jewish state as an evil colonial movement oppressing “indigenous Palestinians,” while conservatives have rejected this neo-Marxist treatment of the Jews and remained allies of Israel. But after Tucker Carlson interviewed Holocaust-denying historian Darryl Cooper in September 2024, a growing number of American conservatives have adopted the view that the United States should not support Israel.

In a subsequent interview with the Nazi apologist Nick Fuentes, Carlson said that any Christian who believes the Jews have a right to their own Promised Land has a “brain virus.” Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon said America needs “regime change in Jerusalem, and we should have it immediately.” Former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene became the first Republican member of Congress to call Israel’s actions in Gaza a “genocide.” Candace Owens claims Israel is an “occult nation” that secretly rules the world.

Statements like these have concerned many. At a conference on anti-Semitism in January, Israeli historian Gadi Taub warned that many conservatives today have begun preaching neo-Nazism under the guise of traditional Christianity. For the past 80 years, the Holocaust made anti-Semitism unacceptable in American Christianity. But people like Carlson and

Owens are now resurrecting medieval Christianity’s ugly tradition of Jew-hatred.

They don’t realize it, but Carlson, Cooper, Fuentes, Owens and others who have turned against the Jews are actually turning against Western civilization itself. They now find themselves making apologies for men as evil as Adolf Hitler, Ali Khamenei and Vladimir Putin, while claiming that courageous men like Benjamin Netanyahu and Winston Churchill are the real villains of the past century.

They seem to have lost their sanity.

The Hebrew Bible is one of the foundations of Judeo-Christian tradition and Western culture in general, so anyone who hates the Jews and rejects this foundation ends up rejecting civilization itself.

‘Intellectual Disease’

Understanding anti-Semitism is a complex task. Let’s start with the origins of the term. In the 1800s, a movement in France claimed that the “Semitic races” (which include Arabs and Jews) were biologically inferior to Indo-European peoples. In 1879, German journalist Wilhelm Marr used *antisemitismus* to denote *Judenhass* (“Jew-hatred”). Marr hated Jews and wanted to frame his *Judenhass* as a racial issue rather than a religious one. He founded the League of Antisemites to promote racist views.

Jew-hatred today is often different from racism. Most racism characterizes the targeted group as primitive or subhuman. Anti-Semitism typically stereotypes the Jews as cunning, manipulative, powerful—and evil. Sometimes it blames this alleged evil on Jewish genetics, but more often it blames it on Jewish culture, religion and traditions.

“But if anti-Semitism is a variety of racism, it is a most peculiar variety, with many unique characteristics,” Paul Johnson wrote in a 2005 article “The Anti-Semitic Disease.” “In my view as a historian, it is so peculiar that it deserves to be placed in a quite different category. I would call it an intellectual disease, a disease of the mind, extremely infectious and massively destructive.”

In other words, while some anti-Semites do view Jews as subhuman, the primary reason so many throughout history have hated Jews is not racial bigotry. In fact, Taub argued at the International Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism that even Hitler’s anti-Semitism was not as racist as many people say. “Nazism as an ideology relied on a very virulent form of social Darwinism,” he said on January 27. “It was not about the survival of the fittest, not even exactly about the survival of the strongest. It was about the survival of the most ruthless. That ideology cannot be reconciled with the religion that preached that all human life is sacred and that we are all created in the image of God. This makes it doubly heartbreaking to see that, on the right, some are now preaching neo-Nazism in the name of Christianity.”

This is a deep insight. Before God revealed the Torah to Moses, the world was a violent tribal battleground where ethnic groups and nations fought among themselves, often in the name of their gods. When one nation conquered another, the conquest was considered proof that the victor’s gods were superior. The idea that there was only one Creator who fashioned every human in His image and viewed every human life as sacred was revolutionary. No nation besides Israel believed it.

Hitler could not reconcile Jewish beliefs about the sanctity of human life with his quest to displace, enslave and exterminate races he considered subhuman, so he sought to exterminate the Jews. Influenced by philosophers like Friedrich Nietzsche, Hitler viewed Judaism as a “slave morality” that valued traits like humility, pity and patience, while condemning traits like strength and pride. He sought to purge Christianity of Jewish influence by rejecting the Old Testament and portraying Jesus as an anti-Jewish Aryan fighter.

Not all anti-Semites share Hitler's goals and methods. But to one degree or another, all anti-Semites reject the biblical belief that all human life is sacred and that we are all created in the image of God.

Marxist anti-Semites demonize the Jews by conflating them with the capitalist class. Islamic anti-Semites demonize the Jews by invoking apocalyptic traditions portraying them as enemies whose elimination is divinely sanctioned. Christian anti-Semites demonize the Jews by teaching that they are guilty of Jesus Christ's death in a way that other human beings are not. All these groups embrace some sort of tribalism above the idea that all human life is sacred because that life comes from the same Creator.

Hebrew Origins

Many people accused of anti-Semitism try to justify their views by claiming that they are only anti-Zionist. This is a way of saying that they don't hate Jews, they just don't believe Jews should be allowed to have their own nation. When you understand the spirit that motivates anti-Semitism, you see that anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are two branches of the same corrupt tree.

The same Bible that tells us that all human beings are created in God's image tells us that all the land from the brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River was given to Abraham's descendants for "an everlasting possession" (Genesis 15:18; 17:8). Any ideology that rejects the Bible as its authority will likely reject both the brotherhood of man and the State of Israel's right to exist.

Taub commented on this point in a February 4 interview with *Trumpet Daily* host Stephen Flurry. ("Those who are anti-Semite end up being anti-Western because Judaism and the Bible are the foundation of the Judeo-Christian tradition and Western culture in general," he said. "... I'm not surprised that people like Tucker Carlson end up supporting Iran or end up not knowing who the good side in World War II is. 'Was it Churchill or was it Hitler?' Because once

you remove the pillar, then the house, your ideological house, will crumble.")

We should all take this statement as a warning. Carlson used to be one of the most widely respected conservative commentators in America. But once he started saying that the Bible does not give the Jews a right to the Promised Land, his commentary took a dark turn. Now he is joining ranks with those who praise Hitler and Stalin, and he is defending evil men like Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin and the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. His ideological house has indeed crumbled.

In *The Builder's Stone: How Jews and Christians Built the West—and Why Only They Can Save It*, author Melanie Phillips asserts that "Judaism is the West's civilizational soul. ... Judaism provided the origin of the principles that created the West's signature coalition between individualism and community, or freedom under the rule of law, that bound people into a cohesive nation," she

of Israel for trying to reintroduce them to the Middle East. American Christians have traditionally supported Israel due to their shared cultural heritage. Only recently has the "woke right" distanced itself from these biblical precepts by purging Jewish influence from their version of Christianity. That is why they usually invoke the name of Jesus yet claim that God's law has been abolished. (See "What's Wrong With American Christianity?" at theTrumpet.com/30893.)

Ultimately, anti-Semitism is not about racial bigotry against Abraham's descendants. It is about hatred for the biblical precepts upon which Western civilization was built. In *The Key of David*, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes, "We know the Jews, like all humans, have helped create some of their own problems. But we must see that there is something deeper behind anti-Semitism. Satan the devil has a great hatred for God, and he understands the plan of God. Because of that plan, the word *Jew* can really stir up

Ultimately, anti-Semitism is not about racial bigotry against Abraham's descendants. It is about hatred for the biblical precepts upon which Western civilization was built.

writes. "The Hebrew Bible introduced to the world the idea that human beings had moral responsibility. The Mosaic laws were a set of rules and precepts designed to create a community of putting duty towards others before an individual's own interests and to foster humility and gratitude rather than arrogance and acquisitiveness. ... In the absence of such laws, there would have been moral anarchy, and endless struggle for power between individuals and groups in which the weak would be victimized by the strong in what Thomas Hobbes, in the 18th century, was to call a war of all against all."

Radical leftists hate these Jewish precepts and adamantly oppose the State

Satan's wrath. The Jews are a *type* of what all men are to become spiritually. God's association with the Jews has turned Satan even more violently against them! Hatred for the Jews has been inspired by Satan. He knows he was never offered what God has offered mankind. He wants nothing more than to destroy God's plan."

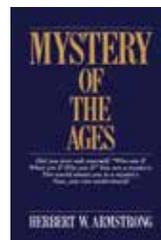
While many Americans don't want to admit it, the Jews and the nation of Israel play an important role in God's ultimate plan for mankind.

This truth is so important that the late Herbert W. Armstrong listed the "Mystery of Israel" as one of the seven great mysteries of human existence. Reading his book *Mystery of the Ages* is vital to understand both how God is using

Israel and why the devil hates it so passionately. This isn't just about an arcane ideological dispute among conservatives. This is about civilization and anarchy, law and lawlessness, God and the devil. ■

The mystery of Israel—revealed!

"Judeo-Christian values" are only a fraction of what connects the American, British and Jewish people. To learn why the Bible focuses only on the people of Israel and how that connects to you, read "Mystery of Israel" in your free copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.





French President Macron speaks in front of one of the Navy's nuclear ballistic missile submarines at the Île Longue Strategic Submarine Base on March 2.

France's Nuclear Embrace of Germany

Macron: 'Those who want to be free must be feared. Those who want to be feared must be strong.'

BY JOSUÉ MICHELS

“IN THESE TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY, and I say this before the nation with determination, as president of the republic, I will never hesitate to make decisions that are essential to protect our vital interests. If we had to use our arsenal, no state, however powerful, could shield itself from it; and no state, however vast, could recover.”

Thus spoke French President Emmanuel Macron on March 2 at Île Longue Strategic Submarine Base, standing in front of one of the French Navy's four massive nuclear ballistic missile submarines.

“Just one of our submarines, like the one behind me, carries firepower equivalent to the sum of all bombs that fell on Europe during the Second World War,” he said. “That’s close to a thousand times the power of the first nuclear bombs.”

Macron’s words resonated against the backdrop of Russia’s large-scale war on the Continent and the war with Iran.

Conflicts are at an increased risk to “cross the nuclear threshold,” Macron said, adding that nations should fear suffering “damage that they could not recover from.”

This has been the reality for some time. France is estimated to have roughly 300 nuclear warheads, most of which are for submarine launch and about 50 of which can be delivered by its land- and aircraft carrier-based warplanes. However, in his speech, Macron

announced plans to expand France’s nuclear arsenal for the first time since the Cold War and to share its nuclear weapons with other European nations.

France is currently in talks to extend its nuclear deterrent to Germany, Poland, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

This year, Germany will contribute conventional forces to French nuclear exercises and establish a high-level steering group for nuclear weapons cooperation.

Details are deliberately vague, and France will no longer publish the size of its nuclear arsenal in the future.

France is not part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s nuclear planning group, and this new nuclear push and proliferation is completely independent of the United States.

Handelsblatt wrote on February 2, “In the future, Germany could participate in French nuclear maneuvers and provide fighter jets or even submarines equipped with French nuclear missiles.” Later that month, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the German Air Force could potentially carry French nuclear bombs, which Macron has so far ruled out.

France needs German conventional military strength to remain militarily competitive. Yet many in France also fear Germany. As Luigi Barzini wrote in *The Europeans*, France seeks to hold Germany in an embrace “as close as a stranglehold.”

Macron has tried to calm nerves by asserting that France’s president will remain in full control of its nuclear weapons. But Germany’s military budget is set to soon double that of France, so France’s “stranglehold” on Germany may soon break.

“France under Macron is *wholeheartedly* supporting a European military with nuclear weapons. But little does France know to what end Germany plans to use this power!” Gerald Flurry warned (“**France’s Deadly Ignorance About Germany**,” *theTrumpet.com/29303*).

Revelation 17 prophesies that 10 European governments will submit their power to Germany. “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (verse 13). This could include France’s nuclear weapons.

“There will come a point when Germany goes into full attack mode against America and Britain,” wrote Mr. Flurry. “Many prophecies reveal this. At that point, France will think, *What have we gotten ourselves into?* But then it will be too late!” (ibid).

Macron’s trust in Germany is a shocking reversal from history. After Macron concluded his speech, the audience sang the French national anthem. Its bloody words resonated off the concrete walls and the nuclear submarine that has the power to kill millions:

*Let’s go children of the fatherland,
Our day of glory has arrived!
Against us tyranny’s bloody flag is raised!
The bloody flag is raised!
In the countryside, do you hear
The roaring of these fierce soldiers?
They come right into our arms
To slit the throats of our sons, our friends!*

Composed in 1792 when France faced the invading forces of Austria and Prussia, “La Marseillaise” came to have added meaning during the fight against the Nazis in World War II. Yet today, France joins hands with Germany, binding their lives and blood together. ■

For centuries, France has helped restrain Germany. Yet Bible prophecy shows it will soon empower Germany to oppose America and Britain! To understand, request your free copy of Gerald Flurry’s booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*. See back cover to order.

This Is Repentance Toward God

The Bible tells us what ‘repentance’ actually is. Will we accept it?

THE HOLY BIBLE HAS A lot to say about repentance, but most Christians ignore it, and almost none understand it!

At the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: *repent ye*, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). At the very beginning of the Christian Church, the Apostle Peter preached a sermon, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

When those who heard him were convicted by his message and asked him what to do, he said, “*Repent*, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy [Spirit]” (Acts 2:38; see also Acts 3:19; 5:31).

Repentance is at the heart of the plan of God!

For a true Christian, true repentance is a daily part of living. It is sobering, convicting, moving, motivating and inspiring. It comes from God, and it revolutionizes your life!

God and the Word have lived for eternity in perfection and love. This way of life they have conveyed to man through the law of God in the Word of God, the Holy Bible. But man has chosen to determine “the knowledge of good and evil” for himself—living the way of sin.

God’s law is “holy, and just, and good.” Sin is the transgression of God’s law; all of us have sinned, and the wages of sin is death! (Romans 7:12; 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23; 6:23).

Repentance means turning away from sin, from our own definition of good and evil, from our own way of life, and turning to God’s law, God’s definition of good and evil, God’s way of life—the way of love.

It’s something you must do every day, with God’s active help. The goodness of God leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Did Jesus come to do away with the holy, just and good law that shows us God’s very way of life? He refuted this idea, saying, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17).

These are not the teachings of Christian churches today, but they *are* the teachings of Jesus Christ!

Only the Holy Bible defines sin and repentance of sin! And

we *need* that definition to live a life of repentance and obedience, every day. The Holy Bible is the Word of God: It is Jesus Christ, the Word, in print.

But if God’s law is holy, just and good, does that mean that Christians are justified and saved from eternal death by keeping the law? Some few—very few—Christians have thought that they can be saved by their good deeds. But as Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The Plain Truth About Healing*, “The

purpose of the law is not to forgive, to justify, to wash away, to cleanse. Only the blood of Christ can do that! The purpose of the law is to tell us what sin is”

Here is the biblical principle of repentance: God’s law is holy, just and good because it is His way of life—the way of love. He reveals it to us so it can serve as a mirror that reflects to us the dirt on our faces, the sin, so we can stop sinning (James 1:23-25). Yes, there is something we must do: We must

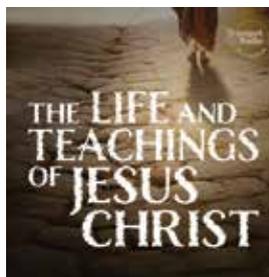
strive to obey God’s holy, just and good law! Does that forgive, justify, wash away, cleanse us from our sins? No! Only the blood of Christ can do that!

This is the principle of real Christian living. You must read and believe God’s law in His Word. You must be pricked in the heart, as those who heard Peter were, and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. But this is not merely remorse that you experience once in your life before you “give your heart to Jesus” to be instantly “saved” without further need of repentance, faith and obedience. This is a deep, difficult *change of life!* It is coupled with striving with all your might—with the added power of God’s Holy Spirit—to repent of and conquer sin, to *do* the Word, and to bring forth “fruits meet for repentance” (James 1:22; Matthew 3:8).

This is true Christian conversion. It is an ongoing process between you and God in which you repent of your sins and are forgiven through Christ’s blood, and by God’s power, you sin less and less and obey what is truly holy, just and good more and more. This is real faith and real obedience. This is what you need in your life. This is what it means to repent! ■



For a true Christian, true repentance is a daily part of living. It is sobering, convicting, moving, motivating and inspiring.



This Principles of Living is adapted from *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ* at TheTrumpet.com/life-and-teachings. For more on this crucial subject, request your free copies of *Repentance Toward God* and *How to Be an Overcomer*, by Gerald Flurry. See back cover for viewing options and order information.

EUROPE

One of “the most consequential trade agreements of the first half of this century” is going into effect, European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** announced February 27. Despite large-scale protests by farmers; despite opposition from the European Union’s second-largest economy, **France**; despite members of European Parliament demanding judicial review; and despite the fact that courts have not yet judged it to be legal, the **European Union’s massive trade deal with MERCOSUR** will be provisionally implemented before summer.

MERCOSUR is the Latin American trade bloc that consists of **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay**, encompassing almost 300 million people with a combined gross domestic product exceeding \$2 trillion. After 25 years of negotiation, the agreement was finally signed on January 17, largely in response to combative and erratic trade policies by the United States. A slim majority in the European Parliament declined to ratify the agreement and attempted to delay its implementation by sending it to the European Court of Justice. But **Germany** found a way to push it through regardless. For more on its importance, see “**Germany Unites the World Against America.**”*



German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** delivered the opening speech of

the Munich Security Conference on February 13, taking the opportunity to reinterpret the lessons of the past. His speech had one clear theme: Germany has learned the lessons from World

War II, while the United States under Donald Trump is asserting that “might makes right” and is threatening to become a new Nazi regime. According to Merz, the guarantor of the global order should be Germany, which must form new alliances with the autocrats and build a European military power, with nuclear weapons, that is ready to defend itself without the U.S.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** praised his **European hosts** in a speech that contrasted from Vice President **JD Vance’s** speech at the same event last year. Rubio emphasized the deep historical, cultural and strategic ties the U.S. shares with Europe, calling America a “child of Europe” and urging a revitalized friendship. The speech received a standing ovation.

Speeches throughout the conference emphasized **Europe’s need to build defense capabilities and strategic independence from NATO**. Conference head **Wolfgang Ischinger** stressed the need to “ramp up defense production and to create a more cohesive and globally competitive European defense market.” **Kaja Kallas**, the EU’s top diplomat, titled her address “Europeans Assemble! Reclaiming Agency in a Rougher World.” She said Europe needs to create new alliances and trade deals and boost its military: “We are getting there, dusting off our capes, pulling on our boots, revving up our engines.” We are witnessing a monumental shift in the postwar world order. The Bible prophesies that the current trans-Atlantic relationship will shatter, and the consequences will be grave.

Germany can no longer protect citizens from its own spy agency, the federal commissioner for data protection and freedom of information stated on March 5.

Her comment came after a court rejected her request to inspect the espionage activities of Germany’s foreign intelligence agency, the BND. In January, a **draft law was leaked that would enable the BND to monitor all Internet traffic going through Germany**, effectively allowing it to spy on German citizens and their contacts. The law would also give the BND the legal authority to hack foreign networks. The creator of Germany’s postwar spy network and founding president of the BND was Gen. **Reinhard Gehlen**, who was, like many other German agency leaders, a former Nazi. Many early BND agents had been part of the Gestapo. Now that the BND is officially authorized to spy on its citizens, what will it do to German society, not to mention foreign allies and adversaries?

THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/EUROPE



MIDDLE EAST

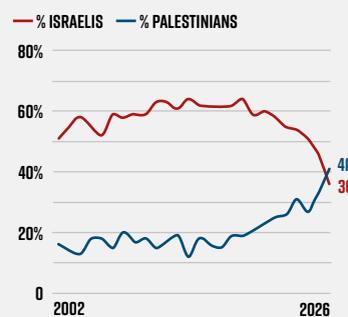
In February and March, **Ethiopia amassed troops near its internal border with the Tigray region**. Many suspect the Ethiopian government is

planning an imminent offensive to extinguish the Tigray People’s Liberation Front, an ethnic Tigray militia. This could lead to the fulfillment of a Bible prophecy about Ethiopia—and **Iran**.

The Front governed Ethiopia until 2018 and resents the current Ethiopian government for excluding it from the current government. A devastating civil war between 2020 and 2022 killed an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people, the deadliest conflict so far this century. The root causes of the conflict remain unresolved.

WITH WHOM DO AMERICAN SYMPATHIES LIE?

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?





indicates a massive shift is coming to Ethiopian politics. Renewed unrest with the Tigray, not to mention the war with Iran and its many imminent side effects, could lead to this shift.

Spain terminated the position of ambassador to Israel on March 11 until further notice, six months after recalling its ambassador as a condemnation of the Israeli government and leaving the Spanish Embassy in Israel to a chargé d'affaires. In 2024, Spanish Prime Minister **Pedro Sánchez** explained diplomatic actions against Israel by saying that his country “doesn’t have nuclear bombs, nor aircraft carriers or large oil reserves. We alone can’t stop the Israeli offensive,” implying that, if it could, Spain would use such measures to prevent Israel from attacking Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

Catholic Spain infamously converted, expelled or killed virtually all Spanish Jews, and Judaism was illegal in the country until 1968. The boldness of this nation against Israel is part of a surge in Jew-hatred rising worldwide and reveals the falseness of those who say they don’t hate Jews, only the Israeli government, as they hold the Jewish nation to a standard like no other in the world. ■

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ASIA

The Uyghur people of northwestern China continue to be “systematically strangled” by the Chinese government, even as the world’s attention has shifted away, Uyghur diplomat Salih Hudayar told the *Trumpet* in an interview published February 17. The Uyghurs are a predominantly Muslim people who seek independence for their homeland

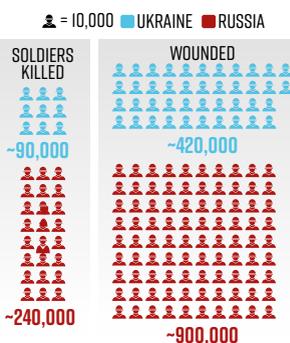
in northwestern China. But the Chinese Communist Party uses brutality to keep the region in its grip and force the Uyghurs into submission. Millions of Uyghurs have been held in detention centers where they suffer indoctrination, beatings, sterilizations, starvation, forced labor, sexual violence, torture and death.

In January 2021, the U.S. State Department formally designated China’s actions against the Uyghurs as “genocide,” and media and human rights groups sounded the alarm about their plight. But five years later, the world’s attention has all but disappeared, with only 0.03 percent of English-language news coverage about the Uyghurs, six times less than in the months following the genocide designation. Huyadar said this is because governments have “chosen to deprioritize this issue in light of their geopolitical and economic interests,” because “other global crises have crowded the international agenda” and because China has “mounted an intensive propaganda and disinformation campaign designed to confuse audiences.”

As a result, the world is no longer opposing or even watching China’s atrocities in Xinjiang. But that doesn’t mean the violence has ended. To learn how the Uyghurs’ suffering foreshadows what is coming for the whole world, read *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry’s “**The Climax of Man’s Rule Over Man.**”

Russia’s war on Ukraine entered its fifth year on February 24, passing a grim milestone for Europe’s largest and deadliest war since World War II. Russian President **Vladimir Putin** believed this “special military operation” would be swift and decisive, a lightning strike that would seize Kyiv, collapse the Ukrainian command structure,

Over 1.6 million casualties in the Russia-Ukraine War



topple its leadership, and force a political settlement before the world could react, requiring little more warfare than his quick seizure of **Crimea** from Ukraine eight years before. But four years later, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** is still in Kyiv, Ukrainian forces continue to relentlessly contest every kilometer of the battlefield, and the will of the people has hardened like iron. What began as a lightning assault has slowed into a brutal war of endurance. Many in the West insist that Russia cannot sustain the strain much longer and that Putin himself may even be swept aside. But based on biblical prophecy, Mr. Flurry has a different forecast: Putin is only getting started.

Pakistan began attacking Afghanistan in late February in what it called “open war” against the Taliban. Pakistan alleged that the Afghan Taliban had been sponsoring the Pakistani Taliban in terrorist attacks against Pakistan’s military. Pakistan responded with cross-border and aerial attacks against Kabul, Bagram Airbase and other important targets. The fact that this major conflict is being crowded out of the headlines by other conflicts confirms Jesus Christ’s prophecy in Matthew 24:6-7 about the proliferation of “wars and rumours of wars.” ■

[THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ASIA](https://thetrumpet.com/more/asia)

ANGLO-AMERICA

On February 20 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down emergency tariffs President **Donald Trump** had instituted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, opening the door to billions in refunds for affected businesses and consumers and invalidating the president's preferred way of pressuring foreign nations. The president responded by enacting new tariffs under another law, the Trade Act, which have legal force for 150 days and can be extended by Congress.

The tariffs are intended to reduce America's trade deficit and revive U.S. manufacturing, yet they are also alienating allies. On February 17, **Canada** confirmed that it is attempting to connect the European Union to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. This 2018 trade agreement includes **Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Vietnam** and has been correctly described as an anti-Trump, anti-U.S. trade bloc. Using Canada to connect it to

the massive European economy would create a trade zone of 1.5 billion people who produce a third of the globe's gross domestic product.

Prophecies in Deuteronomy 28, Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27 indicate Europe will establish economic alliances with Asian and Latin American nations to economically besiege North America.

President Trump may be unwittingly helping Communist **Cuba** join this European trade bloc by aggressively pushing for regime change there. On March 3, Cuban President **Miguel Diaz-Canel** called for an "urgent" transformation of his country's Communist economic model after the Trump administration said it would continue to block Venezuelan oil sales to the Cuban government, but would allow

sales to Cuban private businesses. Trump's heavy economic pressure may indeed succeed in bringing a new generation of business-minded Roman Catholics to power in Cuba, yet as Gerald Flurry has warned, they will likely align with a revived European empire against the U.S.

Severe violence broke out in **Mexico** after U.S. agencies and military provided the Mexican military with the intelligence it needed to kill **Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes**, leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. After Oseguera Cervantes's death on February 24, members of his cartel launched attacks in many towns spread across the 20 Mexican states where the cartel is active, blocking roads with spikes and nails, setting vehicles ablaze, and targeting banks, businesses and pharmacies to hurt Mexican society.

Drug cartels control up to 40 percent of Mexican territory, employ around 185,000 active members, engage in advanced and extensive criminal activity, and use savage mafia-style threats and violence. This means the only way to peaceably take down the drug cartels is for American citizens to stop demanding and spending billions on illicit drugs.

THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ANGLO-AMERICA



I just finished reading through the magazine this morning. I tell you, if that doesn't give you something to think about, I don't know what will.

Audrey Savig MINNESOTA

This March issue sure shook my day up. I'm not sure if I really want my eyes open to this; it's sort of scary.

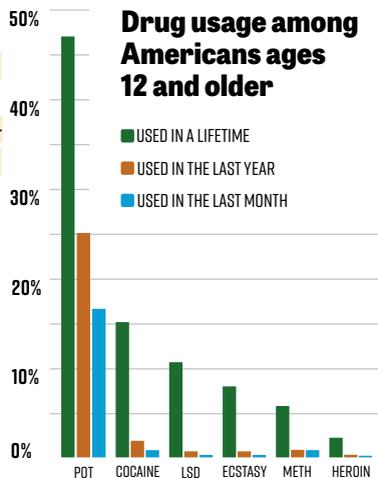
Sandra Bogen SOUTH CAROLINA

I am 91 years old, and have 17 grandkids. I'm getting really involved in scripture, and I'm trying to give them things to grow with.

Dona Johnson TENNESSEE

Today marks the 174th Sabbath I have observed since I was inspired by God through an article in a waiting room copy of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*.

Anni Dean MASSACHUSETTS



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It's Poison, but It's Necessary? What?

The lesson staring us in the face from our screens, our leaders, our wallets, our medicine cabinets, our soils and even our dinner plates

WORLD CONFLICT IS STILL FILLING THE HEADLINES, BUT for a moment let's look at a very different story—about toxins in our food—that teaches a big lesson. And it's not as unrelated as it might seem.

In February, United States President Donald Trump signed an executive order for “promoting the national defense.” What did this order specify? More troops to the Middle East? Security measures at home? A day of prayer? No, it established that “ensuring an adequate supply of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides is ... crucial to the national security and defense” of the nation.

Glyphosate-based herbicides like Roundup have been sprayed on American farmland for more than 50 years now, as well as city parks, playgrounds and backyards, killing a broad spectrum of weeds at comparatively low cost. Large-scale farms—which is to say, almost all farms—depend heavily on it to target enzymes and kill plants growing among the crops, while the crops themselves, which are usually genetically modified to withstand the poison, continue to grow.

But glyphosate and the chemicals it is mixed with, such as polyethoxylated tallow amine, soak into the crops, into the food. It doesn't immediately kill us like it kills weeds, but it damages our metabolism, digestive system, endocrine system, hormones, reproductive system and more.

Protecting and promoting glyphosate with nothing less than a presidential executive order has upset a lot of people. The answer: *Yes, using it will hurt us, but not using it will hurt us.*

Robert Kennedy Jr. has warned about herbicides and pesticides for years and has called glyphosate a contributor to chronic diseases. But now, as Health and Human Services secretary, he publicly defended Trump's order. In a post on X, he acknowledged that such chemicals are “toxic by design” but said the U.S. food system heavily depends on them. He warned that an abrupt ban would destabilize American agriculture and food production, so he called for a more gradual shift. Later he admitted that he was “not particularly happy” with Trump's decision, but sudden elimination of the toxin is impractical.

Yes, this toxin is killing us, but if we don't use it, we'll die.

Quite the paradox! But it's hardly a unique example. In fact, it's an apt metaphor for much of the way civilization operates, foreign wars not excluded.

As oil prices have soared, fertilizer has become more expensive, highlighting another aspect of this same pick-your-poison paradox. Nitrogen-fixing fertilizer is turning our soil into sand, depleting our nutrition, polluting our environment,

and constantly deepening our dependency on importing, distributing and applying even more of it at mass scale. It's unsustainable. But we have to keep doing it, or people will starve.

Such examples are everywhere. Think of the craze for developing ever more artificial intelligence technologies. Yes, it encourages intellectual laziness, amplifies misinformation, incites delusional behavior, and aides scammers, pornographers and terrorists. Yes, it may one day decide humanity is an obstacle and just wipe us out. But if we don't develop it at breakneck speed, our enemies will, and we'll fall behind and be conquered.

Think of the way we use legal drugs, ignoring the long list of shockingly severe side effects because constant ingestion of pharmaceuticals is supposedly better than the alternative. Think of efforts to legalize illegal drugs, despite their deadliness, to circumvent the troubles created by their being criminalized.

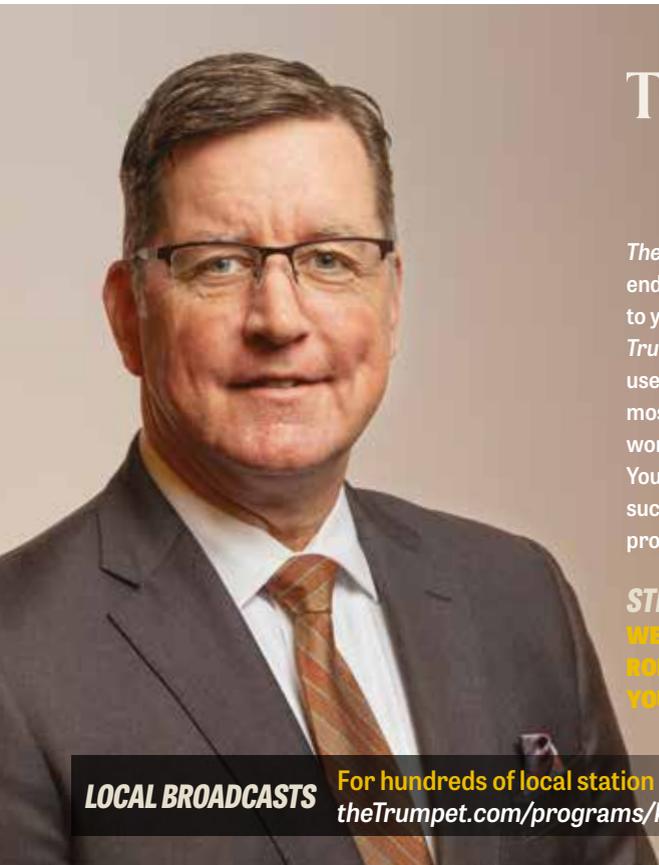
Think of the political compromises: empowering the corrupt because they're less risky than the inexperienced and untried; allowing secret crimes to remain secret because exposing the truth would shatter our illusions and damage our power structures. Think of our economic policy: funding bloated budgets, going ever deeper into deadly debt, because otherwise the government collapses. Think of our weaponry: We must proliferate weapons of mass destruction because if we don't, our enemies will kill us.

Life in this world is a series of compromises. We are resigned to continually choosing what seems the lesser of two evils. We address problems by resorting to solutions that produce different problems. We put off unplugging from toxic influences because the withdrawal symptoms are too severe. We accommodate evil because the alternative is simply too extreme.

Why this insane paradox? Because this is Satan's world, and human nature is terminally infected by Satan's nature (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9).

We hate it, but we love it. Like Lot's wife, even as we flee it, we look back with longing.

No wonder God says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” ■



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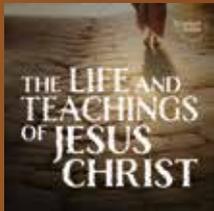
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