

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

AUGUST 2026



ALL IN

on the AI gamble

Can Germany escape the bust?

Does AI make you stupid?



America's Steve Witkoff and JD Vance meet with Pakistani mediators at a peace summit between the U.S., Iran, Pakistan and Qatar in June.

From the Editor **The Deadly Delusion of the Iran Talks** 1

Is Iran Becoming the
World's Oil Gatekeeper? 2

Israeli Leaders Hate the Iran Deal 3

Is Qatar Influencing
Trump's Iran Policy? 32

Infographic **Follow the Money** 4

Prophecy Proves God

 6

The Genius in Geography

 9

theTrumpet.com

News and analysis updated daily
theTrumpet.com

Cover Story **The AI Gamble** 12

Can Germany Escape the Bust?

 14

Does AI Make You Stupid?

 17

Bread, Circuses and Violent Delights

 20

Why Britain Can't Find a Leader

 24

Trumpet Brief

Regular news updates and alerts from our website to your inbox
theTrumpet.com/go/brief

A Nation Living in Terror

 26

Russia and China—an Alliance Forged in Fire

 28

The Real Agenda in Canada's Pivot to Europe

 30

Canada's New Governor General 31

Principles of Living What Do You Mean 'Repentance'?

 33

WorldWatch Luftwaffe ready to fight, Israel gaining ground, Japan rewriting Nanjing, U.S. indicts Mexican officials and more

 34

Commentary An Open Letter to Germany

 37



The Deadly Delusion of the Iran Talks

President Trump thinks he's bringing peace to the world. He may bring the opposite.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SEEMS COMMITTED TO negotiating a deal with Iran. At the start of the year, he wanted to negotiate a settlement. Iran wouldn't oblige, so he attacked. But it seems this was just a plan to convince Iran to make a deal. Then on June 14, Trump entered a memorandum of understanding with Iran. If this deal holds, it essentially hands Iran victory in this war.

DO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS OFFICIALS REALIZE WHAT 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 about a nuclear cataclysm so their messiah can return! No matter what happens, these religious zealots believe they are the winners.

Making a nuclear deal with Iran is what President Barack Obama did in 2016. He lifted economic sanctions on Iran, flooding it with wealth. Iran turned around and sent that money to its terrorist proxies to attack Israel! It promised to stop enriching uranium beyond civilian levels—but it lied. It kept its enrichment system intact and kept importing uranium.

Iran has a track record of lying over and over again in similar agreements.

President Trump understood this, which is why, in his first term, he withdrew from Obama's 2016 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Yet now, somehow, he thinks he can get a better deal—even though Iran's negotiating positions have not changed.

IRAN CANNOT BE TRUSTED. It has broken its agreements with the United Nations over nuclear inspections countless times. The inspections never achieved anything. Iran keeps deceiving the West, buying time to continue its nuclear program—and the UN and the rest of the world play along.

Can anything good come out of these negotiations? The plain answer is NO! Iran loves to negotiate with the West because *it always wins!* These talks are a game, and Iran plays it perfectly. The West stupidly gives the Iranians what they want, fooling ourselves that Iran is sincere and that it is changing—until all is lost!

The Iranians are terrorists to the core! President Trump's hope that these terrorists can be useful in a peaceful transition is DELUSIONAL. He should not even be TALKING to them!

In our April 2025 issue, I commented on some indications early in his term that President Trump would dangerously trust villains like Russian President Vladimir Putin and Hamas. I also commented on the idea of an Iranian nuclear deal. I wrote: "President Trump also says he wants to do A DEAL WITH IRAN over its nuclear program. If he does, that will be yet another deal with the devil! Any deal will expand Iran's ability to spread its evil terror across the Middle East. It threatens to unleash more 'October 7' massacres ..." ("[Does Donald Trump Know the Way to Peace?](#)", *theTrumpet.com/31135*).

President Trump is crafting a similar deal *right now*. WILL WE NEVER LEARN?

Iran has a track record of lying in similar agreements. President Trump understood this, which is why he withdrew from Obama's 2016 deal. Yet now, somehow, he thinks he can get a better deal.

The Details

The memorandum is not a treaty; it is a two-month extension of the ceasefire President Trump agreed to in April. But along with the ceasefire extension, it gives Iran substantial gifts.

In exchange for Iran lifting its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the United States lifted its own blockade of Iranian ships traveling the waterway. The U.S. also lifted sanctions

on its oil trade, *including the ability to trade in U.S. dollars*. Iran hasn't had this kind of financial freedom since the 2016 deal.

President Trump also pledged to unfreeze *billions of dollars in Iranian assets* held in global banks. Some of this was reportedly being unfrozen before the memorandum was even signed. The United Arab Emirates was reportedly *making \$20 billion in assets available to Iran the week prior*. This would not have happened without the U.S. government's consent.

The memorandum goes further than just unfreezing assets Iran already owns. One of its points states, "Together with regional partners, the U.S. will create a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate and assist in the economic development of Iran. It will also ensure financing of at least \$300 billion."

President Trump is notorious for making big promises and threats without following through. But here he offered Iran

\$300 billion! IF JUST 10 PERCENT OF THAT MONEY MADE IT TO IRAN'S COFFERS, IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE!

The memorandum also states the U.S. will “commit to ending all types of sanctions currently facing Iran”—including “all unilateral U.S. sanctions, both primary and secondary,” as well as UN sanctions. Those “unilateral sanctions” are the ones Trump himself placed on Iran in 2018. The UN sanctions are the “snap-back sanctions” France, Germany and the United Kingdom triggered last year as part of the compliance provisions of the 2016 JCPOA. *President Trump is offering to get rid of even the few restrictions the Obama deal contained!*

What does the U.S. get in return? In the memorandum, Iran commits to never building a nuclear weapon. But Iran has ALWAYS claimed it doesn't want a nuclear weapon—EVEN AS IT RUSHES TOWARD BUILDING A NUCLEAR WEAPON!

Echoes of Obama

The similarities between what President Trump is doing and the 2016 JCPOA are startling.

In the ongoing nuclear talks, one of the main points is the suspension of uranium enrichment. The *New York Times's*

sources claim the U.S. has “demanded for months” that Iran agree to a 20-year enrichment moratorium. “The Iranians have countered by offering a 10-year halt, but American officials believe they will settle for 15 years.”

A “sunset clause”—a date when the restrictions expire and Iran can continue its weapons-grade enrichment—was one of the hallmarks of the Obama deal. This was one of its most dangerous aspects. YET THIS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POSITION “FOR MONTHS.”

In other words, President Trump's deal looks a lot like the Obama deal—if not worse.

The wording of this deal is important. “Treaties,” according to the Constitution, fall under the jurisdiction and oversight of Congress. That is why President Obama called his deal the “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.” A “plan of action” has no legal designation that would require the consent of Congress. The same is true of a “memorandum of understanding.” It appears President Trump, like Obama before him, is trying to sidestep Congress.

These similarities are why many commentators say the Trump deal is the Obama deal coming back from the dead. Lee

Is Iran Becoming the World's Oil Gatekeeper?

THE WEIGHTIEST DEVELOPMENT OF the Iran war could well be Iran having proven itself the master

understanding, he admitted, “I wanted to prevent an economic catastrophe.” In other words, he now recognizes Iran's



of the world's most important energy choke point, the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's position along the strait gives it unlimited opportunity to attack vessels. During the war, Iran brought shipping in the strait to a halt, seriously disrupting the global economy.

When President Donald Trump signed the memorandum of

ability to hold the world hostage by controlling the Strait of Hormuz—and America's powerlessness to stop it.

If Trump is aware of this reality, Iran is doubly so. The mullahs know they have the upper hand as talks continue. And regardless of the final deal, their ability to close Hormuz, and to shake the global economy at will, remains.

Iran has signaled its intention to use the enormous leverage its mastery of the strait provides. Even after the memorandum was signed, Iran continued to strike at merchant shipping around the strait, prompting United States retaliations and jeopardizing a peace deal.

Iran intends to establish a toll system for ships that transit the Strait of Hormuz. In the memorandum of understanding, it agreed to open the strait toll free for 60 days, but this is a temporary concession. To prepare for charging tolls indefinitely, Iran has reportedly charged some ships already and instructed all of them to use a certain maritime route—and has struck ships that strayed outside of it.

Based on prophecies like Daniel 11:40-43, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified Iran as the leader of an end-time bloc called the king of the south that will provoke world war in part because of its control of maritime choke points. He summarizes Iran's strategy in his booklet *The King of the South*: “Radical Islam could stop the flow of essential oil to the U.S. and Europe!” Iran is learning the power of this weapon right now. America isn't the country fixing the problem now. As *The King of the South* elaborates, America never will—Europe will step in.

JOEL HILLIKER

Smith wrote on May 29, “The truth is that the ultimate consequences of the deal Trump is now considering make it worse than Obama’s.” British journalist Melanie Phillips wrote on June 9, “President Trump is now at serious risk of turning into a second Obama.”

As I write in my book *America Under Attack*, President Obama made his deal because HE SHARED IRAN’S GOAL OF DESTROYING AMERICA. This is *not* President Trump’s goal. He is entering negotiations out of naivety and pride in his own ability rather than outright malice. BUT IF HE DOESN’T CHANGE COURSE, THE END RESULT WILL BE THE SAME!

As *America Under Attack* explains, a prophecy in 2 Kings 14 shows that God sent Donald Trump to save America from Obama’s attacks through the Iran deal and in many other ways. Had God not intervened to save America “by the hand” of Donald Trump, then America’s republic would have been blotted out, and Iran’s theocracy would probably have a nuclear weapon!

BUT NOW WE SEE PRESIDENT TRUMP CONTINUING OBAMA’S WORK! How could this possibly happen? Something is dreadfully wrong.

Betraying Israel

The flaws in President Trump’s dealings with Iran don’t end there. They particularly impact the State of Israel’s security.

The memorandum’s first point reads, “Iran and the U.S. declare an immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, *including in Lebanon ...*” (emphasis mine). This is referring to Israel’s war against Hezbollah, which for years has been one of several proxies Iran has used to attack Israel.

When the war started, President Trump said one of his aims was to stop Iran’s funding of terror proxies. Today, his position is completely reversed. His deal is going to *protect* Iran’s proxies *from Israel*.

Iran threatened to walk away from peace talks unless the U.S. stopped Israel from attacking Hezbollah. President Trump obliged. He said on June 16 that he felt “Israel is fighting Hezbollah for too long and too many people are being killed.” “I’m not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah,” he said. “They should have been able to do the job faster. It just goes on forever. And when that happens, it throws a negative light on the big deal, and that’s the deal with Iran.”



Israeli Leaders Hate Iran Deal

ISRAEL WAS SIDELINED FROM THE United States-Iran negotiations and the terms of its June 14 memorandum of understanding. Israelis on both the left and right are furious.

Members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government lambasted the deal. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on June 15: “The agreement with Iran is bad for Israel and the entire free world, period.” Defense Minister Israel Katz said the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) would defy the deal’s requirements to end the war with Hezbollah and would stay in Lebanon “indefinitely.” Former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the war’s conclusion was “a terrible failure.”

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action implemented by President Barack Obama “perfect in comparison.” A June 16 *Jerusalem Post* report claims: “The vast majority of IDF and Mossad top brass oppose the emerging Iran nuclear deal as insufficient in light of the power dynamics between the parties, the ‘blood and treasure’ invested and the threats confronting Israel. ... It is nearly unanimous, and senior officers and officials are making their views heard in private forums”

The United States and the State of Israel share a heritage tracing back to the kingdom of Israel. Isaiah 9:21, Zechariah 11:14 and other biblical passages prophesy that the brotherhood between the U.S. and Israel will be broken. The two countries entered the Iran war as allies, but the war’s fallout will likely drive them apart.

MIHAILO S. ZEKIC

Hezbollah is now weaker than it has been for decades. Iran knows Israel has the capability to finish Hezbollah off. But it also knows President Trump is desperate for a deal and is willing to muzzle Israel if that’s what it takes. It looks like it is successfully using this as a bargaining chip. Iran has ensured that Israel is not even invited to the peace talks, and it is successfully convincing Trump to *protect Hezbollah from Israel*.

On June 15, Hezbollah bombed Israel, breaking the ceasefire. Israel predictably retaliated. Iran then used this as an excuse to walk away from negotiations unless President Trump did something—and *he took the bait*. Iran uses this tactic over and over again because it always works!

Realize: Israel is working very hard to avoid hurting civilians. It is fighting Hezbollah’s TERRORISTS AND MURDERERS WHO HAVE KILLED HUNDREDS OF JEWS! Israelis know they need a real FIGHTING SPIRIT for their nation to survive. President Trump had a lot of fighting spirit when he was battling Obama’s “deep

DEADLY DELUSION PAGE 32 ►



Follow the Money

Why sanctions relief strengthens Iran's most powerful and dangerous institution

For nearly a decade, Donald Trump called Obama's 2016 Iran deal one of the "worst deals ever." Yet Trump's proposed deal does something very similar. It offers oil sale waivers, frozen asset access and more relief for short-term nuclear talks. The problem: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is not just a military force. It is a business empire controlling 20 percent to 40 percent of Iran's economy. Any new money flows directly to the hard-liners.



How the money reaches the IRGC

- The deal is signed, so sanctions begin lifting.
- Oil exports, frozen assets and foreign investment start flowing into Iran.
- Revenue flows into the Iranian state with no barriers to IRGC-controlled sectors.
- The IRGC wins major construction and energy contracts.
- Iran's private companies are too weak to compete.
- Foreign investors must work with IRGC-linked firms.

Business e

The IRGC controls 20 to 40 economy, spread across six



Construction

Khatam al-Anbiya, founded in 1989 and fully controlled by the IRGC, is one of Iran's largest construction firms. It runs more than 800 subsidiaries, employs around 135,000 people, and has completed over 2,500 projects including roads, dams, pipelines and railways. Its contracts amount to about \$50 billion—roughly 14 percent of Iran's GDP. From 2005 to 2011, it won over \$25 billion in deals, often without bidding.



Energy

The IRGC controls up to 50 percent of Iran's oil exports, handling 1.5 to 1.8 million barrels per day in recent peaks and generating billions annually (potentially half of Iran's approximately \$50 billion annual oil revenue). Much of this money skips the national budget. The IRGC operates a shadow fleet of 250 to 477 tankers to sell oil, mainly to China, despite sanctions.



Finance

Through Bonyad Taavon Sepah, the IRGC runs Ansar Bank (1,081 branches, over 5.5 million accounts, created for IRGC salaries and benefits) and Mehr Eqtesad Bank (serving the Basij militia). Ansar-linked exchanges have handled over \$1 billion in currency trades since 2016. These banks manage large flows of cash with little external oversight.

mpire

percent of Iran's major sectors.



Shipping

The IRGC gained control of key shipping assets, including a major stake in SADRA (Iran's largest shipbuilding company) via a 2009 consortium. It operates parts of Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport and uses IRGC-influenced ports for its shadow fleet. Iran has tried to charge a \$2 million toll per vessel for Hormuz transit, turning geography into steady revenue.



Smuggling

Rule changes in 2004 to 2006 let IRGC-linked firms take up to 80 percent control in many sectors. They dominate real estate, mining, pharmaceuticals, food, agriculture and water. The IRGC smuggles drugs, weapons and tobacco with 200 to 300 percent profit margins, generating up to \$12 billion annual revenue while paying almost no taxes and facing only internal audits.



Telecommunications

In 2009, the IRGC's Etemad-e-Mobin group bought a controlling 50 percent-plus 1 stake in Iran's main telecommunications company for about \$7.8 to \$8 billion in a fast, noncompetitive, one-day auction. This gives the IRGC power over national phone, Internet and data networks—boosting revenue while expanding surveillance capacity.

Terror network



Hamas

The IRGC funds and arms Hamas. Iran sent over \$220 million from 2014 to 2020, with monthly payments up to \$7 million in 2022. It supplies Fajr-5 rockets, training and weapons.



Hezbollah

Hezbollah receives \$700 million to \$1 billion annually from the IRGC (70–80 percent of its budget). Iran has helped build its arsenal of over 150,000 rockets and missiles.



Houthis

Since 2014, the IRGC has provided the Houthis with ballistic missiles, anti-ship missiles and Shahed drones. Annual support totals \$150 to \$300 million.



Iraqi Shia militias

The IRGC funds and arms groups like Kata'ib Hezbollah in the Popular Mobilization Forces. It provides \$300 to \$500 million annually across factions.



Palestinian Islamic Jihad

The IRGC gives this organization \$30 to \$150 million annually and supplies nearly all its rockets and weapons, as well as training and technical aid.

Iran's shift to military rule



Iran is undergoing one of the biggest power shifts since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The regime, once firmly led by Shia clergy, is moving toward a system where IRGC officers hold real power. The killing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the first day of the war and the elevation of his son Mojtaba, a former IRGC member, as his successor has accelerated this shift. President Trump's sanctions relief and reconstruction fund could give this powerful force even more money and influence, practically guaranteeing that the Islamic Republic of Iran will remain the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Prophecy Proves God

World events are covered with divine fingerprints.
BY GERALD FLURRY

WORLD EVENTS ARE BEWILDERING and distressing. But there is a way you can understand events that will give you profound peace of mind. Events are not random and arbitrary. They may be concerning and sobering, but God is watching over them, ensuring they fulfill His purposes.

You can prove this to yourself, and it will change the way you look at world events—and how you live your life!

Did you know that *one third* of the Bible is prophecy—and 90 percent of that prophecy is for OUR DAY?

The Bible is *full* of prophecy—describing events in advance of their happening. Most of these prophecies were made over 2,500 years ago, yet they concern nations *today*: Britain, America, European, Asiatic and Middle Eastern nations—countries all over the world. They foretell what will happen in these nations. Many of these prophecies have already come to pass, and many more are being fulfilled right now. *Not one* of these prophecies has failed! These prophecies, recorded millennia ago,

are repeatedly proving to be *excellent* descriptions and forecasts of events taking place right now!

This is a truth you can prove, and one that you must honestly face. Could any human being ever issue a prophecy that would come to pass like that? These prophecies are divinely inspired. You can study these scriptures, study history and current events, and prove this.

There are other proofs that show God's existence and that the Bible is God's Word, but skeptics will dismiss them. Jesus performed miracles, and even pagans admitted that they happened, but cynics refuse to accept that. Some people consider *answered prayer* as proof that God is alive and active—yet the doubters don't have *their* prayers answered, so that isn't convincing to them.

But *fulfilled prophecy* cannot be refuted! It is the best proof of the Bible—and it reveals God.

Did you know that the Bible literally *taunts* the skeptics—even *ridicules* them, in a way? It *dares* them to disprove the reality of FULFILLED PROPHECY as proof of God!

The Things to Come

Isaiah 41:21-22 read, “Set forth your case, says the Lord; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come” (Revised Standard Version). God challenges them: *Let's hear YOUR prophecies, if you think you can accurately foretell the future!* Of course, nobody accepts His challenge.

But God has repeatedly issued astounding prophecies, on a grand scale, and then brought them to pass.

God was careful to record and preserve these prophecies, and He has been careful to REVEAL their meaning in our day. The foundation of all that prophetic revelation and understanding was given to Herbert W. Armstrong, who for nearly 60 years explained the relevance of the Bible's prophecies for this end time.

Sadly, even within the Church Mr. Armstrong founded, some ministers wanted to get away from the message of prophecy. Mr. Armstrong said in a sermon on July 21, 1978: “The last two years, ministers have not been preaching prophecy. I wish I could get our ministers to talk about these prophecies. THESE PROPHECIES NEED TO BE EXPLAINED AND PROPHESED TO OUR PEOPLE.”

After Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, nearly *all* the ministers abandoned his teachings and adopted a “prophecy not” message. They stopped delivering all that prophecy God had revealed.

So God commissioned a faithful remnant, the Philadelphia Church of God: “Thou must PROPHECY AGAIN before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings” (Revelation 10:11). This is a COMMAND FROM GOD, FOR THIS SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD, THAT WE PROPHECY AGAIN! This is in itself a great prophecy that is being fulfilled today.

Consider it: The fact that God had to command His people to PROPHECY AGAIN—to PROPHECY as Mr. Armstrong did—should be a great warning for all of us. This strongly implies a terrible *rebellion* and *falling away* from that prophetic ministry! God's own Church failed, yet God had to ensure *another way* of disseminating that prophetic understanding.

In Isaiah 56, God criticizes those rebellious ministers: “His watchmen are *blind*: they are all *ignorant*, they are all *dumb dogs*, THEY CANNOT BARK; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber” (verse 10). What a powerful picture. God compares their negligence to a watchdog on the porch, his master’s house surrounded by encroaching, vicious beasts. Yet the dog, which *should* be noisily alerting the household to the danger, slumbers!

God is saying that a WATCHMAN MUST WARN! He gave prophecy for a REASON, and He commands His people to tell the world of the coming dangers! If we don’t, then we are as worthless as a slumbering watchdog. God holds His ministers who fail to do their job accountable.

The Apostle John wrote in Revelation 19:10, “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.” If Jesus Christ’s testimony is the *spirit of prophecy*, then, if He is leading and guiding us, WE should have the spirit of prophecy as well.

The Sign of His Coming

Matthew 24 contains the most miraculous prophecy for proving the promise of Christ’s Second Coming and for proving God. This was the last and most important prophecy Christ gave during His earthly ministry.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (verses 3-5). This is a prophecy of what prevails in a lot of the Christian world today: People come in Christ’s name and talk about Christ a lot, but they don’t give you *His message*.

His prophecy continues, “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes ...” (verse 7). Pestilences would certainly include a disease like coronavirus. Christ prophesied that just before

His return, plagues and viruses would be tormenting nations!

But these things, Christ said, “are the beginning of sorrows” (verse 8)—in other words, they are going to get far worse.

Now, take note of this great prophecy, and it shows you how reliable Christ’s prophecy really is: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (verses 21-22).

Understand the magnitude of this statement! The Moffatt translation reads,



China shows off its nuclear missile arsenal in a September 2025 military parade.

“Had not those days been cut short, not a soul would be saved alive ...” The Phillips translation states, “Yes, if those days had not been cut short, no human being would survive.” The New Living Translation reads, “In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed.” When Christ made this prophecy, armies were using swords, spears and other primitive weapons of war. Yet He prophesied of a time when weapons would be so potent and lethal that *humanity’s very survival* would be threatened!

Today, weapons of mass destruction DO literally threaten human extinction! At no other point in history was this possible!

What an impressive forecast: Christ, 2,000 years ago, TOLD US EXACTLY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TODAY! How can you ignore this mind-shattering prophecy?

Many prophecies explicitly state that they are intended for a much later time. For example, God told the Prophet Daniel that his prophecies would not be understood in his day (Daniel 12:8-9). They are for the time WE LIVE IN NOW. Revelation 5 describes how the meaning

of that prophecy would be *sealed*—but now, it has been unsealed. (Request my free booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation* to learn how these two important prophetic books tie together. The *framework* for all end-time prophecies is found in these two books, and both have been *unsealed* in these last days.)

In Ephesians 3:3-5, the Apostle Paul explained how revelation that God revealed to him “in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed ...” This is even MORE true as the world lives out its final days before Christ’s return. Prophecies of great magnitude have been made known unto us! And you can prove them for yourself.

The Church

God wants His prophecies *understood*, so He reveals that understanding through His faithful servants. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Once He has revealed that “secret,” which includes the spirit of prophecy, then He expects those servants to *share* that understanding, to publicize and broadcast it! “[W]ho can but prophesy?” He says (verse 8). Those who are tuned in to God know that they have an important job to do: They *must prophesy for God!*

That is what makes it such a grievous sin when those people *fail* to carry out that responsibility—when they begin to say, “Prophecy not” (Amos 2:12).

Not only does the Church play a crucial role in preaching about prophecy, it is also the *subject* of some very important biblical prophecy.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ prophesied, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Christ Himself founded the New

Testament Church, and He promised that the Church would never die—it would *always* exist! So that Church must still exist today.

The book of Revelation reveals the grand overview of end-time events. And the first three chapters focus on prophecy ABOUT CHRIST'S CHURCH. The Apostle John wrote, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks [*lamps* is a better translation] The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden [*lamps*]. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven



[*lamps*] which thou sawest *are the seven churches*" (Revelation 1:12, 20). These lamps represent the SEVEN SUCCESSIVE ERAS of the true Church of God, beginning in the first century and extending to our day. We are in the last of these seven eras today. (Request a free copy of my book *The True History of God's True Church* to learn this history.)

Notice in Revelation 1, Christ is pictured as being right in the *midst* of those seven eras (verse 13). His eyes burn like fire, His face shines like the sun in its full strength, and His voice is like many waters (verses 14-16). What a powerful Being!

Led by Jesus Christ, God's Church is like a shining lamp in this dark world.

There is only one Church—one "little flock," as Christ called it (Luke 12:32)—where you will find this lamp shining. That is what we must focus on. There you will find light to show the world the way to solve its problems. People in this world could have light if only they would recognize it and begin to change their lives.

Watchman Message

Christ gives His Church "the spirit of prophecy" and then gives this small group a big job to do just before the Second Coming: WARN the rest of the world of the *severe tribulation* that will precede His return.

Christ gives His Church a big job to do just before the Second Coming: Warn the rest of the world of the severe tribulation that will precede His return.

Now, if you were to be a watchman FOR GOD, would you get your message from the news sources of *this world*? God instructs His watchman, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore *thou shalt hear the word at my mouth*, and WARN

THEM FROM ME" (Ezekiel 33:7). God's watchman must receive his message NOT from the world's news sources but *from the Word of God*—from the BIBLE. God will show us exactly what is coming.

In Jeremiah 23:16, God condemns false prophets. "Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you," He says, "they make you vain: they speak a vision of *their own heart*, and not out of the mouth of the Lord." That is all you will get from any source in this world: people simply devising their own visions. They are not looking to God for *His* message and *His* prophecy of what will happen.

Are you hearing the word from GOD'S MOUTH? He really wants you

to *understand* His prophecies and to prove them!

Sadly, the world today is disinterested in the Word of God and what God has to say. They live in darkness and scorn God's message. The Apostle Peter prophesied of such a time. He wrote that in the last days—the time we now live in—there would be scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4). Many question the proof of the promise of Christ's Second Coming.

Further on, Ezekiel 33 shows that eventually *everyone* will admit that God's prophecies are sure: "And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them" (verse 33). The tragedy is that most people won't recognize this until AFTER the very WORST PLAGUES HAVE BEFALLEN THEM! Because human beings are so stubborn and self-willed, *that* is what it will take—plagues and violence that escalate to the brink of *human extinction*—before people will acknowledge that God is always right!

God gives this urgent message to His watchman: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: TURN YE, TURN YE FROM YOUR EVIL WAYS; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (verse 11). God is PLEADING with us to turn from our wicked ways! He is calling on all of us to REPENT. That is really the purpose of His prophecies. But tragically, repentance is not understood in this world.

When dealing with a false prophet, the Prophet Jeremiah said: "The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him" (Jeremiah 28:9). There *are* false prophets. You know he is a true prophet when what he says comes to pass! God sends prophets to warn, to give people an opportunity to escape and avoid severe punishment and plagues. So pay close attention, and you will be able to discern that God is behind him!

Prophecy is the proof of God. It shows that God is alive and active—He is bringing to pass today what He recorded thousands of years ago. PROVE those prophecies—and recognize that the omnipotent God who gave them wants to have a relationship with YOU! ■



The Genius in Geography

A tool God uses to fulfill His purposes
BY SETH MALONE

GEOGRAPHY IMPACTS EVERYTHING from the food we eat to the clothes we wear and the lives we lead. Individuals, governments, economies, militaries and alliances find themselves almost completely at its mercy. Even with today's cutting-edge technology, it still takes tremendous skill and vast resources to overcome obstacles imposed by temperature, distance, water and gravity.

Are the locations of Earth's mountains, deserts, jungles, resources, rivers, seas, people and borders *random*? They have a tremendous impact on world affairs.

The *Trumpet* analyzes world events through the lens of Bible prophecy given by God thousands of years ago. The Bible has a terrific track record of the prophecies of God coming to pass just as He said they would. The question thus arises: How does God ensure that these prophecies are fulfilled?

There is more than one answer to that question. But consider: The God who commands prophecy and swears to perform His will (Isaiah 46:9-11) is the *same God* who created our planet's geography. And when you study geography in this light, you see considerable evidence of the significant role it plays in serving God's prophetic purposes.

'In Wisdom Have You Made Them All'

Geography is, most simply, the study of spaces, places and how humans interact with their environment. Whether it's

how an ocean current affects a nearby island's vegetation, how a government chooses to diversify its economy, or how a natural resource impacts the politics of a particular region, geography analyzes our planet's vast interconnectedness.

As the Bible reveals, that vast interconnectedness was created by God.

God is the one who forms our planet's mountains and wind currents (Amos 4:13). He commands the earthquakes and volcanoes that shape Earth (Psalm 104:32). He is in

charge of Earth's rivers and the lands they water (verses 6-12). He is the father of rain (Job 38:25-28), and can turn a verdant, fruitful land into a dry, barren wilderness, or vice versa (Psalm 107:33-35). And God has shaped much of the modern political scene simply by the placement of Earth's riches: fossil fuels, precious minerals, phosphates and renewable resources like wood and food.

The Bible reveals that God takes an active role in drawing the borders of Earth's human geography (Acts 17:26; Deuteronomy 32:8), deciding which nations live where and who leads them (Daniel 4:17). God can use the physical geography of a place to impact its human geography. An island nation, like Japan, relies greatly on fishing and a navy. A jungle, like the one in New Guinea, diversifies a cultural landscape. Navigable rivers and open plains connect people. Deserts and mountains divide people. Accessibility to resources can make the difference between a democratic government or an authoritarian regime. A single sea gate can make an otherwise insignificant country one of the most strategically important places on the planet. (Read about this in our article "Who Cares About Sea Gates?" at theTrumpet.com/17606).

"O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Psalm 104:24). Our planet's geography is *not* random; studying it reveals God's wisdom.

Geography in Prophecy

The *Trumpet* does *not* make forecasts based on geography. History is full of geopolitical analysts who have gotten things wrong. (Read "[The Graveyard of Failed Geopolitical Forecasts](http://theTrumpet.com/22006)" at theTrumpet.com/22006.) The "father of geopolitics," Sir Halford Mackinder, believed rail power would overtake sea power. George Friedman and Meredith Lebard published a book predicting a war between the United States and Japan by 2011. Since then, Friedman has predicted that the United States is still in the early stages of its superpower status and that the European Union will soon disintegrate. Along the same lines, realist analyst Peter Zeihan predicts that Germany's and China's economies will collapse amid an age of American dominance. Geography plays a significant part these predictions.

The *Trumpet* expects the opposite of these outcomes. We don't *ignore* geography—but we rely **SOLELY** on Bible prophecy for our forecasts. History shows that anything outside of that is bound to fail eventually.

However, when we analyze geography *in light* of Bible prophecy, it starts to become clear: No matter where we look on Earth, we can see God behind it, contributing to His overall master plan for the planet and the humans who inhabit it. Imagine how different today's political climate would be if the Himalayas didn't exist, if North and South America were not connected, if the Sahara weren't a desert, if there were no oil in the Middle East, if the Chinese colonized the New World before Europe did, and if the German people lived in modern-day Kazakhstan. When you understand how God foretells prophetic events, it becomes obvious that God didn't want any of those situations.

Clearly, geography is a critical tool God uses to shape world events. It isn't the only means: Sometimes, God directly intervenes with a great leader, fulfills a purpose with one of His chosen people, or works a supernatural miracle. On top of this, innovation, strategy and morality unquestionably impact society.

But geography is one means God does use to fulfill His purposes on Earth. The more we study it in light of His master plan, the more we can see and appreciate the great wisdom of our planet's Creator.

EUROPE

For decades, the *Trumpet* and its predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, have forecast a coming clash between a German-led “king of the north” power bloc and a Russia-dominated “kings of the east” power bloc (Daniel 11:44-45). In many ways, this rivalry is fueled by geography.

One of the most important physical features in Europe is the European Plain—a flat, arable, funnel-shaped plain outlined by the Jizera and Carpathian Mountains. For Germany, these mountains act as a protective barrier that enables it to expand safely eastward. For Russia, however, there are no natural borders protecting its thousand-mile western border, leaving its only defense to soldiers and tanks. If Russia doesn’t constantly push westward, it is bound to have its European border pushed back.

The Bible prophesies that Britain would command a world-ruling empire, which God also largely fulfilled through geographical means. (Read “[The Geography of Great Britain’s Greatness](#)” at [theTrumpet.com/7475](#)). Despite Europe’s extreme northern latitude, the Atlantic Gulf Stream gives it the perfect climate for arable farming and civilization. This is in contrast to the Russian cold, which makes a powerful navy and maritime trade connections virtually impossible through frozen waters. This shows why Russia has a proclivity to invade places like Ukraine, “the breadbasket of Europe.” Add on Russia’s near-monopoly on European fossil fuels, and the pieces are perfectly in place for the fulfillment of a major Bible prophecy.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

What North Africa and the Middle East lack in favorable climate and arable land, they make up for in fossil fuel resources. These oil and gas reserves amplify the importance of this region’s three major sea gates: the Suez Canal, the Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz.

The Middle East’s central location straddling Europe, Africa and Asia has made it the backdrop for some of history’s most important conflicts: like between Alexander and Persia, Rome and Parthia, Byzantines and Ottomans, Catholic crusaders and Muslim conquerors—and a major end-time conflict prophesied in Daniel 11 between the “king of the north” and an Iran-led “king of the south” (verses 40-43). The king of the south is prophesied to control both Egypt and Ethiopia, each of which lie at opposite ends of the Red Sea and dictate control of the Nile River.

AFRICA

Africa is one of the most resource-rich places on the planet. The Democratic Republic of the Congo alone is estimated to have over \$24 trillion in raw materials. Africa’s richness was key to European colonialism, which fueled a great part of the Industrial Revolution.

Yet Africa has produced no major powers. Geography is a significant reason for that: The continent lacks easily navigable rivers and natural harbors, and its man-made political borders combine wildly different climates and ethnicities under fragile governments.

This is why Africa, in addition to being one of the richest continents on the planet, is also one of the poorest.



ASIA

To the east are China and India: two massive, nuclear-armed superpowers with the two largest populations on Earth. Usually, two powers this big and this close would be timeless rivals; as expected, they are by no means close allies. But aside from some relatively minor friction in the past few decades, they have had no major wars—thanks to the virtually impassable Himalayan wall of rock and ice between them. This facilitates their participation in the prophesied “kings of the east” (theTrumpet.com/13189).

Jurisdiction over the Tibetan Plateau gives China control over its own major rivers’ water sources, which are vital to China’s gargantuan population. It also gives China control of Southeast Asia’s primary rivers, enabling it to establish a dominant sphere of influence in Indochina. After all, if China ever decided to build a hydroelectric dam upstream—like the massive one currently under construction on the Brahmaputra—the dam would have a tremendous impact on those living downstream. Tibet also gives China a military advantage over the Indian subcontinent from atop its high ground.

At the same time, China largely functions as an island, due to the fact that it is surrounded by the ocean to the east, deserts to the north, impassable mountains to the west and jungles and other difficult terrain to the south. Within these advantageous confines, the Chinese developed a great civilization, but its power projection into the rest of the world has been comparatively limited. Bible prophecy, however, shows that has been changing.

Adjacent to China are the vast steppes of Central Asia, where non-arable grasslands require its nomadic inhabitants to constantly move to find new grazing pasture. This nomadic tendency helped facilitate the rise of several large khanates throughout history, including the massive Mongolian Empire. But today, with a dominant Russia and China, Central Asia is an important treasure trove between them—helping supply these prophesied kings of the east with fossil fuels, mercury, gold, platinum and silver.

To the south lie the unforgiving mountains of Afghanistan, which create such strategic depth that conquering the territory has proved an unwinnable challenge to Mongols, British, Soviets and, most recently, Americans.



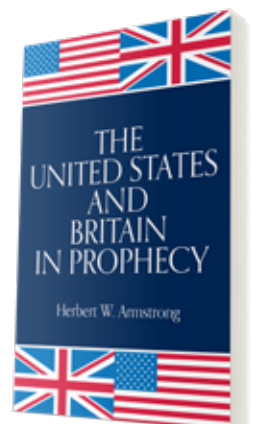
THE NEW WORLD

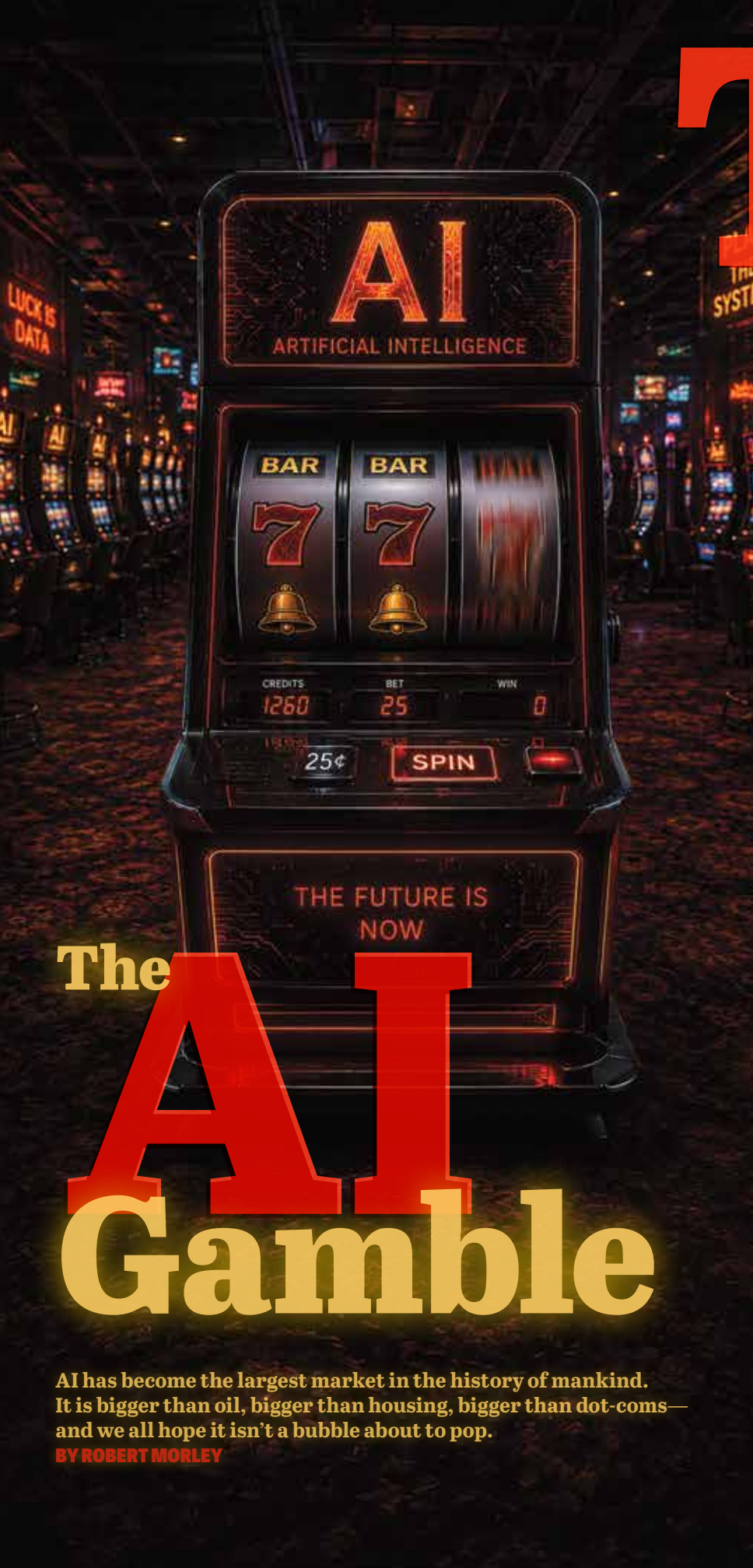
With vast expanses of arable farmland, a plethora of natural resources, long stretches of navigable rivers, a friendly neighbor to the north, and two massive oceans protecting it, the United States has arguably the most desirable geography in the world. (Read last month’s feature “Mapping a Superpower” at theTrumpet.com/34781). After all, God prophesied that it would become a massive superpower (as proved in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). After establishing its many Pacific Ocean bases and completing the Panama Canal in Latin America, the U.S. truly became a global superpower.

However, God also prophesies that these blessings can be lost. The Panama Canal was relinquished to Chinese influence, and the U.S.’s economic connections to the resource-rich countries of South America are being taken over by Europe. Should the U.S. refuse to repent, a militarized Europe can use these geostrategic connections to the New World to fulfill its prophesied role as America’s punisher. (Read “[America Is Being Besieged Economically](http://theTrumpet.com/18522)” at theTrumpet.com/18522).

God shaped the surface of the Earth

Geography, which only God can shape, made certain nations rise to power. Which nations? And why? Find out in your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.





The AI Gamble

AI has become the largest market in the history of mankind. It is bigger than oil, bigger than housing, bigger than dot-coms—and we all hope it isn't a bubble about to pop.

BY ROBERT MORLEY

THE WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMIES are all in on the same high-stakes gamble: pouring hundreds of billions into advanced data centers and ever-more-powerful large language models. The United States, China and Europe are placing enormous bets on different strategies—yet the house edge is the same. If the gamble pays off, the winner could reshape the global order. If it fails, the losses could wreck economies and destabilize nations.

For the past 80 years, the global order has been dominated by the U.S. However, technological advances such as AI “could present an existential threat to nation-states—risks so profound they might disrupt or even overturn the current geopolitical order,” writes Mustafa Suleyman in *The Coming Wave*.

Some believe America's continued dominance hinges on its AI strategy. The Bible, however, reveals that beneath the surface, a deeper spiritual matter will be the deciding factor.

The American Gamble

Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft spending projections for AI infrastructure will boggle your mind.

The American economy hasn't seen anything like this since the mid-19th-century railroad mania. And this might be even bigger than that.

So it had better work out.

The smartest people in the world think it will. Why? Because these corporations are expending *trillions* of dollars to make AI a reality in everyday personal, business, government and military life. Would they spend such gargantuan sums unless they were sure? Investors approve: Technology stocks are soaring. Hedge funds, pension plans and mom-and-pop investors can't get enough of them.

But what if everybody is wrong?

AI companies have been dominating America's financial markets and now its economy. They have become the world's most highly valued corporations. NVIDIA, a company few people outside the tech and gaming worlds knew of five years ago, is now the most valuable company in the world—worth \$5 trillion. That's nearly the size of the entire German economy, which has 84 million people.

Ten years ago, semiconductor companies made up about 2 percent of the S&P 500. Today they account for roughly 18 percent, more than twice their weighting at the peak of the dot-com bubble in early 2000. After that bubble burst and technology companies lost their worth, trillions of dollars evaporated.

That 18 percent doesn't include tech hardware companies that have also gone parabolic in value, or industrial giants like Caterpillar that have surged because companies are buying more of their products to build data centers. Then there are the utility companies that are preparing to supply all the electricity.

"If you start going through all of these indexes, there is a fascinating difference today from what happened in the tech bubble peak," said Cameron Dawson, chief investment officer at NewEdge Wealth. When that bubble popped, "you could hide out in emerging markets, value, smallcap, midcap, all indexes that effectively didn't have the same exposure to the tech bubble." Not so anymore.

As Dawson noted on the *Thoughtful Money* podcast with Adam Taggart, the AI trade has "infiltrated all of the indexes," and that means it is much harder for investors to stay away from these investments even if they want to.

If you have a 401(k), an IRA or a pension, you are almost certainly an AI investor—and probably a big one. So if this enormous phenomenon is indeed a bubble, when it pops, no one will be able to avoid the shock wave.

American technology companies are set to spend over \$800 billion on AI infrastructure this year alone. That is about 3 percent of America's total gross domestic product. In one year.

They plan to spend an additional \$1 trillion next year. And billions more the year after.

The Steel and Gravel Boom

America's economy grew at a rate of 1.6 percent last quarter. Take away the AI spending, and it would have actually shrunk: We would be in a recession.

Yet America's economic reliance on AI spending might be even greater than the headline numbers suggest. That is because a lot of related infrastructure

is being constructed to support the AI build-out.

Consider this: For the past 20 years, America's electricity consumption has been essentially flat. Now we are adding the equivalent of a New York City every three months, says Robert Thummel, managing director at Tortoise Capital.

Consulting firm ICF says America's electricity demand will grow 25 percent by 2030. Forbes calls it an "energy frenzy." And it is being driven largely by AI data center consumption.

The electricity utilities know this, and they are building like mad. That means more cement, copper, silver, neodymium and a host of other resources will be mined and processed. It means more natural gas, uranium, solar panels and wind

America's economy grew at a rate of 1.6 percent last quarter. Take away the AI spending, and it would have actually shrunk: We would be in a recession.

turbines will be manufactured. It means more truck drivers, crane operators, electricians, architects and welders will be needed, as will all the picks, shovels and sandwiches necessary to support them.

"This is the AI boom rendered in steel and gravel," wrote CNBC. "It is the physical manifestation of a belief—that intelligence itself can be manufactured at industrial scale, and that whoever builds the biggest factory wins." It quoted an official at Bessemer Venture Partners calling the AI build-out "the largest market in the history of mankind."

Remember the Railroad Bubble

The last time so much money flooded into new "transformative" infrastructure was during the railroad boom of the 1870s. At the time, railroads revolutionized the world as people knew it, similar to what AI promises to do today. Railroads turned America into a truly connected, dual-ocean nation. They reduced transportation times and costs. They linked vast swaths of American geography and resources to coastal factories and markets. The funding of the railroads revolutionized finance and popularized investing in stocks.

"The railroads were built with debt. Debt, debt, debt," said Derek Thompson, who hosts the *Plain English* podcast. "The whole thing was a tottering Jenga tower of leverage, and it came crashing down." But before the crash, that financial model was considered to be the genius of the railroad builders: They were building a transformative network, and they were doing it with other people's money.

The railroads helped turn America into a superpower. They also brought a lot of debt into the U.S. economy. And as Pulitzer Prize-winner Liaquat Ahamed noted, when railroads didn't earn the promised returns, investors lost their investments, and a series of economic depressions racked the nation for decades.

When the railroad bubble popped, 20 to 25 percent of America's workforce lost their jobs. It meant unemployment for millions, a stock market meltdown, two depressions and every single railroad but one to go out of business.

Could America's AI build-out lead to a similar outcome? "I am genuinely frightened," says Ahamed.

It is true that the Anthropics, Oracles and OpenAIs of the world have promised to fund these massive capital expenditures out of their profits. But that is changing fast.

A Historic Borrowing Binge

In January, the Bank for International Settlements warned that the AI build-out has transitioned from internal cash flows to debt-funded growth and that it is "not only reshaping corporate balance sheets, but also raises important questions about credit standards and financial stability."

America's tech behemoths are increasingly relying on borrowing to finance the data center boom and to fund their growth plans. This is what the railroads did in the late 1800s, the investment trusts did before the Great Depression, the tech companies did in the late 1990s, and home builders and lenders did in 2007.

There have certainly been some creative bond offerings lately. In February, Alphabet—Google's parent company—sold a 100-year bond. Imagine paying interest on a debt for 100 years. In May, Alphabet entered Japan's bond market

for the first time, issuing \$3.6 billion in yen-denominated debt as part of a broader borrowing spree to finance AI infrastructure. Like any bond issuer, Alphabet will have to repay that debt when it matures. Also in May, Amazon disclosed that it is selling debt denominated in Swiss francs for the first time, as part of a \$32 billion debt deal. In October, Meta borrowed \$30 billion for its AI build-out.

Fueling this “historic borrowing binge,” as CNBC called it, is investors’ and governments’ powerful fear of missing out and being left behind. They feel they have little choice but to spend huge sums of money—including other people’s money.

The promise of AI is huge. As our January issue noted, enthusiasts say it “is bigger than the Internet, more

disruptive than railroads, more transformative than electricity.” But as we wrote, there is always a catch. “The strategic and economic pressures driving this venture are profound and irresistible” (*theTrumpet.com/32941*).

What if these amazing promises—and actual profits—take longer to realize than investors hope?

Ask the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad workers. Or all the land speculators and oil service employees who lost their homes and livelihoods during the 1980s oil bubble. Or maybe the investors in WorldCom or Global Crossing, who spent billions laying fiber-optic cables for anticipated Internet traffic that took longer to materialize than hoped.

When bubbles this big pop, a lot of people get hurt. Is AI a bubble?

In its annual report in June, the Bank of International Settlements said the AI-spending boom, forecast to reach \$2.5 trillion worldwide this year, may prove unsustainable. Supply shortages, intense competition and complex financing deals could lead to overinvestment and a sharp pullback if expected payoffs disappoint, it said.

AI is clearly a world-changing technology. However, many businesses are still investing in it without clear ways to measure financial returns, making these supply shortages especially risky.

The BIS warned that these investments could burst like the dot-com bubble, which inflated Internet-related stocks to a \$3 trillion valuation by March 2000 before they lost 78 percent of their value. Of the hundreds of Internet companies

Can Germany Escape the Bust?

BY JOSUÉ MICHELS

“THE EUROPEAN UNION IS LOSING THE GLOBAL ‘AI race’ on nearly every key metric except regulation,” *EuroNews* wrote on January 27.

This represents the conventional wisdom regarding Europe’s AI development. But what many overlook is that Europe is actually pursuing a different strategy.

The EU’s InvestAI initiative aims to build up to five AI gigafactories, each expected to produce more than 100,000 advanced AI chips. It is steadily increasing its investment, but on a much smaller scale than the U.S.

On February 4, Germany’s Deutsche Telekom opened one of Europe’s largest AI factories in Munich. The facility provides enough computing power for all 450 million EU citizens to use a ChatGPT-style AI assistant simultaneously. However, as *Deutsche Welle* wrote, “[T]he Industrial AI Cloud isn’t aimed at individual consumers. Instead, it targets Germany’s industrial heavyweights, including automakers, machinery manufacturers and robotics companies” (“Germany bets on industrial AI to rival U.S. and China,” February 25).

Antonio Krüger, CEO of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, believes that this gives Germany a chance to catch up “without the trillion-dollar investment gamble by the world’s two largest economies,” *Deutsche Welle* explained. Germany is “tailoring AI to the country’s niche—manufacturing—rather than consumer-facing, where the United States and China have the clear lead” (*ibid*).

This is exactly what former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg (a man the *Trumpet* watches closely) said Germany must do. In a television interview with Puls 4-Talk on July 28, 2019, he said: “Artificial intelligence is still something Europe could shape. We have a well-established industry, which still has to become far more connected to the new technologies.

But once this happens, it will develop a totally different field of power than a purely technological or digitalization firm.”

Seven years later, Guttenberg is frustrated but remains optimistic. In his June 11 newsletter, he wrote: “Anyone who looks not just at headlines but at data, investment flows and institutional decisions will see a continent that is more technologically advanced than it realizes.” He gave a few examples, citing recent reports:

- Europe has more than 40,000 funded tech companies, around 4,000 firms with annual revenue exceeding \$25 million, and more than 1,200 companies with \$100 million in revenue or a valuation in the billions.
 - There are 413 European tech companies valued at over \$1 billion, 4.6 million people employed in the tech sector, an ecosystem value of \$3.8 trillion, and more than 27,000 founders starting new ventures in Europe in 2025 alone.
- Germany especially has enormous growth potential:
- Nearly 50 German start-ups have eclipsed \$1 billion in valuation since 2014.
 - It is the world’s fourth-most-funded tech nation, raising \$8.5 billion over the past 12 months and recording 315 percent growth in the defense tech sector.

While Germany excels at integrating AI into manufacturing, it is even better at integrating it into deathware—various weapons of war. The best example is AI drone manufacturer Helsing.

Guttenberg admits that Europe has “real weaknesses,” such as “capital depth, scale and the pace of deregulation.” “But it has long had real strengths as well,” he said, “a broad research base, industrial depth, a growing start-up scene, deep-tech expertise, and—surprise!—in some areas, even a newfound strategic self-confidence.”

that went public in the late 1990s, about half were out of business or delisted by the end of 2002. The Internet did indeed change the world, but the investing frenzy resulted in catastrophic financial losses that affected more than just investors.

If this history repeats itself with AI businesses, some economists estimate the U.S. GDP could drop 1 to 3 percent. Yet the BIS is warning of three other economic risks—inflation, fragile bond markets and soaring government debt—that could make the AI bubble's burst more painful than the dot-com bust.

The U.S. national debt is more than seven times bigger than it was during the dot-com bust.

America is entering a dangerous time. The economy has been swelling more than it otherwise would, largely pumped up by the greatest spending binge ever known. When the bills need

to be paid, will the hoped-for AI profits materialize? Or will America's financial strength prove to be artificial?

Debt-Fueled Greed

The wisest king who ever lived warned against the kind of risk-taking now inflating the AI bubble. In Proverbs 22:26-27, Solomon wrote, "Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?"

This verse does not forbid investing outright. Rather, it cautions against foolishly pledging what you cannot afford to lose, such as guaranteeing debts or investing heavily with borrowed money.

Despite this ancient wisdom, Morgan Stanley estimates that roughly half of the \$3 trillion needed to build AI data centers will come from borrowed funds rather

than internal cash flows. That means many could literally lose their beds if the AI boom fails to deliver. Such reckless leverage is not just foolish—it is sinful.

Elsewhere, Solomon warns, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough. A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 28:19-20).

In other words, real wealth comes from diligent work and developing your own resources. Loading up on debt to "get rich quick" eventually backfires. At its root, this mindset is covetousness: an intense desire to possess what you did not earn. It breaks the Tenth Commandment: "Thou shalt not covet ..." (Exodus 20:17).

Today, many people are coveting a share of the AI boom and letting this covetousness motivate them to take on debt

Europe's biggest problem is drawing investors, the difference-makers who help U.S. start-ups reach breakthroughs. On the other hand, some investors may find that some U.S. companies have been overhyped compared to their European counterparts. A rising start-up in Europe may not be less valuable than its U.S. counterpart; it just lacks the funds to prove its worth. This means that some deregulation and the creation of a capital market union in Europe could do wonders.

With the right leadership, Germany is in a key position to excel—especially if American and Chinese investments fail to pay off.

Germany's AI Surprise Prophesied?

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned in "The Unknown Future of Artificial Intelligence" in March 2024: "America will be blindsided by German military technology. The Germans are moving fast, and in some ways they are already ahead of America. What we see in the news is only a fraction of what is going on behind the scenes, I am sure. Winston Churchill warned, 'BEWARE! GERMANY IS A COUNTRY FERTILE IN MILITARY SURPRISES.' The Bible warns that the biggest surprises are yet ahead!" (*theTrumpet.com/28925*)

This is another reason Germany is lying low where AI developments are concerned. It doesn't want fame or money; rather, it seeks to surprise militarily.

But to really unlock its potential, it needs a strong leader unburdened by democratic norms. The Bible reveals it will get one, and the indication is, he will be a master at understanding AI.

Daniel 8:23 reads, "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce

countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up."

For more than 15 years, Mr. Flurry has stated that he believes the likeliest man to fulfill this role is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. This man's understanding of and interest in AI adds intrigue to this forecast.

Mr. Flurry explained: "The expression 'dark sentences' comes from the word *haidah*, which means riddle, difficult, question, parable (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*). I believe this expression could also mean difficult technology. *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* defines 'dark sentences' as 'twisted, involved, subtlety, ... fraud, ... enigma.' To many today, AI is such an enigma" (ibid).

If Germany can harness the dark powers of AI, that could give it a critical edge in an economic siege followed by a devastating military attack on the U.S.

But notice that this leader will arise "when the transgressors are come to the full." This is the real reason Germany is prophesied to take the lead: God is angry with America's sins! No technological edge will save it from God's wrath. He raised nations to punish ancient Israel, and He will do the same to America today.

In Isaiah 10:5-6, God says, "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets."

Assyria is modern Germany; the "hypocritical nation" refers mainly to the U.S. and Britain.

An edge in AI will not save America from God's wrath! Only repentance can. ■



Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg

to invest in unproven technologies. You can never go bankrupt if you only invest what you can afford to lose, which is why the *Trumpet's Solve Your Money Troubles!* booklet wisely advises, "If you can't afford to lose the money you are investing, then you probably shouldn't put that into the

message remains a stark warning for America today.

"It is now mid-winter," Babson said. "If I want to know what the temperature is now in this room, I go to the wall and look at the thermometer. If I want to know what it has been up to now and the

that question asked by any analyst on CNBC?

The Biggest Bubble

There was a still deeper reason Mr. Armstrong emphasized the importance of the American financial system, the causes of its failings, its hidden vulnerabilities—and the ultimate consequences.

"The present economic crisis threatens the very existence of the United States of America," he said in an August 14, 1984, *World Tomorrow* broadcast. "Now, that statement ought to be thundered in banner headlines. But this crisis, the financial crisis, is more serious than the world understands."

Mr. Armstrong described meetings with heads of government during an economic summit in London and the realization he reached as they discussed the world's economy. He warned that the crisis could suddenly force a unification in Europe, a United States of Europe that would produce a new world power, perhaps larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S., formed for the very purpose of challenging America. That development, he said, is foretold in Bible prophecy.

Mr. Armstrong had warned for decades that America's seemingly invincible economic might was, in effect, a bubble. Despite the nation's mines, factories, highways, harbors, fields, crops, herds, and banks, its failure to keep God's financial laws created a fatal vulnerability. So did its deep interconnection with the banking systems of other nations.

The massive expansion of funding and risk now pouring into the AI sector, combined with America's disregard for God's financial laws and its financial ties to Europe, fits directly into those same biblical prophecies. And those prophecies involve tens of trillions in funds, billions in losses, and millions of lives.

Take what personal lessons you can from this enormous and risky gamble. You are about to witness the painful consequences of flaunting God's laws, which He gives us for our protection, our prosperity, and our spiritual health! ■



America's economy has been swelling more than it otherwise would, largely pumped up by the greatest spending binge ever known.

market." This is more than common sense; it is biblically based instruction.

Borrowing someone else's money to invest in an emerging technology is extremely risky; you could even make a case that it is immoral. History shows that much of America's economic turmoil has stemmed from debt-driven speculation.

A Warning From the Past

The late Herbert W. Armstrong predicted that America would suffer a massive financial crisis far more dramatic than the ordinary "boom-bust" cycle. He said it would be nation-destroying.

Why? At a time when the average American paid little attention to the economy, Mr. Armstrong understood the importance of national and international banking. But there was a deeper spiritual reason behind his analysis. He never forgot a lesson learned early in his professional career.

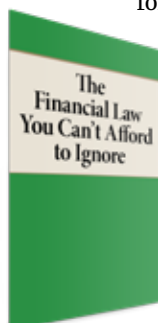
In 1920, at a conference of businessmen, he heard economist Roger Babson forecast that the nation was about to enter a bitter business depression. Babson was largely laughed off and ignored. But within a year, the depression hit. At the following year's conference, Babson returned. This time the faces in the room were sober and grim, and his words carried far more weight. His

existing trend as of the moment, I look at a recording thermometer. But if I want to know what the temperature in this room is going to be an hour from now, I go to the source which determines future temperatures. I go down to the boiler room and see what is happening down there.

"You gentlemen looked at bank clearings, indexes of business activity, stock car loadings, stock market quotations—you looked at the thermometers on the wall; I looked at the way people as a whole were dealing with one another. I looked to the source which determines future conditions. I have found that that source may be *defined in terms of 'righteousness.'*

"When 51 percent or more of the whole people are reasonably 'righteous' in their dealings with one another, we are heading into increasing prosperity. When 51 percent of the people become 'unrighteous' in their business dealings with their fellows, then we are headed for bad times economically!"

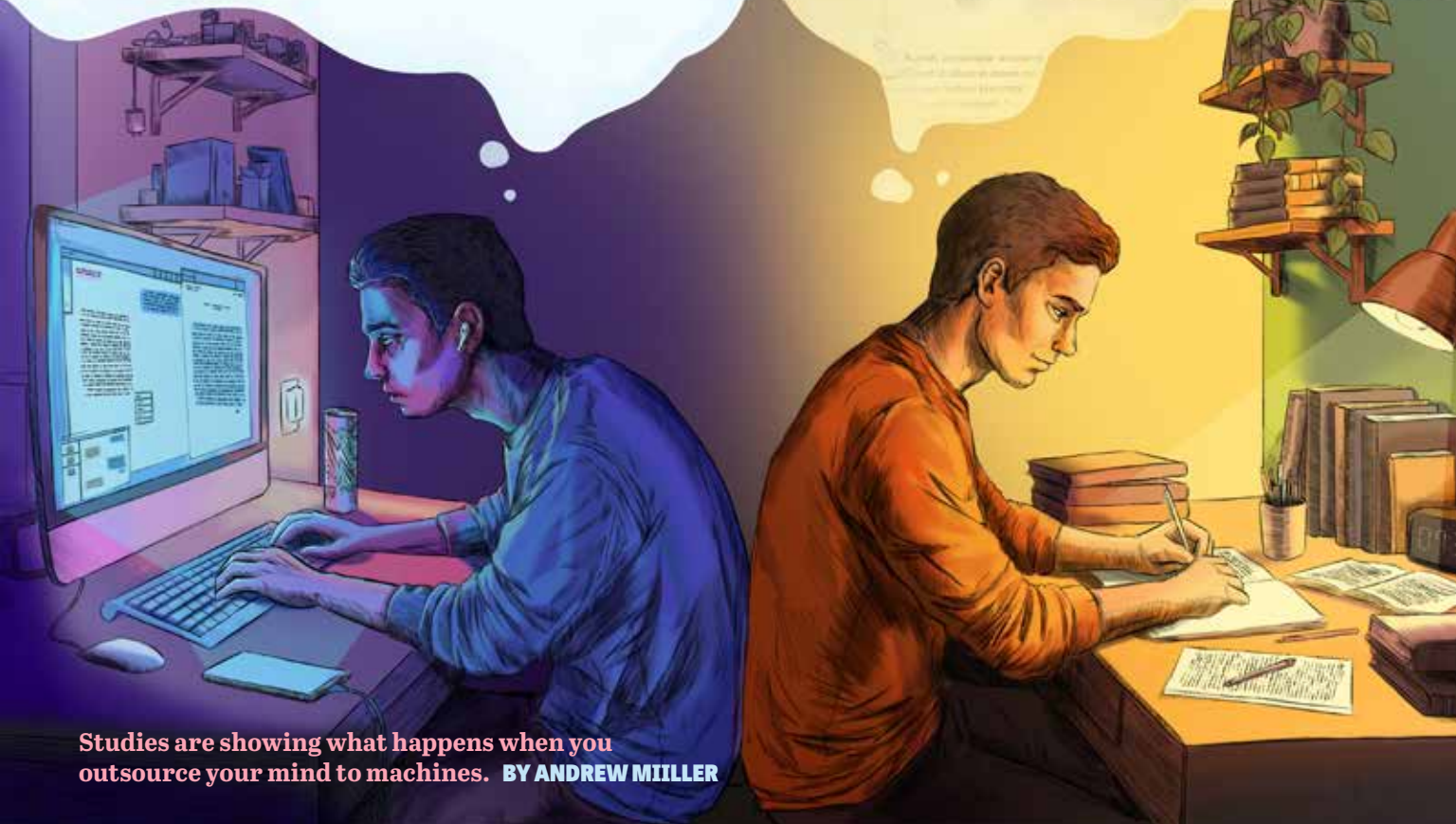
Where is America today on the righteousness scale? Do you hear



Is debt fueling your finances?

Don't live like everybody else. Choose a different path: order your free copy of *The Financial Law You Can't Afford to Ignore* and get the Bible's teaching on personal finance.

Does AI Make You Stupid?



Studies are showing what happens when you outsource your mind to machines. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS revolutionizing the world and transforming every walk of life. This technology's unparalleled ability to process data, condense information, answer questions, and automate tasks is bolstering productivity, driving innovation, and reshaping industries at a pace never before seen.

It's also eroding your ability to think.

For the first time since record-keeping began in the 1930s, human IQ scores have been dropping. IQ scores rose roughly 3 points every decade throughout the 20th century. That long upward trend has now reversed in many Western countries, with notable declines documented since the late 1990s.

What happened? Calculators made you less sharp at math. GPS weakened your sense of direction. Search engines hurt your ability to remember facts.

Google allowed you to skip memorizing information you knew you could look up later. And now chatbots like ChatGPT, Claude and Grok may erode your thinking in unprecedented ways.

Your brain is like a muscle: You use it or lose it. It needs exercise. This is why the world's sharpest thinkers read deeply, memorize key concepts, and let knowledge compound in their minds.

The question you now face is not whether AI is good for productivity; it is whether you are willing to trade cognitive capacity for convenience. If you want to protect your mind, you must *choose* to do so.

The risk is not that machines will out-think you. It is that you will stop thinking altogether.

Cognitive Offloading

Computers are not the first tools to change how the human mind functions.

Inventions like the alphabet, written text and the printing press also revolutionized how humans processed and stored information.

Greek philosopher Plato wrote in *Phaedrus* (370 B.C.) that his teacher Socrates refused to write anything down, believing it would “produce forgetfulness in the minds of those who learn to use it, because they will not practice their memory. Their trust in writing, produced by external characters which are no part of themselves, will discourage the use of their own memory within them.”

Technology always comes with trade-offs. While the printing press replaced the average person's ability to memorize facts by encouraging readers to rely on indexing and skimming rather than internalizing information, it also freed up time and energy for higher-order work beyond simple recall—work like analysis, criticism and synthesis.

Yet AI chatbots are different. They don't just do simple math like a calculator or let you look up a quick fact like a Google search. They perform the exact skills that make you smarter: reasoning, combining ideas and making judgments. So while the printing press traded some memorization ability for stronger reasoning ability, the chatbot may be replacing your reasoning ability for nothing other than convenience.

Cognitive psychologists are calling artificial intelligence a "cognitive offloading" accelerator. They warn that handing over your thinking to chatbots can cause a sharp decline in problem-solving skills. One study by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, MIT, UCLA and Oxford in April showed this trend.

Researchers gave 354 people fraction arithmetic problems to solve. As expected, the group with access to an AI helper solved the problems faster and more accurately. But when researchers took the AI away, those same people did much worse on new problems than people who never used AI in the first place.

Just 10 minutes with AI was enough to weaken their skills. The researchers said the problem wasn't just wrong answers. People also stopped trying as hard. Coauthor Rachit Dubey explained: "Once the AI is taken away ... they're also not willing to try without AI." The study warned that if such a short session can cause this much harm, daily AI use over many years could have serious, long-lasting effects.

In another study, researchers at MIT Media Lab wired 54 students with special headsets that measure brain activity. The students had to write essays on unfamiliar topics under time pressure. One group used ChatGPT, another used regular search engines, and the last group used no external resources at all.

These brain scans told a stark story. Students using search engines showed a 34 percent to 48 percent drop in brain connectivity compared to students who wrote their essays completely on their own. Students using ChatGPT showed an even bigger drop of about 47 percent to 55 percent. That means ChatGPT reduced brain activity 10 percent to 20 percent more than regular search engines did. The students who wrote their essays without any tools could clearly remember their main arguments a few minutes

later, but the students who used ChatGPT could not and often felt the ideas in their essays weren't really their own.

Perhaps most concerning of all, the students who used AI performed significantly worse on new writing tasks when they no longer had AI to help them. AI had weakened their ability to think on their own.

Some emerging research suggests that intentionally structured AI use—where you actively critique, verify and reflect on the output—can potentially enhance critical thinking skills. But such use does not save you time and effort. Using a chatbot to poke holes in your arguments forces you to spend more time deepening your thoughts rather than authorizing a computer to think for you. The real danger arises when users passively accept AI-generated information or lazily delegate complex mental tasks to AI in an effort to avoid flexing their own mental muscles.

The real danger arises when users passively accept AI-generated information or lazily delegate complex mental tasks to AI in an effort to avoid flexing their own mental muscles.

Critical Thinking

To understand why AI is hurting your thinking, you need to understand what thinking is.

In 1922, Woods Hutchinson pointed out how rare deep thinking really is: "Some cynic declares that 5 percent of the people think; 10 percent of the people think they think; and the other 85 percent would rather die than think." Most people avoided serious thinking long before AI chatbots were created.

A thought is a mental picture you hold in your mind's eye, a personal representation of something real. Computers can't have thoughts because they don't have minds capable of awareness or inner experience. Computers can only match patterns from the huge amounts of information uploaded into them.

But thinking is not merely having a thought. Thinking is the act of analyzing,

connecting, evaluating and manipulating your individual thoughts into new ideas, opinions or arguments.

Memorization is not the same as thinking, but it is an important first step. Memorization is the act of storing and recalling thoughts. Since you can't analyze, evaluate or manipulate thoughts you cannot remember, you cannot think about something until you recall it. This is why Google and ChatGPT hurt your ability to think. When you stop memorizing information that you believe you can look up instantly, you limit thinking to only the moments when you are connected to the Internet.

A poor memory is a serious disadvantage in the thinking process. The mind needs quick, easy access to a large number of facts and ideas so it can combine them into bigger ideas and deeper understanding. One main reason animals are poor at critical thinking is that they have much more limited memories than humans. They can only hold a few thoughts in their brains at one time. Crows, for example—some of the smartest birds—can only count up to about four. This means any thought process that involves connecting more than four ideas is basically impossible for the average crow.

To truly think critically, you must connect a large number of thoughts using mental math operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and even logarithmic exponents.

This is why some of history's greatest thinkers, such as John Locke, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, actually used some of their spare time to practice logical reasoning by solving geometric proofs. Lincoln memorized all 173 propositions in the first six books of Euclid so he could "demonstrate" legal arguments with the same logic the Greek geometer Euclid used to prove theorems about triangles.

These thinkers understood that the small percentage of people who actually think critically do not connect ideas with hasty guesses, illogical fallacies or wishful thinking. They rigorously analyze, evaluate and combine thoughts with a level of mathematical precision that the human mind is unlikely to develop if it is outsourcing its problem-solving abilities to a chatbot, search engine or calculator.

Spiritual Empowerment

In *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong explained a vital truth about how the human mind works. He observed the fact that there is “virtually no difference in shape and construction between animal brain and human brain,” and notes a key fact: “there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding” (Job 32:8). Mr. Armstrong called this the “human spirit.”

Most religious people and even some scientists who study the brain understand that there must be a nonphysical component of the human mind, but few have given much critical thought to how it works.

“Remember, this spirit is not the man—only something *in* the man,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “Remember, too, this spirit cannot see, hear or think. The man sees, hears and thinks through his physical brain and the five senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling. The spirit in man imparts the power of physical intellect to the physical brain, thus forming human mind. This spirit acts, among other things, as a computer, adding to the brain the psychic and intellectual power. Knowledge received in the brain through the eye, ear and the senses is immediately ‘programmed’ into the spirit computer. All memory is stored in this spirit computer. This ‘computer’ gives the brain *instant recall* of whatever portion of millions of bits of knowledge may be needed in the reasoning process. That is to say that memory is recorded in the human spirit, whether or not it also is recorded in the ‘gray matter’ of brain” (ibid).

This human spirit explains why humans far surpass chimpanzees, crows, dolphins, elephants and octopuses in intelligence. Human brains are not necessarily superior to dolphin brains in physical biology, yet humans possess a spirit that amplifies critical thinking, imparts free will, and stores millions of bits of knowledge beyond what the smartest animal can manage. As Mr. Armstrong wrote, it is this spirit that gives human beings a God-like intellect with the ability to think, reason and make decisions.

Because the human spirit is not the man, only something in the man, it still needs a physical brain to record and form

thoughts. This all-important fact highlights the importance of neural health.

Like muscles, neural connections atrophy if not used. The reason for this is that the brain’s immune cells eliminate unused neural pathways to conserve resources. Therefore, delegating your thinking to AI will eventually weaken your neural pathways and reduce your ability to form high quality thoughts.

If you let this happen, your human spirit will still record at least some of the information you absorb passively from AI chatbots, friends, television and the Internet. But such passive “learning” will not differentiate you from the 85 percent of humanity who “would rather die than think.”

If you truly want to develop the God-like intellect your Creator gave you, then you must not only avoid cognitive offloading but you must also actively develop your brain and mind. No dumb animal is able to come to conclusions, to indulge in creative thought, to decide how to put things together, to plan something new, to reason rationally, or to think logically. These abilities involve the power God gave man alone.

Mental Exercise

Mr. Armstrong described three basic ways people acquire their beliefs and convictions. The most common is to carelessly believe, without proof, that which they have read or heard. The second is to prejudicially accept any evidence that supports what they want to believe while rejecting any contrary evidence. The least common way is by sifting through all the facts, seeking full information, and considering the question objectively.

The rise of AI has made using the first method easier than ever. Sifting, seeking and considering is hard work, so the temptation is to let Claude, ChatGPT, DeepSeek, Gemini, Grok, Perplexity and a myriad of other AI programs do it for you. But this lazy approach has two major consequences. First, you risk being deceived by misinformation when you don’t verify facts. Second, you miss out on opportunities to strengthen your mind through rigorous mental exercise.

God created the mind to need exercise. That is an important reason the Bible encourages us to meditate. In Psalm 143:5, King David wrote, “I remember the

days of old; I *meditate* on all thy works; I *muse* on the work of thy hands.” The Hebrew word for *remember* in this verse simply means to recall, but the word for *meditate* infers talking to oneself. It is the act of deep concentration, especially on a spiritual subject.

Verses like this show that simply reading about God’s law or listening to a sermon is not enough to ingrain God’s law into the human spirit. You must take time to meditate about God’s law, mull it over, and effectively “talk to yourself” about it. That is how the human mind works.

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ...” (Proverbs 23:7). To truly master God’s law or any other topic, you must devote substantial time to thinking about it. If you do not, you will never learn the subject matter. And if you let your mind atrophy, you will start losing even the ability to form deep thoughts.

The reviews in cognitive science showing the link between heavy reliance on digital tools and poor mental performance highlight the importance of scheduling time to actually think. AI is an impressive tool that may have some good uses, but the very purpose of your life is to learn to think, feel and act as God does—to develop His thoughts, emotions, character and mind. An AI chatbot does not have that ability, so beware delegating your decision-making responsibility to a machine.

You have a choice to make: Will you let machines do your thinking, or will you rise to become the clear-thinking individual your Creator designed you to be? The future of your mind depends on that choice. ■



This is what makes you SO SPECIAL.

Learn what psychologists and scientists do not know about the astounding human mind. Order your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*.

Bread, Circuses and VIOLENT DELIGHTS

Blood sport on the White House lawn and what it means

BY STEPHEN FLURRY AND JOEL HILLIKER

The UFC interim heavyweight championship fight unfolds on the White House lawn on June 14.

IN JUNE, TWO MEN STEPPED into a giant octagon erected on the South Lawn of the White House. One would leave the cage with extreme swelling around both eyes, blood pouring from his face, and a title lost in a technical knockout.

This was UFC Freedom 250: seven fights staged just steps away from the Oval Office as a centerpiece of the nation's semiquincentennial, Flag Day and President Donald Trump's 80th birthday celebration.

A crowd of 4,300 people roared in approval when the ringside doctor ruled that battered mixed martial artist Ilia Topuria was unable to continue the fight. Tens of thousands more watched on giant screens at the nearby Ellipse, while millions tuned in worldwide to stream the spectacle.

The scene looked like something straight out of the pages of a history book

about the last days of the Roman Empire.

"The UFC at the White House last night was incredible," President Trump posted on Truth Social. "The White House has never looked more beautiful. The setting was unsurpassed! ... Congratulations to Dana White and his unbelievable UFC. One of the most exciting days in the history of our fabled White House!"

Think about that statement: Men beat each other half-blind on the White House lawn, and President Trump called it one of the most exciting days in White House history. Not many years ago, the idea of holding an Ultimate Fighting Championship event at the White House would have been unthinkable. In 1996, Sen. John McCain famously called such events "human cockfighting." He sent letters to all 50 state governors urging them to ban the sport. His national campaign helped ban or restrict mixed martial arts in 36 states. Now such "human cockfights" are promoted in the greatest way imaginable.

The American Character

UFC Freedom 250 illustrates how far American character has fallen from the days of our founding.

In 1956, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about five major vices that threatened to collapse the country: 1) the rapid increase in divorce, 2) the rapid increase in taxation, 3) the mad craze for pleasure, 4) the rapid buildup in armaments, and 5) the decay of true religion. He did not come up with these vices on his own; he drew them from Edward Gibbon's classic work *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

"Sports became yearly more *exciting*, and more *brutal*," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "We need to have this brought home to us so we really see it, really realize it, and really understand where it's leading America today. Today, instead of participating in healthy games ourselves, we like to take our sports sitting down, while we pay others to amuse us and to excite us by playing the game for us.

... Millions of Americans love to watch prizefights, to see men slug, pummel and injure one another. The victor is the one who inflicts the greatest *damage*, who is the most *destructive*—NOT the one who *helps* the most, who *serves* the best”

What would Mr. Armstrong say today? In his time, boxing matches were rising in popularity, yet a presidentially promoted, mixed-martial-arts match at the White House would have been unthinkable.

And the mad craze for violent delights in America doesn't end at the White House lawn. The New York Knicks won their first NBA championship in 53 years in June, and Knicks fans watching in New York City poured into the streets to celebrate. Before that night was over, 63 people had been arrested, one person suffered a gunshot wound, four people were stabbed, five school buses were set on fire, and 10 police officers were injured.

Americans are binging on sports and entertainment, especially this summer. Some journalists have called people's four-figure and five-figure expenditures on the World Cup, concerts and other entertainment events “funflation.” As the *Wall Street Journal* noted on June 27, some people have withdrawn thousands from retirement accounts and many are using online “buy now, pay later” services to afford extremely expensive seats, food, accommodations, transport and other associated costs for attending events in other states, countries and continents.

The comparison between the popular entertainment of ancient Rome and that of modern America is more apt than we may want to admit.

The Roman Character

When Rome ruled the world, it was flush with prosperity. Pax Romana “made possible the greatest luxury, the most active commercial life the world ever saw,” wrote historian William Stearns Davis. This stoked growing public appetite for amusement. The scale of the entertainments of ancient Rome exceeded that of any prior empire and was likely unsurpassed until modern times.

Roman society transformed from a culture of ambition, industry, virtue, discipline and duty to one of pleasure, idleness, diversion, escapism and ease. As people enjoyed their wealth and the poets

and politicians praised Rome as *Urbs Aeterna*, “the eternal city,” they sowed the seeds of their empire's decline and fall.

The parallels with pleasure-mad, distracted America today are telling—and ominous.

“Only those with an eye on the lessons of history understand the subtle dangers of careless, excessive self-indulgence, self-seeking and hedonism, while the nation faces the greatest problems in its history, demanding the greatest effort and sacrifice,” says *The Modern Romans*, published by Ambassador College Press in 1971. “However, millions would rather play, escape and indulge themselves in temporary, selfish goals.”

Ponder the decadent and doomed Romans, and take heed.

At the height of Rome's affluence, entertainment was “plentiful and cheap,” wrote historian Will Durant. “Recitations, lectures, concerts, mimes, plays, athletic contests, prize fights, horse races, chariot races, mortal combats of men with men or beasts, not-quite-sham naval battles on artificial lakes—never was a city more bountifully amused” (*The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 3, *Caesar and Christ*).

In the Roman Empire, there were an astounding 76 public holidays each year, on which various plays or games were held. Edward Gibbon described the scene: “From the morning to the evening, careless of the sun or of the rain, the spectators, who sometimes amounted to the number of 400,000 [the capacity of Rome's Circus Maximus], remained in eager attention; their eyes fixed on the horses and charioteers, their minds agitated with hope and fear for the success of the colors which they espoused; and the happiness of Rome appeared to hang on the event of a race.”

America, like Rome, is crazy for sports and entertainment. People over age 65 spend about a third of their waking day watching broadcast TV while tens of millions of people watch Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, Peacock, Hulu, HBO Max and Paramount+. Over a quarter of Americans watch movies several times a week. Nearly 1 in 5 adults watches movies *daily*. More than half of the entire American population plays video games at least monthly, spending tens of billions. In fact, tens of millions of people actually go online to watch other

people play video games. People simply can't get enough entertainment: They are even spending hours watching *other people* entertain themselves.

The mania for spectacle imprinted deeply on Roman life. It brought celebrity and fortune to those who succeeded in the arena, and sometimes freedom. “The charioteers knew glory too—and more,” wrote French historian Jérôme Carcopino. “Though they were of low-born origin, mainly slaves emancipated only after recurrent success, they were lifted out of their humble estates by the fame they acquired and the fortunes they rapidly amassed from the gifts of magistrates and emperors, and the exorbitant salaries they exacted At the end of the first century and in the first half of the second, Rome prided herself on the presence of her star charioteers ...” (*Daily Life in Ancient Rome*). This vividly foreshadowed today's celebrity culture and garish multimillion-dollar sports contracts.

More broadly, these entertainments reflected and influenced public morals. “The games of the circus and the amphitheater absorbed the interest and coarsened the taste of the public,” Durant wrote. The easy luxury, escapism and self-indulgence fed into the spread of immorality, perversion and a lust for sex and violence.

“Almost from the beginning the Roman stage was gross and immoral,” wrote historian Philip Van Ness Myers in 1900. “It was one of the main agencies to which must be attributed the undermining of the originally sound moral life of Roman society” (*Rome: Its Rise and Fall*).

Dying for Entertainment

Chariot races were perilous, but the Roman public had a growing appetite for even deadlier fare. Many public entertainments “involved wild animals killing men and women who had been sentenced to death for various offenses, including for being Christians,” Rodney Stark explained. “Besides being fed to wild animals, people were executed in the arenas in a variety of sadistic ways—flogging, burning, skinning, impaling, dismemberment and even crucifixion” (*How the West Won*). Fights to the death among gladiators—most of whom were slaves, often taken as prisoners of war, a

great many of whom likely died in their first match—were especially popular.

Besides the 50,000-seat Colosseum in Rome, 251 more amphitheaters dotted the Roman Empire, many of which seated 20,000 or more; the smallest could hold 7,000. “It is credibly estimated that at least 200,000 people died in the Colosseum,” Stark wrote. “It seems quite conservative to estimate that an average of at least 10,000 would have died in each of the other 251 amphitheaters, or another 2.5 million. All of this for amusement!”

These bloody exhibitions had a coarsening, benumbing effect on the public. To be entertained by such brutality is a mark of moral sickness and satanic influence.

Yet these bygone blood-thirsty spectators would find plenty to keep them sated today. Violence is conspicuous in modern entertainment. It is literally the point of live contests like boxing and mixed martial arts, and it features heavily in sports like football and ice hockey that fill today’s coliseums and arenas. Television and movies routinely showcase simulated brutality, and with unprecedented detail and realism. Studies show that

more than 9 in 10 movies on television contain violence, including extreme violence. Every hour of prime-time TV depicts an average of nine weapons. Horror and slasher films draw huge crowds to see gore far more graphic and up close than anything a spectator in the Roman arena would have witnessed.

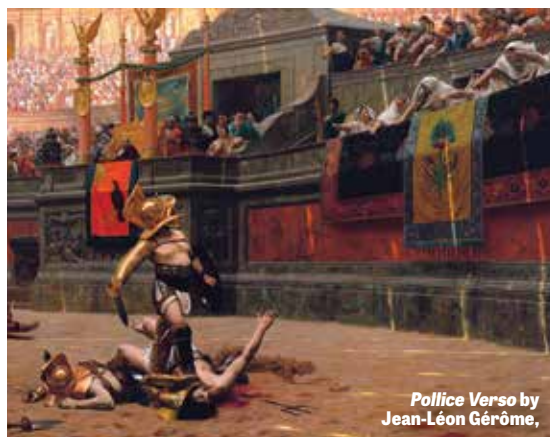
Some may minimize the comparison of UFC and other American entertainment to live gladiatorial slaughter. But fake though most of it is, its intensity is magnified not only by its hyper-realism but also by its ubiquity. Rather than an occasional visit to the Colosseum, the violence comes to them.

The average American household has five connected devices—ultra-high-definition televisions, smartphones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices and more. Teenagers average more than *seven hours a day* with entertainment screen media, the American Academy of Family Physicians reports. Before age 18, the average American youth will witness

200,000 violent acts on TV. Close to 100 percent of teenagers play video games, and about two thirds of these are action games that tend to include violence.

Many video games are ultraviolent and have the player committing grisly acts of mayhem and murder. The most-played, most-watched games in the world are “battle royale” style—where dozens of players thrown into a virtual environment replete with weapons kill each other to the last man standing. The concept comes straight from Rome’s gladiators.

What are the effects of people’s minds being gluttoned on such savagery? “[V]iolence can have a demonic,



Pollice Verso by Jean-Léon Gérôme.

pornographic appeal,” Dr. Ted Baehr, publisher of *Movie Guide*, wrote. “The Roman Empire featured spectacles of live violence. Gladiators fought to the death, Christians were fed to lions, and all manner [of] horrible killing was offered as entertainment to a stadium full of spectators. This same demonic taste can be fed with movies, video games and online content. It is, in fact, a stage into which many people addicted to pornography sink. What may start out as simple sexual attraction devolves into darker and darker pits of hell.”

Like the Romans watching the gory spectacles in the arenas, our people are, as Carcopino wrote, “learning nothing but contempt for human life and dignity” (op cit).

This doesn’t even address the sexuality, immorality and perversion that are also pervasive today, particularly online. Studies show around 80 percent of men and 45 percent of women watch pornography weekly. The sexualization of

society is evident in countless lamentable ways: In many respects, it is turning our world upside-down.

“These violent delights have violent ends.” Shakespeare’s maxim applied to Rome, and it applies to America.

Draining Public Funds

The ravaging effects of this trend on public morality were matched by the effects on the Roman Empire’s resources. Government officials were under growing pressure to provide lavish entertainments to gain public acclaim or to pacify unruly mobs. “Elaborate circuses and gladiator duels were staged to keep the people happy,” Lawrence W. Reed wrote. “One modern historian estimates that Rome poured the equivalent of \$100 million per year into the games” (*Are We Rome?*).

Interestingly, that is only about *one third* of what the U.S. government spends on tax benefits for NFL stadiums.

The epic scale of these ancient spectacles was staggering. To take one example: “In A.D. 108–109, Emperor Trajan employed 10,000 gladiators and 11,000 wild animals in an entertainment lasting 123 days. Such entertainments continued until banned by Christian emperors in the fourth century,” Stark wrote (op cit).

All these attractions diverted the attention of the Roman people away from weightier issues, such as the governance and defense of the empire. “So absorbed did the people become in the indecent representations of the stage that they lost all thought and care of the affairs of real life,” Myers wrote (op cit).

“With the economic and military position of the empire too hopelessly complicated for the crowd to comprehend, they turned more and more toward the only thing that they could understand—the arena,” wrote Daniel P. Mannix. “The name of a great general or of a brilliant statesman meant no more to the Roman mob than the name of a great scientist does to us today. But the average Roman could tell you every detail of the last games, just as today the average man can tell you all about the latest football or baseball standings, but has only the foggiest idea what NATO is doing or what steps are being taken to fight inflation” (*Those About to Die*).

“Life simply became too complex for the average Roman,” Mannix continued.

“But the continuous staging of games and spectacles—cleverly promoted by the caesars to keep the people’s minds occupied—was something to which he could relate. The caesars, said one historian, ‘exhausted their ingenuity to provide the public with more festivals than any people, in any country, at any time, has ever seen’—that is, one could easily argue, until *this* people, in *this* country, in *our* time.

The stupefying effects of such pervasive recreation on the public have manifested repeatedly in history. When people grow affluent and glutted on luxury and diversion, their character suffers and societal decline sets in.

Ignoring Real Issues

America is following Rome’s example, not just in its addiction to entertainment but also in the fact that this craze is distracting us from nation-threatening problems. The world today is bristling with dangers. The enemies of America are working actively and successfully to upend the current U.S.-led world order.

Yet none of this is rousing Americans to real action. If America could get even a fraction of the people who are absorbed in a fantasy football league to devote their attention to supporting America’s indispensable role in international affairs, the course of the nation could well turn in a different direction.

How long can America remain a global power when our priorities are so misguided and self-indulgent?

The Bible is full of warnings against such individual- and nation-destroying excesses. In Amos 6, for example, God condemns those who are “at ease” during a time of great peril. These people “put far away the evil day,” assuming destruction is not on the horizon. “How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall. ... You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. *You care nothing about the ruin of your nation*” (verses 4, 6; New Living Translation). People should be *grieving* over what is happening to America and Britain today. But *we truly are the modern Romans*, enchanted with pleasures and amusements.

Such richness, such ease, such excess dulls its possessors to reality and erodes vigilance against danger and willingness to sacrifice for a larger cause. Forty-eight percent of Americans cannot name the three branches of government; 19 percent can’t name any First Amendment rights. More than 3 in 4 17-to-24-year-old Americans are unfit for military service.

Anciently, the actual physical defenses of Italy and of “the eternal city” itself fell into disrepair, but people inside believed their power, wealth and entertainments would last forever. When Alaric prepared to sack Rome, its defensive walls were easy to breach, and the Romans couldn’t raise a real army from among the Italians to defend the empire or even themselves. They had been dulled to the danger of collapse. To those engrossed in selfish pursuits, the fall was sudden and calamitous.

The Roman Empire did not fall in a day; it rotted from within. The parallels with America today are telling—and ominous.

‘You Have Destroyed Yourself’

The Modern Romans makes an important point: It’s not that there is anything inherently wrong with entertainment when used properly. “But when an entire nation seems to have nothing but the pursuit of money, gadgetry, pleasure, escape and thrills as its national goals—that nation is in serious trouble! Today, millions have no higher ideal or purpose than to get out and indulge themselves in a particular personal pleasure. So wrapped up and involved are millions in these short-range pleasures that few are willing to endure any discomfort or privation to solve national problems or threats.”

“Why has such crass materialism and pleasure become the overriding concern of millions?” it asks. “Because the nation has lost a sense of national purpose or higher ideals other than personal selfish ones.”

This booklet was first published more than 50 years ago. The trends it discussed regarding sports and entertainment are far more intense today.

The spirit motivating those Knicks fans to burn, stab and riot was the same spirit that moved the White House crowd to

cheer in delight as Ilia Topuria was beaten to a pulp. It is the spirit the Apostle Paul described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers”—and several other characteristics that would mark these “last days.” People love themselves—more than family, community, nation! They are “without self-control,” Paul prophesied (New King James Version)—and “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” Read that list and see if it doesn’t describe our violent, pleasure-seeking society. That is, *fulfilled prophecy* in America: We love pleasures more than we love freedom, justice or anything honorable.

Americans are among the modern descendants of ancient Israel. God loves Israel and has used it through the millenniums in a special way to eventually benefit all nations. But we have turned from that purpose, turned away from God, and are rapidly accelerating toward the fulfillment of our prophesied collapse—following the same course toward our own destruction that Rome and so many other great powers have followed throughout history.

God laments in Hosea 13:9: “O Israel, thou hast *destroyed thyself* ...” We are doing this to ourselves.

You can call it Freedom 250, put it on the White House lawn, and dress it in patriotism and pageantry, but God’s verdict does not change. America is the Roman Empire of today—drowning in violent escapism even as the barbarians are at the gates.

The Roman Empire did not fall in a day; it rotted from within. The parallels with America today are telling—and ominous.

We need to realize the same thing God implored our ancestors to realize: “[B]ut in me is thine help. I will be thy king; where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? ...” (verses 9-10). Surely we should be able to recognize by this point that *no one but God can save us*.

God is reaching out to us! He would help us, He would solve our problems—He would be our King—if *only* we would repent, embrace His law, and submit to His rule!

God loves America. He wants to prevent our destruction. But He can and will do so only if we allow Him to. ■

WHY BRITAIN CAN'T FIND A LEADER



Seven prime ministers in ten years signals a serious crisis. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY AND RICHARD PALMER**

OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING STREET, the prime minister announced that it was time to resign. This happened in 2016, 2019, 2022, 2022 again, 2024 and, most recently, in June of this year.

The nation is now heading for its seventh prime minister in a decade.

“The conduct of the great office of prime minister of the United Kingdom in the last 15 years has no precedent in the history of that position,” wrote former newspaper editor Conrad Black last year. First the Conservative Party imploded, cycling through five leaders in quick succession. Now the Labour Party has proved this isn’t merely a Conservative problem: The UK’s major left-wing party can’t produce a stable leader either.

This cycling of prime ministers is a symptom of a much deeper failure.

In the decade before 2008, British productivity grew 21 percent. In the decade after, it grew by just 7 percent.

By 2027, taxes will reach their highest level in postwar history.

Britain’s debt is rising faster than any other nation in the world, except Botswana.

Migration numbers hit a record high of more than 1.3 million in 2023. About 40,000 migrants arrive each year in small boats. So far, about 2 percent of the entire adult male population of Albania has arrived this way.

One in five English schoolchildren doesn’t speak English as a first language: In London, it’s a majority.

Shoplifting has reached the highest level ever recorded, rising 20 percent in the 12 months ending in March 2025. In only 18 percent of incidents was anyone ever charged.

The people are poorer, crippled with taxes, and watching their country transform before their eyes, while police do nothing to stop flagrant lawlessness. No wonder they quickly become unhappy with their leaders. By February, Prime Minister Keir Starmer had reached a net approval rating of minus-49, lower than anything ever

“achieved” by Theresa May, Boris Johnson or Rishi Sunak.

Why can’t anyone seem to deal with the mess?

Is Brexit to Blame?

Starmer announced his resignation the day before the 10-year anniversary of Britain’s Brexit vote. David Cameron was prime minister at the time, and he resigned soon after. He had held the office six years. Since then, no one has lasted more than three.

Was Brexit the moment it all went wrong?

Do you remember the wave of optimism that washed over Britain after it voted to leave the European Union on June 23, 2016? That hope has now receded. The Brexit campaign promised a new era of absolute sovereignty, lucrative global trade deals and rising wealth. Instead, the tide went out and left behind bureaucratic overregulation, economic stagnation and a nation more adrift than ever, one that no one can steer.

The political establishment never truly accepted the Brexit result. Instead, it quietly continued many of the European Union's stifling economic policies in all but name. As a result, the only meaningful change since Brexit is that Britain lost full access to the European market while retaining much of the bureaucracy.

"Take back control" was the slogan of the Vote Leave campaign. But Britain's bureaucracy didn't really want control. Three quarters of members of Parliament who expressed an opinion, including Cameron, opposed Brexit. The unelected experts and technocrats who run the country massively favored the EU.

Even after leaving the EU, the British people have allowed their nation to be hijacked by an EU-style bureaucracy more interested in perpetuating its own authority and power than delivering on the change the British voted for.

Radical change, the kind Britain needs in order to solve its problems, is hard. It's risky, it upsets people, it means offending elites and academics, endangering careers, and not getting invited to dinner parties.

While Brexit is not at the root of Britain's problems, it certainly failed to solve them. That is exactly what the *Trumpet* predicted, even as the waves of optimism were still fresh. "Is this a new birth of freedom for Britain?" we asked in 2016. "At the *Trumpet*, we have certainly pointed to the flaws in Britain's relationship with Europe. We have lamented the loss of sovereignty to Europe. So is it sunlit uplands from now on? Sadly, no. While the EU has certainly caused problems for Britain, the biggest wounds are self-inflicted and won't go away even when this divorce is finalized" (*Trumpet*, August 2016).

We then pointed to many of the same problems that Reform leader Nigel Farage is pointing to now: Britain's huge debt problem, dire trade situation and catastrophic family breakdown. These problems are the result of a spiritual sickness that was not cured when Britain left the EU. In fact, many of Britain's problems got much worse after Brexit. The astronomical debt, the broken families, the gender ideology moral confusion, the social rot—none of them came from Brussels. They came from within.

New Leader, New Solutions?

Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham turned member of Parliament seems almost certain to become Britain's next prime minister—its seventh within a decade.

Burnham's first policy speech, on June 29, did little to address Britain's sickness. He promised the "biggest rebalancing of power" in British history—shifting authority from the capital to the regions. He promised a new "No. 10 North" to shift some power from London to Manchester. There may be advantages to this, but they fall far short of the scale of the problems.

One of Britain's most disgusting problems is Pakistani rape gangs that have

Every one of the six prime ministers who has run Britain since the Brexit vote is partially complicit in these crimes. And so is Britain's next leader.

manipulated and violated British girls for years. M.P. Rupert Lowe recently produced a report estimating that there are 250,000 victims of these rapists nationwide. It is a very rough estimate due to a dearth of authoritative sources, but the authorities are not interested enough to produce more accurate figures.

Police and other authorities looked the other way—and continue to—as part of an effort not to "rock the multi-cultural community boat," as an M.P. for one of the affected towns put it. "Several staff described their nervousness about identifying the ethnic origins of perpetrators for fear of being thought racist; others remembered clear direction from their managers not to do so," states the official Jay report on victims in the town of Rotherham.

Too often, police sided with rapists rather than their victims. In two cases, girls' fathers tracked down their daughters, found the houses where they were being abused, and called the police. The police arrived—and arrested the fathers.

In another case, the police found one of these victims in a derelict building with some adult males. Her companions were not investigated for child

rape—instead, she was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Much of the abuse went on in towns in Greater Manchester, where Burnham was mayor. The worst of that abuse happened before he was in office. But he did little to expose or punish wrongdoers in the aftermath. In Greater Manchester, no police officer or social worker has faced criminal proceedings for what happened.

None of Britain's leaders have dealt with the problem. Every one of the six prime ministers who has run Britain since the Brexit vote is partially complicit in these crimes. And so is Britain's next leader.

Britain's Next Solution

The Bible offers a deep analysis of Britain's problems—and tells us what is coming next. As Herbert W. Armstrong proved in his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Britain is one of the nations that descended from ancient Israel—particularly the tribe of Ephraim. Isaiah 1:5-6 prophesy of these modern nations: "[T]he whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores"

The sickness is everywhere. Devolving power to regional councils or local assemblies will not solve anything, because the sickness is there too.

The book of Hosea directly addresses Ephraim's (Britain's) problems. Hosea 5 begins by declaring that the leaders—"the priests" and "house of the king"—are a snare and a net for the nation. "God is putting the blame where it belongs," writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his booklet *Hosea—Reaping the Whirlwind*. "Who has led the nation of Britain astray? It has been the ministers, rulers and even the royal family. The leaders of the nation have been a snare to the people."

Hosea 5:13 tells us that Britain's leaders will wake up to that sickness soon: "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound."

The nation realizes that it is sick and that another change in prime minister will not fix it. So it turns to a foreign

Britain's leaders have led the way, but the sickness infects every corner of British life. A new prime minister will not solve it. It will take a change in national lifestyle.

country: Germany. (Germany's identity in Bible prophecy is also proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Britain was called the "sick man of Europe" in the 1960s. After Britain joined the European Economic Community in 1973, Mr. Armstrong consistently prophesied that it would leave it. The reason he prophesied Britain's exit from the EU, however, was not that he believed the British people needed independence to fix their country, but because Bible prophecy says a German-led Europe would attack Britain.

"[T]he soon-coming resurrected 'Holy Roman Empire'—a sort of soon-coming 'United States of Europe'—a union of 10 nations [will] rise up out of or following the Common Market of today (Revelation 17)," Mr. Armstrong wrote in his 1985 book *Mystery of the Ages*. "Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come."

This prophecy was dramatically fulfilled 10 years ago. But it was not a sign that things were about to improve in Britain. Rather, it was a sign of impending invasion, captivity and enslavement.

Subsequent events have proved these forecasts correct. Britain's decline has accelerated.

But turning to a foreign power for help will make things much worse.

The Lesson Britain Must Learn

God is trying to get Britain to see one simple truth: "O Israel, *thou hast destroyed thyself*; but IN ME IS THINE HELP" (Hosea 13:9).

Britain is *destroying itself*! The nation's sins are at the root of the crisis.

Most of Britain relies on the government for its income, either in the form of pensions, welfare or employment in the civil service. People don't save for their retirement, nor do children look after their parents—they expect the

government to do it. Too many invent trivial "mental health" excuses to get a payout, a car and other absurdly generous benefits at taxpayer expense.

The government allows mass migration to try to bring in more workers, but many of those migrants quickly become eligible for the same benefits.

The nation has embraced woke, family-destroying ideologies. Divided homes have contributed to a "mental health crisis" across the country. There are now five times more children and young people in contact with mental health services as there were in 2016.

Yet the nation is so wedded to this misguided cause that police and businesses find their ability to get anything done stifled by diversity initiatives and endless paperwork, designed to prove that no one-legged lesbian Afghan is being discriminated against.

Britain's leaders have led the way into this disaster. But the sickness infects every corner of British life.

A new prime minister will not solve it. A foreign country will not solve it. It will take a wholesale change in national lifestyle.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

If Britain will not repent nationally, the Bible makes plain that this course ends in the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22). But *you* can repent individually. Do not be lulled to sleep; don't ignore the problems. The signs are there for those with eyes to see. Britain needs to repent toward the only leader who can truly govern it and lead it to safety, power, peace and purpose. ■

Political leaders cannot solve your problems

Only by turning to God can you find real solutions. Learn how by requesting Gerald Flurry's free booklet *Repentance Toward God*.



A Nation Living in Terror

Horrific attacks by migrants are common, and the media, government and police won't confront the criminals. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

STEPHEN OGILVIE WAS WALKING along Kinnaird Avenue in North Belfast, Ireland, on June 8 when he was knocked to the ground. His assailant sat on him and, in front of horrified onlookers, stabbed and slashed him repeatedly, plunging a small knife into his face, left eye and back, and hacking at his neck. Bystanders screamed that Ogilvie was being beheaded as the attacker shouted "*Wallahi*" ("I swear by Allah"). The entire horrifying incident was captured on video.

The assailant was 30-year-old Hadi Alodid, a Sudanese national.

Local resident Maitiu Mág Tighearnán fought off Alodid with his son's wooden hurling stick. Police arrived and restrained the attacker in time to save Ogilvie's life—but not his left eye. His right eye and parts of his brain function may be permanently damaged.

The mainstream media barely covered this attack, but riots sprang up as outraged locals heard the news. Mainstream reports from the BBC, the *Telegraph*, the *Guardian* and the *Irish Times* devoted far more ink and airtime to the rioting than to the gory attack that sparked it. The brawling and burning are important news stories, but you cannot understand those stories without understanding the cause of the riots.

Alodid arrived in the United Kingdom in February 2023, and the British Home Office granted him leave to remain until 2028. Since 2023, the Home Office has approved asylum claims at a rate of roughly 60 percent, including more than 9,000 Sudanese asylum seekers under a



Where was the national outcry? Where were the members of Parliament taking a knee? Where was Keir Starmer's video statement—the kind he rushed out after George Floyd's death? Nowak, like Floyd, repeatedly told police, "I can't breathe." But he wasn't on drugs. He had committed no crime. London Mayor Sadiq Khan called Floyd's killing a moment that "rightly ignited fury." He said nothing about Henry Nowak.

Britain in Terror

These are just two of many attacks to shock the nation. In May 2025, Somali Haybe Cabdiraxmaan Nur (who had been denied asylum but was still in the country) walked into a Lloyds Bank in Derby and stabbed customer Gurvinder Johal through the heart, killing him in a random, unprovoked attack. In October, Afghan asylum seeker Safi Dawood stabbed 49-year-old dog walker Wayne Broadhurst to death and wounded two others in a triple stabbing in Uxbridge, west London. In January 2025, Iranian asylum seeker Syed Barzeqar carried out a frenzied knife attack on a fellow resident at an asylum hotel in Oxford, stabbing him 15 times. In October 2024, Sudanese asylum seeker Deng Chol Majek killed hotel worker Rhiannon Whyte, stabbing him 23 times near an asylum hotel in Walsall.

Nationals from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Somalia and Sudan feature disproportionately in high-profile knife attacks and weapons offenses. Official nationality breakdowns for knife crime do not exist in the UK, but data from freedom-of-information requests and conviction statistics show these groups are overrepresented compared to their 0.6 percent share of the UK population.

And these are just the knife attacks. Baroness Louise Casey's recent Independent Audit on Group-Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has once again exposed the scale of Islamist grooming gangs operating across the UK. This massive scandal involves tens of thousands of young, mostly female victims who have been raped by networks of Islamist men.

controversial "fast track" scheme that often skips personal interviews.

In the 40 months since Hadi Alodid arrived in Belfast, the Home Office has admitted 140,000 to 160,000 asylum seekers into Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The clear majority of these are Muslims who act, sometimes violently, on their religious motivations.

It's a grim example of a wider problem: Migrants commit shocking crimes, and the government and media cover them up.

Police Racism

On Dec. 3, 2025, 18-year-old Henry Nowak was walking home alone when he was stabbed five times with an 8-inch ceremonial blade by 23-year-old Vikram Digwa. As Henry lay bleeding on the pavement, his attacker's brother called the police—not to report the stabbing but to claim they were victims of a racial slur.

When police arrived, they believed the accusation. Henry was handcuffed. He told an officer, "I've been stabbed." The officer replied: "I don't think you have been, mate."

Henry Nowak died on that pavement, in handcuffs, while being read his rights.

For anyone else, carrying an 8-inch blade would have been illegal. But the Sikhs are exempt because of their religion.

Hampshire Constabulary's stated top priority is "being anti-racist, ethical and inclusive." So they immediately handcuffed the white boy. Even after they realized the truth—once it was too late and Nowak was dead—and arrested Digwa, the murderer, they did not even handcuff him.

In Rotherham, where Muslims make up 13 percent of the population, at least 1,400 girls were raped over three decades. Ethnicity data on perpetrators was recorded only in a third of cases, yet official inquiries still found British-Pakistani men overwhelmingly overrepresented.

"I don't think there's ever been a point in British history—when I was growing up, or maybe ever—when you had several of these nationally significant attacks day after day after day," TalkTV commentator Julia Hartley-Brewer said shortly after the Belfast attack.

It takes courage for people on television to voice the reality that millions of ordinary British citizens already know: The country has changed and is rapidly getting worse. The same government that invited in these radical Muslim populations, that refuses to enforce its own borders, that will not investigate rape when a Muslim perpetrator is involved, and that sends police officers to stand in a line and watch street violence play out or to clash with upset citizens, is the government that targets voices like Hartley-Brewer.

National Sickness

Britain is under attack by Islamic extremists, yet its culture refuses to name the threat, its media call a terrorist attack a "stabbing," and its government would rather arrest Britons for Islamophobic Facebook posts than arrest Pakistanis for raping children.

Three brother nations share this same vulnerability: Britain, the United States and Israel. They will not name the enemy; they will not finish the fight; they will not defend the innocent.

As Herbert W. Armstrong showed in his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, these three nations have a 4,000-year history with God, yet they are despising this history more and more and turning to godless ideologies that prompt them to tolerate murder and rape in the name of diversity, among other things.

Deuteronomy 28:43-44 is prophecy directed at these three nations. It warns that foreigners would come in and "get up above thee very high" and "he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."

What will the next horrifying news event be? Will it be enough for some—for you—to admit we are doomed to destruction if we fail to repent toward God? ■

Chinese troops parade at military drills.



Russia and China—an Alliance **FORGED IN FIRE**

The heat of geopolitics is exerting a powerful force on these Asian giants. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

RUSSIA IS FEELING THE HEAT. THE nation is under immense financial and human strain from 4½ years of full-scale war on Ukraine, while contending with Western sanctions, technological isolation and a widening brain drain. Moscow's geopolitical position has also weakened in recent years as longtime partners from Syria and the South Caucasus to Kazakhstan and parts of Africa have broken away or become harder for the Kremlin to sustain financially and militarily. Even in Venezuela—where Nicolás Maduro had been aligned with Moscow until his dramatic capture by American forces in January—Russia was unable to protect one of its closest allies. Iran, too, has exposed the limits of Russian power projection; Moscow has offered rhetoric and limited support but failed to decisively shield another embattled ally.

At the same time, China is also being driven deep into the forge. It is feeling the slow burn of a weakening economy, strain in its once-dominant property sector, and the impact of accelerating demographic decline that reduces long-term productivity and consumer demand. Local governments remain burdened by immense debts accumulated during the property boom, while weak consumer confidence and soaring youth unemployment have

created serious deflationary pressures across the economy. Beijing is also facing intensifying external pressure over its predatory trade practices, brutal internal crackdowns, threats on Taiwan and bullying in the South China Sea and other regions. This pressure comes in the form of increasingly assertive United States-led military posture across the Indo-Pacific, semiconductor restrictions, declining foreign investment and mounting trade tensions.

Both powers are now being tempered in the furnace of geopolitical pressure. By traditional measures, both powers appear structurally stressed and vulnerable. Some analysts have speculated that the intensifying forces could end up busting apart their partnership. Instead, the increasing pressures are forging an ever closer bond between them—a bond that is becoming one of the defining geopolitical structures of the age.

From Tack Weld to Ironclad Union

Russia and China had been drawing steadily closer since shortly after the Soviet Union's collapse—resolving long-standing border disputes, integrating their economies, and expanding military cooperation. But after Russian President Vladimir Putin escalated his war on Ukraine into a full-scale invasion

in early 2022, the heat of crisis forged the two countries into a far stronger geopolitical union.

Energy cooperation has become especially significant after many Western nations sought to punish Moscow for its war by reducing their dependence on Russian hydrocarbons. China, the world's most energy-hungry nation, eagerly stepped in and bought up supplies that had previously flowed westward. Chinese imports of Russian crude rose from 1.6 million barrels per day before the invasion to 2.2 million by 2023, making Russia China's largest oil supplier. The situation with gas is similar, with China boosting imports through the Power of Siberia pipeline from 10.4 billion cubic meters in 2021 to 23 billion in 2023. Last year, the figure hit 38.8 billion. China is also now Russia's top buyer of seaborne liquefied natural gas.

With these steady purchases, as well as consistent imports of Russian coal, refined fuels, metal ores, timber, pulp, fertilizers and food products, China is fueling its own economy while providing Putin's regime with crucial revenue streams.

Russo-Chinese military cooperation has strengthened just as significantly. What began in 2003 as sporadic joint drills involving small numbers of forces

has expanded into a dense calendar of increasingly sophisticated and large-scale war games. These drills include naval patrols, strategic bomber exercises, missile-defense exercises, coast guard operations and large-scale naval maneuvers. They take place across Eurasia, the Pacific and sometimes even in the Arctic and Mediterranean. In 2024, Russian and Chinese forces stunned the United States by conducting their first joint coast guard patrols in the Pacific Ocean—near Alaska.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies calculates that Russia and China have conducted some 120 sets of joint military exercises, and their tempo and complexity continue to increase.

As military cooperation has expanded in both geographic scope and operational sophistication, the language describing the Russia-China relationship has also evolved. What was long labeled a “strategic cooperation” was elevated to a “comprehensive strategic partnership,” and finally to what both sides call a “no limits” partnership.

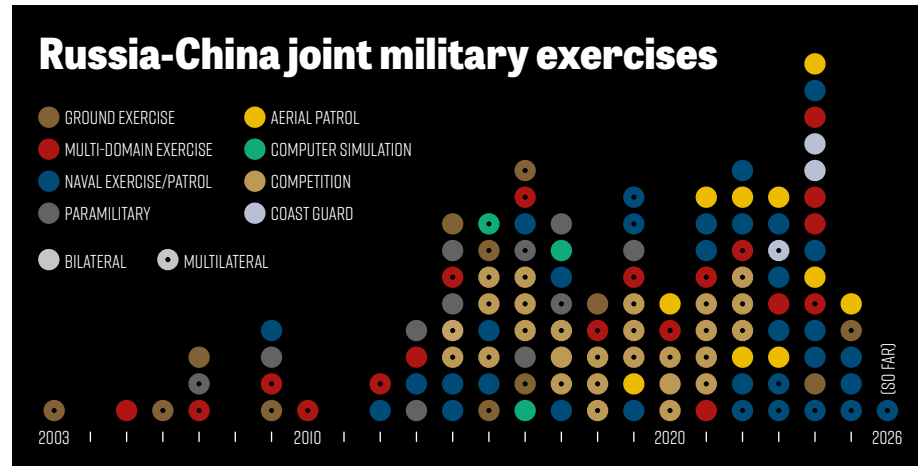
In the years since Russia’s war on Ukraine went full-scale, the partnership has lived up to that “no limits” label. Though China has not deployed troops to support the war, it has sold Russia \$10.3 billion worth of advanced technology and industrial equipment since early 2022, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission’s 2026 report. This enables Russia’s continued defense production, including specialized manufacturing machines and tools for building missiles and other military equipment. China has also emerged as Russia’s primary source of dual-use items and critical electronics used in weapons manufacturing. Intelligence agencies say China-supplied components are present at more than 20 of Russia’s most important defense factories.

Since Russia can no longer easily obtain such products from the U.S., Europe, Japan or South Korea due to sanctions, China’s supply has been game-changing. It has been a major factor enabling Russia to keep prosecuting the war. And China has risked U.S. and other sanctions in order to keep supplies flowing. This clearly reflects a “no limits” bond that is growing stronger all the time.

Toward a Hardened Military Alliance

The Russia-China partnership still faces serious challenges. The Chinese economy and population are both 10 times larger than those of Russia, making Moscow increasingly dependent on Beijing for trade, technology access and financial connectivity. And many

power in history. These prophecies and related passages make clear that this Asian bloc will play a central role in the final world war. Ezekiel 38 shows that Russia is prophesied to lead this bloc, with China as a close partner. We are witnessing the two already fulfilling the early stages of these prophecies.



Russian strategists worry about their nation being the junior partner in the relationship. Long-standing tensions also persist beneath the surface, including border disputes, historical mistrust, competition in Central Asia and concerns over technology theft.

Even so, many of the old arguments against a durable Russia-China alignment now look far less convincing than they did before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. What was long seen by analysts as a weak weld has been forged into an ironclad partnership—because leaders of both nations oppose the U.S.-led global order that has prevailed since World War II and are determined to end it. Decision-makers in Moscow and Beijing repeatedly conclude that they can best challenge it if they bind themselves to one another. So the bond keeps getting stronger.

The *Trumpet* closely watches the strengthening Russia-China bond because biblical prophecy warns that a multinational Asian alliance will emerge in the end time—and harden into a force that will reshape the world order.

Kings of the East

Revelation 16:12 calls this bloc “the kings of the east.” Revelation 9:16 says it will field a force of 200 million soldiers, 15 times larger than the largest military

In the early days of Russia’s war on Ukraine, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: “The rise of Vladimir Putin, Russia’s invasions, a budding alliance between Russia, China and other Asian nations—these are all signs that Bible prophecies are true! Bible prophecy and an honest look at the world reveal that this is all building toward a nuclear World War III! When nuclear bombs begin detonating, when a 200 million-man army mobilizes, when World War III explodes, it will seem like this will literally be the end of the world, the end of life on Earth. And it would be, except for something else the Bible prophesies. The Bible forecasts not only the geopolitical situation we are facing right now and the resulting violent eruption but also what comes next: the precise events leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!” (“[Why We Must Warn About Vladimir Putin](https://www.thetrumpet.com/25484),” April 11, 2022; [theTrumpet.com/25484](https://www.thetrumpet.com/25484)).

To understand the details of the prophesied Asian alliance that is being dramatically forged today, the violent future it is building toward, and the peace that will follow directly after, order your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



Prime Minister Mark Carney attends the European Political Community summit in May.

The REAL AGENDA in Canada's Pivot to Europe



Mark Carney is helping to build Europe's empire. **BY ABRAHAM BLONDEAU**

MARK CARNEY IS PLAYING A DANGEROUS game. His major foreign-policy objective since his appointment as Canada's prime minister in March 2025 has been to *decouple the country from America and embrace Europe.*

Carney revealed his agenda in his speech at the eighth annual European Political Community Summit in Armenia on May 4–5. We need to examine Carney's words and actions. Only Bible prophecy can reveal the shocking motive behind the smooth words.

'The Most European'?

Carney was the first non-European leader to attend this conference. "I do think that it is fitting that Canada is the first non-European country to join this forum as we are the most European of non-European countries," he declared. "We share a triple alignment of history, of values and trust. Our histories are deeply intertwined."

Is Canada really intertwined with Europe? While it does have a dual Anglo-Franco heritage, it *does not* share the heritage of a unified Europe. Carney is not only trying to distance Canada from Britain and the United States, he is also rewriting history by insinuating that Canada shares in the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire—the government, culture and values that unite Europe.

"[O]ur strategic imperative is to build these sovereign capabilities with the most

trusted partners," he continued. "And that creates enormous opportunities for partnership between Canada and Europe. We view ourselves as highly complementary to your economic and security goals."

What are Europe's economic and security goals?

Bible prophecy warns that Europe is going to help besiege the United States and Britain economically (read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). Its goal is to destroy America by building a new world economy. This is a stepping-stone to its security goal of rebuilding a military machine that will overthrow the U.S.

Carney sees Canada as "highly complementary" to the emerging empire prophesied to realize these goals.

The prime minister finished his speech with this chilling statement: "It is my strong personal view that the international order will be rebuilt, but it will be rebuilt out of Europe."

Let that sink in: Carney believes a new world order will be rebuilt out of Europe. That points directly to the warnings of the Bible. The late Herbert W. Armstrong and *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry have prophesied for decades that the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is rising in Europe to build a new world order that will defeat the U.S. and British Commonwealth. (Europe's dark history is explained in our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.)

Carney strongly believes in Europe's grand strategy. He is using the full force of the Canadian government, the nation's resources and strategic assets to aid in the resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

Every Canadian needs to know the history and prophecy of the Holy Roman Empire and question his agenda: *Should our nation support this evil empire?* Canadian blood was courageously spilled in two world wars against this empire. Now we are joining it!

A Growing Pattern

Carney's speech was not an aberration; it was the confirmation of a pattern.

- On June 23, 2025, Canada and the European Union published a Strategic Agreement aimed at forging "a new ambitious and comprehensive partnership that responds to the needs of today and will evolve to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future." The document laid out an EU–Canada Security and Defense Partnership to "strengthen and widen the scope of cooperation and dialogue between the EU and Canada." It spoke of "continuing our strong cooperation, notably through Canada's contributions to EU missions and operations."
- The same day, Canada signed onto ReArm Europe, a \$1.3 trillion rearmament program. It committed to "a €150 billion loan program managed by the European Commission to support and expedite defense procurement by EU member states," the ReArm Europe contract states. This gives Canadian businesses "preferential access and treatment to defense procurements."
- In December 2025, Canada and Germany announced the Canada-Germany Digital Alliance, a partnership designed to hasten collaboration on AI, quantum technology, digital infrastructure and digital sovereignty.
- Then in February, the two nations signed a joint AI declaration and launched the Sovereign Technology Alliance. The declaration works to expand computing infrastructure and AI research and commercialization, thus helping "start-ups and industries in both countries to scale innovation and compete globally," as well as reduce strategic dependency on other nations.

- On July 6, Carney announced that Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems won a \$39 billion contract for 12 submarines and to help construct two bases (one on each coast of Canada). South Korea's Hanwha had been competing for the contract, sending a fully operational submarine to Vancouver for display and spending millions in advertising. ThyssenKrupp has no submarines built and has a large backlog on previous orders—yet it still won the bid. This is a part of a proposed shared submarine fleet between Germany, Norway and Canada—a massive step toward further military integration.

These agreements have two purposes: undermine President Donald Trump's America and rebuild Europe's military. Carney is purposely turning Canada into a proxy of the Holy Roman Empire, a resource-rich ally that supplies energy, food, rare earths and military needs.

Foretold in Prophecy

This trend of Canada looking to Germany was foretold in the Bible. Hosea 5:13 prophesies that Ephraim, the biblical name for the British and Commonwealth nations, will fall into crisis and turn to Germany for help: "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound."

Prime Minister Carney is beginning to fulfill this prophecy. Canada has severe economic and societal sickness. Carney sees Canada's economic dependency on the United States as a sickness. On April 19, Carney said, "Many of our former strengths, based on our close ties to America, have become weaknesses. Weaknesses that we must correct." By seeking an alliance with Germany, Carney is helping to rebuild the Holy Roman Empire and is committing monstrous

treachery against the Canadian people and the U.S., their traditional ally and blood brother.

It is hard to know how successful Carney will be in his agenda, but his betrayal will be paid back in full. Hosea 5:5 prophesies that the U.S., the British peoples and Israel will fall together at the hands of a German-led Europe. In the end, Germany will double-cross any nation that treats it like a "lover."

Mr. Flurry issued this strong warning in 2004 that we must heed today: "Superpowers have been destroyed in history for refusing to face the hard truths. America and Britain are going to pay a heavy price for deceiving themselves about Germany and the Balkans war."

We must connect the threads of history, current news and Bible prophecy to create a clear picture of what our leaders are doing and of the fate of our nations. ■

Canada's New Governor General

ONE OF CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER MARK CARNEY'S clearest signals of supporting the Holy Roman Empire was his selection of Canada's new governor general.

The governor general, appointed by the prime minister for a five-year term, is the official representative of the British monarchy, the head of state over Canada. On May 5, Carney selected Louise Arbour, the champion of every liberal cause you can imagine: prisoners' voting, "LGBTQ+ rights," illegal immigrants' rights and so on. In 2022, she led an independent review into allegations of sexual misconduct in Canada's Armed Forces, which the Trudeau government used to purge leadership in favor of inexperienced leaders who wanted to radically transform the military.

Yet where Arbour found international notoriety, and why her appointment as governor general is important to Germany, was her role as chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

On May 22, 1999, Arbour indicted Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes during the Yugoslav Wars (1990 to 2001), particularly for events in Kosovo in 1991, between Serbians and Croats. This remains a controversial subject and may seem like ancient history, but it is vital to understanding the developing relationship between Canada and Germany.

Arbour was hailed as a champion of human rights and international law for serving justice to a genocidal leader. To this day, she remains a hero in Europe for her role in this affair. The problem is, the indictment was based on lies—lies fabricated by Germany.



If you are concerned about Canada's slide toward Germany and Europe, read **Germany's Conquest of the Balkans** to learn what the future holds and what you can do.



Germany actually incited the Yugoslav Wars as a crucial strategic step toward rebuilding its empire. This vital history is explained in Mr. Flurry's booklet **Germany's Conquest of the Balkans**, which exposes why Germany defied the whole world in recognizing Croatia and breaking up Yugoslavia—so it could have a client state on the Mediterranean Sea.

While Milosevic was on trial at The Hague in 2004, Mr. Flurry wrote in "**The Scary Truth Behind the Milosevic Trial**": "We have said from the beginning of the Balkans war that Germany, aided by the Vatican, led NATO into that war. And it did it with blatantly deceptive intelligence. ... German leaders started and sustained the intelligence reports about genocide being committed by Slobodan Milosevic in the Balkans. ... All kinds of lies were told to justify the Balkans war! That has now been abundantly proved. Slobodan's sin is simply that he was an enemy of Germany and the Vatican—the Holy Roman Empire" (theTrumpet.com/976).

Milosevic died of a heart attack in 2006 before he was sentenced at The Hague, even though the prosecution was unable to bring any real evidence that he had committed any crimes. The factual evidence shows Milosevic never ordered or advocated any criminal actions, despite German claims that he organized mass killings in the Kosovo area. Arbour's 1999 indictment was founded on these falsified reports from Germany. She probably acted on these reports in good faith but was a pawn of the Holy Roman Empire.

Carney's selection of Arbour as the governor general is a clear declaration of Carney's loyalties to Germany. ■



Is Qatar Influencing Trump's Iran Policy?

President Trump prepares to board the new Air Force One for his first flight.

THE OLD AIR FORCE ONE COMPLETED ITS LAST FLIGHT on June 18. Its replacement is a lavish \$400 million “flying palace” donated by Qatar. As the Trump administration negotiates with Iran, this gift resurrects questions about how much this Middle Eastern autocracy is influencing the president’s foreign policy.

Qatar was among Hamas’s main sponsors, and it used its leverage with the United States to prevent Israel from defeating the terrorist group. There is evidence that it is trying a similar tactic to protect Iran.

- The *Washington Post* reported on June 12 that Qatar offered to pressure the U.S. to call off its bombing campaign, conditional on Iran leaving Qatar’s main natural gas field alone.
- According to the *Post*, pending Iran’s agreement, “Qatar would halt gas production unilaterally—a move that would send energy prices soaring and put economic pressure on the United States and Israel to shorten the war.” Iran struck the field anyway. But on May 14, during peace talks with Iran, President Trump announced he had signed a deal with Qatar “to generate an economic exchange worth at least \$1.2 trillion.”
- No public knowledge directly links the agreement to the negotiations, but given Qatar’s track record, the circumstances are highly suspect. At the very least, President Trump’s acceptance of lavish gifts from Qatar at moments like this suggest a conflict of interest.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry had strong words against the arrangement when it was announced last year. In the July 2025 *Trumpet* issue, in “**Don’t Accept Gifts From Terrorists**” (theTrumpet.com/31619), he wrote: “Do you think the Qatari leaders offered President Trump that jet because they love him? They are *flattering* him. ... They hate *him* and everything he stands for. These Muslims want everybody to serve their god *their way*—and they use force to achieve that! They want to *take over* America and *kill* nonbelievers! ... The Qataris are giving an airplane to a man they know is *vulnerable* and is caving in. When you do things like this, Satan will not let you get away with it! ... Trump has opened the door, and he is inviting satanic influence—that is what this is about.”

MIHAILO S. ZEKIC

► DEADLY DELUSION FROM PAGE 3

state” takeover. WHERE IS THAT FIGHTING SPIRIT NOW WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING AN ALLY IN A SEVERE CRISIS?

President Trump says he is a man of peace, but he isn’t bringing peace to Israel. It looks like he is bringing the opposite! In talking to Iran, he is *dealing with the devil*. When it comes to peace negotiations and international diplomacy, the president has a *deadly weakness*.

The Cause

With the war at a stalemate, President Trump has realized that America’s military cannot defeat Iran. Smith summarized the situation: “The reason that Trump’s Iran policy is coming to look just like Obama’s is simple: Once you stop military actions, there’s no room left on the board except Obama’s position, which is to concede everything to the Iranians while painting it as a victory.”

Park MacDougald wrote for *Tablet*: “Trump set out to effectively wipe Iran off the geopolitical map. Now, he’s haggling over bribes with a regime he’s claimed on dozens of occasions to have already annihilated. Even for Trump, who is above all a salesman, it’s hard to sell this as a victory.”

After the initial ceasefire in April, President Trump told the media he had achieved “total and complete victory.” But the truth is that AMERICA LOST THE WAR.

THERE IS A MASSIVE SPIRITUAL REASON FOR THIS.

The reason America has been unable to defeat Iran is that, as Herbert W. Armstrong explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, our nation has forsaken God! God prophesied in Leviticus 26:19-20 that if His people forsook Him, He would break the pride of their power and have their strength spent in vain. Defeat in the Iran war continues the trend which was first foretold by Herbert W. Armstrong and which the *Trumpet* has often highlighted: America has not won a single war since World War II! AND HE IS GOING TO BRING FAR MORE SEVERE CURSES ON AMERICA VERY SOON IF ITS LEADERS AND PEOPLE DO NOT REPENT!

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

President Trump fights for many good causes. But in the process, he gets people to look to *him* as the solution—not to the omnipotent, all-powerful God! WE NEED A LEADER WHO WILL LEAD OUR PEOPLE TO EMBRACE THE LIVING GOD—NOT A PUNY, HELPLESS MAN! This is a great deception and a great sin!

President Trump is right to worry about world peace. But negotiating with beastly powers like Iran is not the way to peace. *Only God* can save us from the storm that is building.

God has given America a brief window to repent of its sins, including in its foreign policy. But if America does not repent, WE ARE HEADING TOWARD BLOODY, NUCLEAR WORLD WAR!

This is not a man’s prediction. IT IS GOD’S BIBLICAL WARNING!

Iran is the king

Iran’s resilience under attack confirms what the *Trumpet* has said about Iran and Bible prophecy for 30 years. Request Gerald Flurry’s *The King of the South*.



SAUL LOEB / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

What Do You Mean ‘Repentance’?

How you can change for the better

YOU HAVE HAD THOUGHTS AND DONE THINGS THAT HAVE hurt others and yourself. You have suffered the consequences, sometimes not even realizing it, and sometimes realizing it all too well.

Thoughts and actions that harm our bodies, minds and relationships are *sin*. They oppose the nature of our Maker, who loves each person He has created. Our sins are ultimately against *Him*.

The Creator of mankind knows which thoughts and actions harm us and which benefit us. Like Adam and Eve, we think we know the difference between good and evil, but that knowledge is far beyond us! So we continue to think and do things that harm others and ourselves.

We need to stop and change. That is what *repentance* means!

Through the Bible, God reveals what sin is and how to repent of it. Stunningly, even most Christian churches don’t understand God’s law, sin and repentance. But, with your Bible, you can!

Our Creator’s nature and way of life is *love* (1 John 4:8). He has given the human beings He created His love as a law (Galatians 5:14; James 2:8). We have all broken that law and committed sin (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 1 John 1:8-10; 3:4).

Our thoughts and actions, our insistence that *we* define the knowledge of good and evil for ourselves, our very core motivations, are sinful. God tells us how deeply this is engrained in our nature in Jeremiah 17:9: “the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (See also Romans 1:28-32; 8:7-8; James 4:1-3.)

We must not deceive ourselves and think that just because we haven’t committed the same harmful acts as others that we are not sinful. *Each of us* has a spiritual cancer deep within our hearts! Its ugly symptoms surface time and time again; beneath the surface, in ways you don’t even realize, it is stunting you, harming you and your relationships with others and with your Creator.

Paul asked, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24).

Real repentance, as revealed in the Bible, starts with accurately understanding how deeply sinful you are. It is far more than merely getting caught doing something wrong or feeling guilty or remorseful. It is a life-changing turning point!

True repentance is a moving, heartfelt experience (Joel 2:12-13). It is repentance not toward other human beings you have harmed but toward your Creator (Acts 20:21). To repent means to be so humbled and broken up about our rebellion against the living, holy God that we turn to Him in real sorrow and surrender and plead for His mercy and forgiveness.

Repentance means understanding not only that you have done wrong but that you *are* wrong. It means understanding that *God* defines right and wrong, and that *you* defining right and wrong is itself a sin.

It means realizing that God defines right and wrong through His law, and that His law is perfect and just—and the only true definition of love (Psalm 119:172; Romans 7:12; John 14:15, 15:10; 1 John 2:4-5; 2 John 5-6). Romans 13:8-10 says that “love is the fulfilling of the law.” Again, the Creator God defines love, and does so *in His law*.

The whole intent and purpose of the Ten Commandments is love because “God is love” (1 John 4:16). Jesus showed that God’s law has two basic aspects. The first shows us *HOW* to love God, which is the intent of the first four commandments. The second shows us *HOW* to love our neighbor—fellow human beings. The last six commandments teach this.

Jesus Christ summed up the entire law of God as “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus’s message was about repentance from sin (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:1-5). His disciples preached the same message (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2; 3:19). In fact, just as He prophesied and commanded, His disciples today still preach His message of the Kingdom of God, believing the gospel and *repenting*.

Repentance is not merely a “religious” word. It literally means to turn, to *change*. True repentance requires a permanent change of direction. It is a total commitment to a course from which there is no turning back.

Repentance, by definition, changes your life. But don’t be overwhelmed: You *CAN* repent! You can beat that spiritual cancer. How? Not by relying on your own strength, but with the help of your all-powerful Creator God! The same overflowing good, mercy and grace by which He created the Earth, mankind and *you individually* “leadeth thee to repentance” (Romans 2:4). “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18).

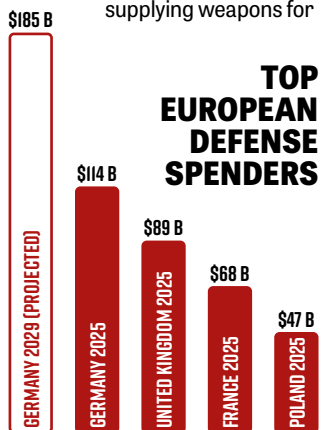
God can grant you repentance!

How is it possible for a human being to keep God’s law of love? What is the role of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice? What is the role of the Holy Spirit? What does God’s law say? To understand, turn to the scriptures cited, and request your free copy of *How to Be an Overcomer*, by Gerald Flurry. ■

EUROPE

Germany's military rise and the void left by America's retreat is reshaping NATO. On June 17, NATO Secretary General **Mark Rutte** confirmed that European members will fill the gap left by U.S. withdrawals, with **Germany**—already the Continent's top military spender at \$114 billion last year, projected to reach \$185 billion by 2029—positioned to assume most of that role. A leaked list published by German outlet *Bild* on June 5 showed that the Trump administration plans to move fighter aircraft, drones, and a carrier strike group away from Europe.

The shift was visible on the ground at Berlin's International Aerospace Exhibition, held June 10-14, which drew a record 110,000 attendees amid what Deutsche Welle called a "gold rush atmosphere" for defense investment. On June 15, **Luftwaffe chief Holger Neumann** declared his forces ready to "fight tonight" against Russia. **Russia** is taking notice. On May 27, its UN representative warned that Germany has become a leading global arms exporter: "A country that twice initiated world wars has now become one of the leading donors to armed conflicts, inter alia [among other things], by supplying weapons for



use in territories where its army was deployed twice in the 20th century alone," he said.

"How Europe Learnt to Love the Bomb" was a dramatic headline in the *Telegraph* on May 26.

France is developing new nuclear missiles and submarines and has signed nuclear cooperation agreements with Germany, **Poland**, and the **UK**, with **Belgium**, the **Czech Republic**, **Sweden** and other nations expressing interest. The next day, **Günter Sautter**, security adviser to the German chancellor, went to Paris for a first round of talks to come under France's nuclear protection.

America is clearly worried: The *Financial Times* revealed on June 3 that the Trump administration is offering more EU nations nuclear bombs and jets that can carry them. Poland and the Baltic states are reportedly interested. The move seems designed to tempt nations away from France's initiative, and keep them reliant on the U.S. for nuclear defense.

"[T]hou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom," God says in Ezekiel 16:33. "Could this apply better to any nation other than the modern United States?" the *Trumpet* wrote during President Trump's first term. "America has given away some of the most powerful weapons ever created. Despite all the gifts, these powers are turning against the U.S." ("**Europe and America: They've Lost That Loving Feeling**").*

Political turbulence is rattling both Germany and the transatlantic alliance. A YouGov poll published June 17 showed Germany's far-right **Alternative für Deutschland** surging to 29 percent support, a 9-point lead over the mainstream Christian Democrats, and polling above 40 percent in Saxony-Anhalt ahead of



September elections. Mainstream parties may soon be forced to govern alongside either the AfD or the hard-left "Left" party, since the two together are expected to win more than half the vote.

Nazi-sympathetic parties used to be shunned in German politics. Yet prominent AfD leaders routinely praise the "achievements" of German troops in World War II and call for an overhaul of how Germany views its history and for the rehabilitation of Nazi slogans. Germans want solutions—and parties like the AfD promise radical change. Though neo-Nazi views would have once stigmatized the AfD, Germans are ready to embrace something they used to reject.

"The rise of this extreme party is just one sign of a German society in trouble," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in August 2024. The appetite for installing a strongman is growing. "The rise of the Nazi spirit in Europe is sobering," he wrote. "It certainly shows how the climate is ripe for the rise of this strongman" ("**Nazism Rises Again in Germany**").

[THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/EUROPE](http://thetrumpet.com/more/europe)

MIDDLE EAST

Police raided the headquarters of the Republican People's Party in Ankara,

Turkey, on May 26 to subdue supporters of party leader **Özgür Özel**. The secular, social-democratic party is Turkey's main political opposition. A Turkish court judged that Özel's election as party leader was illegitimate, and the raid further indicates that Islamist President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** is turning Turkey into a dictatorship.

The book of Obadiah prophecies that Turkey, referred to by its biblical name Edom, will have

a pivotal, dangerous role in end-time events. Learn about it in the chapter "Reviving the Ottoman Empire" in our free

booklet **He Was Right**.





Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in October, which left Israel in control of just over 50 percent of the Gaza Strip. But in the last few months, Israel has dramatically increased the extent of its control. On May 28, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Israel was “fully in control of 60 percent of the territory of the Gaza Strip.” Less than a month later, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on June 23 that Israel controlled approximately 70 percent of the territory. Israel is carrying out successful strikes against Hamas, Hamas has a limited ability to counterattack, and the United States has apparently given its tacit blessing to Israel’s offensive. Hamas has refused to surrender territory or weapons to the “Board of Peace,” the institution U.S. President Donald Trump created to govern post-Hamas Gaza, and the board is struggling with funding.

Gaza under Hamas was a proxy of Iran, the prophetic “king of the south” of Daniel 11:40, which prophesies that Iran and its allies would push against “the king of the north,”

which is Europe, led by Germany. A related prophecy in Psalm 83 mentions Germany under its ancient name “Assyria” or “Assur,” along with countries that would be allied with it, implying that they oppose Iran. Verse 7 mentions “the Philistines,” or the territory of modern Gaza. For this prophecy to be fulfilled, Iran must lose control of Gaza. Israel’s offensive is paving the way for this to happen. Mr. Flurry writes in *The King of the South*, “whatever unexpected developments affect Gaza, Germany, one way or another, will become Gaza’s new master.”

[THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/MIDDLE-EAST](https://thetrumpet.com/more/middle-east)

ASIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin tightened his hold over Georgia’s breakaway province of South Ossetia on June 16 with the appointment of Kremlin bureaucrat Marat Kambolov as the territory’s prime minister.

After a five-day war against Georgia back in 2008, Putin

recognized both South Ossetia and Georgia’s other pro-Russia breakaway province, Abkhazia, as independent states. He entrenched a long-term military presence in both to assert de facto Russian control over them. But with the installation of Russian-born Kambolov, Putin may be pushing for more than de facto control. He may be on the verge of making it official.

“[T]he installation of a Moscow bureaucrat looks to eliminate whatever plausible political distance may have remained between [South Ossetia] and Moscow,” the *Moscow Times* wrote. To understand Putin’s ruthless drive to reassert control over former Soviet nations such as Georgia and Ukraine, read *The Propheesied ‘Prince of Russia.’*



Officials in Japan unveiled a plan on June 4 to downgrade the “Nanjing Massacre” in one of the nation’s most important museums to the “Nanjing Incident.” The plan for the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum is highly controversial in and outside Japan because the Nanjing Massacre was not only one of the greatest horrors of World War II but one of the darkest stains on the record of human civilization. During the six-week massacre, Imperial Japan’s troops killed as many as 300,000 unarmed soldiers and Chinese civilians, including children, pregnant women and the elderly—often in unspeakable ways. This is the

latest effort by Japanese nationalists to sanitize and whitewash the nation’s gut-wrenching wartime savagery as they work to prepare the public for future conflicts.

Russia has learned how to hijack Ukraine’s attack drones midflight and turn them against European nations, the *Telegraph* wrote on May 26. The Russians accomplish this high-tech deceit by first sending out a powerful electronic noise to overwhelm a drone’s GPS receiver and effectively deafen it. The drone then enters search mode, seeking new guidance signals, at which time the Russians feed it false positioning data. The data makes a drone in Ukrainian skies interpret its position as being in Russian-held territory, and prompts it to turn west and north—back toward the area where it thinks the line of contact lies. But since it was actually already far west of Russia-held territory, the false data prompts it to fly out of Ukraine altogether and deep into NATO skies.

Since March, Russia has used this tactic to violate the territory of Estonia, where one drone crashed and NATO jets were scrambled to destroy another; Latvia, where a drone damaged an oil facility; and Lithuania, where the president was among thousands of people who were forced to shelter in a bunker in the nation’s capital. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned for years that Russian aggression would terrify the peoples of Europe and catalyze their unification and militarization.

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

ANGLO-AMERICA

As the **United States** celebrated its 250th anniversary, many Americans are experiencing a national identity crisis. A Public Religion Research Institute American Identity Survey released on June 17 shows that U.S. citizens are **less proud of their country, less religiously unified and less likely to believe the American dream is still alive.** Of the 5,469 adults polled, only 51 percent said they are extremely or very proud of being American, down from 82 percent in 2013. This included 83 percent of Republicans, but only 31 percent of Democrats and 43 percent of Independents.

The Democratic Socialists of America are doubling down in their efforts to radicalize the Democratic Party. This

group endorsed dozens of political candidates nationwide, including **Darializa Avila Chevalier**, who won the Democratic nomination for U.S. representative in New York's 13th congressional district on June 23. A CNN investigative review of more than 3,600 archived posts and reposts from Chevalier's deleted social media accounts revealed radical views including abolishing borders, abolishing police, abolishing private property, and abolishing the State of Israel.



Demonstrators clashed with United States marshals at a courthouse in St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 16, after 15 activists were charged with conspiring to "violently oppose immigration law enforcement." The defendants had worked with Direct Action Minnesota, which is tied to the Antifa movement, a designated domestic terrorist organization.

Groups like Antifa and the Democratic Socialists of America want to use illegal immigration to fundamentally transform American culture. By fighting against border enforcement, they are opening the door to tremendous violence in the United States. A prophecy in Ezekiel 5:12 reveals that *one third* of the population of

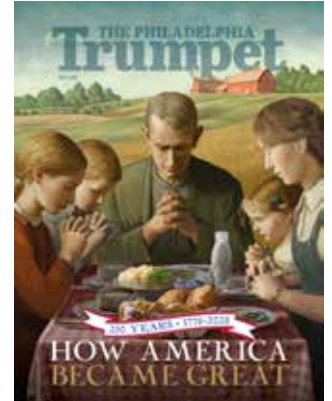
"Israel" will die from "pestilence." This is not referring to an ancient destruction of Israel, which occurred prior to Ezekiel writing his book: This is for *the U.S. today*. Read about it in Gerald Flurry's free book ***Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet***.

Leftists in **Mexico** are also resisting and undermining America. Former Mexican President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** accused President Donald Trump on June 3 of employing "interventionist and unscrupulous practices" to bolster Mexico's conservative opposition and weaken López Obrador's leftist movement. The comments followed the U.S. Justice Department's indictment of 10 Mexican officials, most of them Morena politicians, over alleged drug-trafficking ties with the Sinaloa cartel. López



Obrador and President **Claudia Sheinbaum** accused the U.S. of disproportionately targeting Morena politicians. Yet, like the Communist Party of **Cuba** and the United Socialist Party of **Venezuela**, the Morena movement in Mexico regards its nation's drug cartels as tools for profit at home and weapons of war abroad.

THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ANGLO-AMERICA



God has truly blessed this country, and unfortunately, I feel that we have squandered this blessing. "**How America Became Great**" (July 2026). It makes me sad, but I want to thank you guys for being there.

Stuart Sack COLORADO

I've been trying to learn for the past 30 years, and your organization is getting through to me; I'm really impressed. I can put all my other books down and read nothing but this.

Edward Bush CALIFORNIA

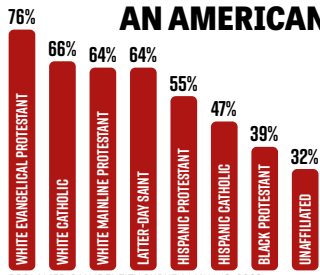
I just love it. I love reading the articles in there, and I'm glued to it until I get through it.

Jeanne Conley MISSOURI

These are life-saving publications. There's nothing else like them.

Allen France CONNECTICUT

WHO IS PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN?



PRII AMERICAN IDENTITY SURVEY, MAY 1-18, 2026.

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF
Gerald Flurry
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Stephen Flurry
MANAGING EDITOR
Joel Hilliker
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
Philip Nice
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Brad Macdonald, Richard Palmer, Jeremiah Jacques
DESIGNERS
Steve Hercus, Kassandra Verbout, Reese Zoellner
CONTRIBUTORS
Abraham Blondeau, Josué Michels, Andrew Miiller, Brent Nagtegaal, David Vejil, Callum Wood, Mihailo S. Zekic

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Deepika Azariah, Aubrey Mercado
ARTISTS
Melissa Barreiro, Gary Dorning, Julia Henderson, Emma McKoy
PREPRESS
Wik Heerma, Reese Zoellner
INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS
Deryle Hope
FRENCH
Luc Lapensée
GERMAN
Emmanuel Michels
SPANISH
Deryle Hope

For a free subscription to the *Philadelphia Trumpet* in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

(ISSN 10706348), August 2026, Vol. 37, No. 7 is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Road, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices.

U.S. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083.

HOW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID: The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers. © 2026 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

CONTACT US: Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. WEBSITE theTrumpet.com E-MAIL letters@theTrumpet.com; subscription or literature requests request@theTrumpet.com PHONE United Kingdom: 0-800-756-6724; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0 MAIL Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: UNITED STATES P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 CANADA P.O. Box 400, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0. CARIBBEAN P.O. Box 2937, Chaguanas, Trinidad, W.I. BRITAIN, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST P.O. Box 16945, Henley-in-Arden, B95 8BH, United Kingdom AFRICA Postnet Box 219, Private bag X10010, Edenvale, 1610, South Africa AUSTRALIA, PACIFIC ISLES, INDIA, SRI LANKA P.O. Box 293, Archerfield, QLD 4108, Australia NEW ZEALAND P.O. Box 6088, Glenview, Hamilton, 3246 PHILIPPINES P.O. Box 52143, Angeles City Post Office, 2009 Pampanga LATIN AMERICA Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.



An Open Letter to Germany

Observations of concern and hope from an American

GIVEN THE RECENT TENSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, America and Germany, I found myself wishing I could send an open letter to Germans. It might go something like the following:

I first heard of your country when I was a boy. As an American growing up in the late '70s and '80s, Germany was, besides perhaps Britain, the first nation I ever heard of.

My father liked old movies and you were the bad guys. Your soldiers' sloped, sculpted steel helmets and battlefield gray uniforms carved a trench in my memory.

One evening at dinner when I was about 6, we watched an episode of a World War II documentary narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier. It was the first time I saw filmed images of the vile horrors of war.

There were the two familiar sides—yours and ours, Axis and Allies—but the narrator kept referring to a mysterious third force. He called it the “Red Army.” For the life of me, I could not tell whether these were good guys or bad guys. And they did not seem to be wearing red, but admittedly the footage was black and white. I asked my dad, but his answer did not clarify things.

Whenever this Red Army was mentioned there was much grayish rubble everywhere and gray, destroyed buildings. I sensed that the Germans had good reason to fear them.

Soon I heard of Mozart, Bach and Beethoven—the wondrous composers you gave the world. There was a time when every child knew their names in this country. That was proof positive of your country's wonderful qualities and incredible potential—a down payment on your future contributions to humanity.

We saw how Eastern Europe fell to communist Russian puppets and we passionately wished it had worked out differently—for America's sake, but also for Eastern Europe's sake, because many of us knew of and detested communism's abject cruelty, its fraud and unmitigated hypocrisy. We hated it as much as we hated Nazism. We were so glad you had forsaken the latter. And by then we feared the Russians just like you.

America politically and culturally absolved you of guilt for the Holocaust, and in the Cold War, I was glad to have you on our side—who wouldn't want the prowess of German arms on their side in a fight? And many of you had changed, remarkably so.

Unlike other countries, it was as if you possessed some cosmically bestowed knack for acknowledging fault and turning from it. I did worry that some Germans had not changed, but tried not to think about it.

Seventh grade came. We learned that in the late 1800s Germany had started several wars the very moment it became a united nation. But I forgot. Then, in a used bookstore I found a dusty old hardcover claiming Germany was responsible for starting World War I—contrary to popular teaching. I forgot that too.

Still later, as a young adult, I asked a member of the church that produces this publication about end-time events and if Saddam Hussein was going to start World War III. He replied, “What about Germany?” I'll never forget that I laughed out loud.

Weeks later I read the classic *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* by the late Herbert W. Armstrong (it's free upon request). He showed Nazism went underground in order to prepare for winning round three—World War III—and that this is *prophesied* in the Bible.

Now your country is rearming, full of bluster toward Russia and anger toward America. Admittedly, in some ways American leaders are not helping matters.

Mr. Armstrong also showed how ancient Greek historians had identified the “German” tribes invading Europe as the remnants of a militaristic Assyria destroyed in the seventh century B.C. by its oppressed neighbors. He showed that the Romans coined the English name for you—“German”—and that it means “war man.” It turns out that, despite your artistic grandeur and other fantastic qualities, for thousands of years you've been playing this role.

Scripture actually does say you are the rod of God's anger to punish Israel for its horrible sins (Isaiah 10:5). The problem is that you periodically *relish* the role and you exceed your mandate (Isaiah 10:6-19). But God chastens in measure out of *love*—always (Jeremiah 30:11; Revelation 3:19).

Actually, I also learned from Mr. Armstrong that you are the *only* recorded Gentile nation to collectively repent before the great God, as revealed in the biblical book of Jonah. Jonah 3:4-10 record a most *inspiring* and *encouraging* example for the whole world. Gerald Flurry, who alone carries forth the mantle and legacy of Mr. Armstrong's work, frequently reminds us all of this fact.

Above all, I'm inspired and encouraged by your destiny.

Wherever you call home, order free of charge Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*, which shows that the many pieces of biblical truth and prophecy are like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that fit together in only one way. His book proves and explains the Bible and your destiny as no other book ever has—who and what is God and His incredible, thrilling purpose for you and humanity through His beautiful way of life, the way of His law that leads to peace and lasting happiness.

And he showed us all this marvelous nugget of prophecy: When Jesus Christ returns to establish His Father's Kingdom in the wonderful World Tomorrow, you, Germany, and the Israelitish nations—including America and the tiny Jewish nation in the Middle East—will be very special *friends* (Isaiah 19:24).

You will likely teach us how to be tidy, better organized, more thorough and artistic—and perhaps we'll teach you to laugh a little more. There will be much reason to laugh and to rejoice. ■



THE KEY OF DAVID

The Key of David television program uses end-time Bible prophecy to bring clarity to your world. Every week, Philadelphia Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry uses the Bible to show the answers to life's most confusing problems and to explain world events and where they are heading. You will find answers on a variety of topics such as Christian living, world news, Bible prophecy and the purpose of life.

STREAMING SERVICES

- WEBSITE** keyofdavid.com
- ROKU** Roku Key of David Channel
- YOUTUBE** youtube.com/TheKeyofDavid

NATIONAL BROADCASTS

UNITED STATES

- CHARGE** 6:30 ET/PT, 5:30 CT, 7:30 MT, Sun
- COMET** 8:00 ET, 7:00 CT, 6:00 MT, 5:00 PT, Sun
- CW PLUS** 9:30, 6:30 ET/PT, 8:30, 5:30 CT/MT, Sun
5:30, ET/PT, 4:30 CT/MT, Mon-Thurs
- FAMILY** 7:30 ET/PT, 6:30 CT, 8:30 MT, Sun
- GETTV** 6:30 ET, Sun
- NEST** 7:00 ET/PT, 6:00 CT, 9:00 MT, Sun
- ROAR** 8:30 ET/PT, Sun
- This TV** 6:30, Sun

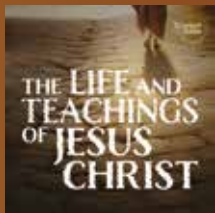
- AUSTRALIA Channel 10** 6:30, Sun
- BAHAMAS FOX W** Chan. 216 10:30, Sun
- CANADA Vision TV** 4:30 p.m. ET, Sun
- CHCH** 11:30 ET, Sun

- FIJI MaiTV** 9:00, Sun
- PHILIPPINES GMA** 5:30, Sun

Times are local a.m., unless noted.

LOCAL BROADCASTS

For hundreds of local station listings, visit: theTrumpet.com/programs/key-of-david/stations



What does the Bible say about Jesus? How did He really live? What did He actually teach? What is the real gospel message? What does it mean for your life? Find out by opening your Bible and watching *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ* with Stephen Flurry.

LOCAL BROADCAST DIRECTORY theTrumpet.com/life-and-teachings

NATIONWIDE CHARGE 7:00 EST/PST, 6:00 CST; 5:00 MST, Sun

NATIONWIDE WORD 10:30 EST, Sun

NEW YORK CITY, NY WPIX 9:00, Sun

ONTARIO, CANADA CKPR 10:30, Sat

TULSA, OK KTUL 6:30, Sun

WATCH ONLINE youtube.com/@TrumpetDaily

SCAN FOR A FREE TRUMPET SUBSCRIPTION

theTrumpet

TrumpetDaily

The Trumpet Daily proves the Bible's relevance to your life. Stephen Flurry's program covers a wide range of topics with an emphasis on world news.



LIVE STREAM

TRUMPET WEBSITE 11 a.m. CT at TrumpetDaily.com

RUMBLE 11 a.m. CT at rumble.com/TrumpetDaily

LOCAL Edmond, OK: 11 a.m. CT on 101.3 KPCG FM

WATCH ONLINE

ROKU Roku Trumpet Daily Channel

YOUTUBE youtube.com/@TrumpetDaily

RUMBLE rumble.com/TrumpetDaily

To order print versions of our literature

U.S. AND CANADA
1-800-772-8577

UNITED KINGDOM
0-800-756-6724

AUSTRALIA
1-800-22-333-0

THE PHILIPPINES
+63 915-339-7087

E-MAIL
request@theTrumpet.com

ONLINE
theTrumpet.com/library

Limit three pieces of literature per order

MAIL
P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083

NO CHARGE • NO FOLLOW-UP • NO OBLIGATION

Write to the regional office near you. Addresses on page 36.