THE PHILADELPHIA
# Trumpet

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026

SPECIAL REPORT
**GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS**

America • Britain • Israel
Canada • France • Germany
Europe • Latin America




# Change to *what?*

THE PHILADELPHIA
# Trumpet

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From the Editor
**The Worldwide Leadership Crisis in Prophecy** 1

**Wanted: Real Leaders** 4
The Infantilization of the Presidency 7
Is Canada Breaking Apart? 8

**The Feminization of Everything** 9
Perfect Complements 11
Lost in the Dating Wasteland 12

Infographic
**Majority Rule** 14

**Europe's Choice: Strongman or Collapse** 16
A New Vision for Europe 18

**Latin America's Return to 'Law and Order'** 20

**God's Solution to the Leadership Crisis** 23

**Iraq Has Fallen to Iran** 24

**Examine Yourself for Self-deceit** 26

Principles of Living
**Watch Your Language** 33

WorldWatch
**German military exercises, in-flight terrorism, China's Nuclear weapons infrastructure, King Charles' revised responsibilities and more** 34

Commentary
**'Is God Angry? Where Is He?'** 37

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# The Worldwide Leadership Crisis in Prophecy

**Why world leaders cannot solve the world's problems**

In nations around the world, many people are deeply frustrated and angry with their leaders. Problems are overtaking us, and the decision-makers seem only to make things worse.

It takes great leaders to face and solve great problems—and it is clearer than ever that no great leader exists today.

Think of the crises plaguing our world. Riots and violence are widespread. Nations are saddled with mountainous debt. Wars rage in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Artificial intelligence, while promising utopia, threatens to wreak massive destruction. People are more lonely, unhappy and depressed than ever. The threat of mankind destroying itself in a nuclear war looms.

Our problems keep growing more dangerous, largely because God has *removed* the great leaders!

## A Law of History

It is a law of history that great men shape events. Time and time again, Western civilization and the English-speaking peoples were on the brink of death, but then a strong, courageous man would appear at the perfect time. More accurately, *God used* these leaders to save nations and make them great.

In many inspiring examples in our history, you can see the hand of God behind the leadership of a man: George Washington during the Revolutionary War, Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War, Theodore Roosevelt building the Panama Canal, or Winston Churchill saving Western civilization in World War ii.

But God prophesied that He would take away these leaders.

In Isaiah 3, the prophet warned that national sins like family breakdown, corruption and injustice would cause a defining feature in America and Britain before the return of Jesus Christ: a leadership crisis. "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour …" (verses 1-5).

Military men and eloquent orators like Churchill are nowhere to be found. Today's leaders are making childish decisions and childish speeches.

Compare them with the greats of the past, and you will see that God has cursed our nations!

## Where Are the Great Men?

Churchill warned Britain, America and the world throughout the 1930s that Adolf Hitler was preparing for World War ii. He was proven absolutely right. Leading up to this, however, almost everyone—all the elites, media and academia—scorned him. His own Conservative Party was turning against him as he tried to switch it into emergency mode. "You are casting away real and important means of security and survival for vain shadows and for ease," he warned. The world didn't wake up to the Nazi menace until it was almost too late! (For more about Churchill's warning and why it matters today, request my free booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*.)

In 1939, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain moved to adjourn Parliament from August 4 to October 3, a two-month summer recess with Europe on the brink of war. Churchill protested, warning that it would be "disastrous" and "shameful" for the House to sideline itself at such a moment. Within three weeks, events proved him right: Hitler and Stalin signed their nonaggression pact on August 23, and Parliament had to be hastily recalled the next day. On September 1, Germany invaded Poland, and World War ii began. About a decade of warnings from Churchill went unheeded—until Britain was *forced into war* to defend Poland.

Churchill was scorned until his critics were finally forced to concede that he was right.

In Isaiah 30:9-10, God says "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits."

This prophecy is for this end time (verse 8), and people want to hear "smooth things," even "deceits"! What dangerous delusion! This is no time for smooth things!

The same mindset prevailed in the years leading up to World War ii. That war could have easily been prevented if only the

Western world had faced the facts of what Hitler was plotting and working toward. Churchill called it "The Unnecessary War": People didn't admit reality until it was too late!

## The Problem Is Theological

The end of World War II was horrendously different from any other war. Hiroshima and Nagasaki had been bombed, and we were entering an age when we could literally annihilate all human life! People were HORRIFIED and AFRAID of what was happening—as they should have been.

"Mankind has never been in this position before," Churchill wrote in 1924. "Without having improved appreciably in virtue or enjoying wiser guidance, it has got into its hands for the first time the tools by which it can unfailingly accomplish its own extermination. Death stands at attention, obedient, expectant, ready to serve, ready to shear away the peoples en masse; ready, if called on, to pulverize, without hope of repair, what is left of civilization. He awaits only the word of command."

Who talks like this today?

Soon after the war ended, Gen. Douglas MacArthur described the very heart of our problem: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. ... Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. WE HAVE HAD OUR LAST CHANCE. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, ARMAGEDDON WILL BE AT OUR DOOR. *The problem basically is theological* and involves a *spiritual* recrudescence and *improvement of human character* that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. IT MUST BE OF THE SPIRIT IF WE ARE TO SAVE THE FLESH" (emphasis mine).



**Where are the Churchills and the MacArthurs today? Where are the statesmen and generals like those men?**

Do you hear any generals today speak like that? He said the problem was "theological." "It must be of the SPIRIT if we are to save the flesh." WHAT A PROFOUND STATEMENT! He was referring to our relationship with God. The solution must be *theological.* MAN cannot solve his problems!

That is exactly what the Bible teaches.

"The way of peace they know not," the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men" (Isaiah 59:8-10).

What an accurate, truthful description of the cursed world we live in! These men warned us, but the world has for the most part SCORNED these men.

General MacArthur was a strong, strong leader. But God said in Isaiah 3 that He would *remove* the strong leaders "from Jerusalem and from Judah." *Jerusalem* is a prophetic term symbolizing all the modern nations descended from ancient Israel, of which Jerusalem was the capital. (Our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* will prove that to you.)

Why is that happening in this end time? God has not given us those men like He did in the past—BECAUSE OF OUR SINS! WHERE ARE THE CHURCHILLS AND THE MACARTHURS TODAY? Where are the statesmen and generals like those men?

## Strong Families

The biggest reason for the loss in effective leadership is something most people are unwilling to look at: It traces back to the *breakdown of families.*

Isaiah 3:12 prophesies that in our day, "children are their oppressors, and women rule over them"—contrary to God's design. The upside-down family structure is really the big sin God is concerned about today. Because of this sin, God has taken away the great leaders. IF WE CANNOT GET GOVERNMENT RIGHT AT HOME, WE CANNOT GET IT RIGHT IN THE NATION!

Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his father, Arthur MacArthur Jr., were the first father and son to each win the Medal of Honor, America's highest military honor. Arthur earned his at age 18 as a Union officer in the 1863 Battle of Missionary Ridge, when he seized his regiment's flag and carried it up the ridge under heavy fire, rallying his men to take the summit. Douglas received his in 1942 for leading the defense of the Philippines against the Japanese invasion, including the stand on the Bataan Peninsula. Only one other father-son duo shares that distinction: Theodore Roosevelt, for the charge up San Juan Hill in 1898, and his son Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who led the first wave ashore at Utah Beach on D-Day. These were strong families that produced strong men.

When Douglas MacArthur was in the Philippines, he spoke about the nobility of the soldier's mission. "The military code ... has come down to us from even before the age of knighthood and chivalry," he said. "The soldier, above all other men, is required to perform the highest act of religious teaching—sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those divine attributes which his Maker gave when He created man in His own image."

MacArthur was referring to Genesis 1:26: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...." That is deep spiritual insight. God is re-creating Himself in human beings. We can have His very image, or character. God made us to be different from the animals. We are created not after the animal kind but the GOD KIND.

We need the *character* of God. We do not have that! So many men and politicians lie and lie repeatedly! That is the evil way of Satan the devil (John 8:44).

A GENERAL made these profound points. Do you hear any generals speaking like this today—even pointing to the biblical truth that we are actually being made into the image of God?

## Our Cursed State

Many people are deeply dissatisfied with the current leaders and the status quo, and most still believe the problems can be solved if we have different leaders in power. What they fail to see is that *there are no leaders equal to the task.*

In America, public discontent fueled President Donald Trump's political movement. However, that man's admirable qualities are being overshadowed by his vanity and his childish ways.

*People fail to see the dearth of great leaders as a* CURSE FROM GOD!

Childish leaders lack the will to face strong tyrants. Our will is broken, just as God prophesied (Leviticus 26:19). People who have faith in God do not have a weak will.

When will we face the brutal truth—and REPENT? Without strong leadership, no great nation can survive!

"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12). God said strong leaders, including strong fathers, would be absent, and that children and teenagers would rule the family and dominate the culture. That perfectly describes America and Britain today. Our leaders talk, act and govern like immature children. Women and feminized thinking dominate public discussion. Teenagers are alienated from their parents; they loot, vandalize and burn our cities. Isaiah 3 is being fulfilled before our eyes.

This despicable leadership crisis is leading our nations into unparalleled disaster! This tragic condition portends national collapse.

People see the problems and the terrible leaders, but they lack the stomach to follow a truly strong leader. It takes strong leaders, like Churchill, to clarify the critical issues and stir the people to confront them. This is where the people's energies should be focused. Because they lack that leadership, they continue on their course until disaster strikes and threatens to destroy the nation.

## In Europe, a Different Outcome

We have been proclaiming a warning about this Isaiah 3 leadership crisis for 37 years, continuing the message from the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

You can see this leadership crisis in nations all over the world. But as Mr. Armstrong taught, Bible prophecy shows that the outcome in America and Britain will be very different from the outcome in Europe.

Notice what he wrote in the May 1969 *Plain Truth:* "The era of World War II is now past. Churchill, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, De Gaulle are gone. A new era begins. There has been a saying that with the death of Winston Churchill the last of the 'great men' was gone. ... The world appears bereft of 'great men.' But a world-recognized 'strongman' in all probability will now very soon appear."

Evil men can also shape the course of history. Europe is suffering its own crisis in leadership. The entire Continent is consumed with discontent. European leaders have no answers and only make things worse.

Europe, however, has a long history of strongmen rising to power in crises—only to lead the world into deep darkness.

Daniel 8:23 prophesies that this will happen again: "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."




America and Britain fall apart because of their Isaiah 3 crisis, while Europe turns to an able but evil strongman. All are cursed, and all suffer, but in different ways.

Why does the leadership void lead to different outcomes in different nations? The book of Daniel explains that too.

## God Rules

God gave Daniel an overview of the great empires that would rise and fall from his time to the return of Jesus Christ. Empires do not rise without strong leaders. God specified in advance when and where many of history's strongmen would rise up.

God taught Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar this towering lesson: "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Daniel 4:17).

We shouldn't be too impressed by leaders of this world. God rules them and sets up whomever He will in order to fulfill His master plan. Sometimes even the basest of men rule because God put them there or allowed them to be there in order to fulfill His purpose. He allows all kinds of things to happen, but everything occurs in the context of His master plan.

The single vision of Daniel 2 that God gave Nebuchadnezzar outlines the history of the world's greatest empires using the symbol of an "image," or a great statue like those that empires and emperors often set up. THIS IMAGE TEACHES THE GREATEST LESSON MANKIND COULD POSSIBLY LEARN: GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN!

God cut off mankind from Himself at the Garden of Eden and sentenced us to 6,000 years of developing our own nations and governments our own ways. But He still shapes events by His master plan.

Israel has no strong leaders because of its own sin. But God is also ensuring there are no great men. Meanwhile, God is raising up Europe to correct and punish Israel, so He will set up over Europe a strongman.

We are entering the age of the strongmen—but these will not be GREAT men. Instead they will bring utter destruction!

Christ says that if He didn't intervene to stop what is happening, no flesh would be saved alive (Matthew 24:21-22). Every last human would die in a nuclear holocaust!

This worldwide leadership crisis has one lesson and one solution. *Mankind is incapable of ruling himself, internationally, nationally and individually!* The only form of government that will work is *the government of God,* administered by God beings (Revelation 20:6). This current leadership crisis is leading directly to world cataclysm and the return of Jesus Christ!

*Why* is Christ returning? To rule all nations: to literally take over the governance of all people in all nations (Daniel 2:34-45; Revelation 11:15, 12:5, 15:4, 19:15).

Don't trust in a movement, a party or a man. Put your trust in God, and you will never fall! ■



# WANTED: REAL LEADERS

**Voters in America, Britain and Israel are fed up with their leaders, and Isaiah explained why thousands of years ago.** BY ANDREW MIILLER

Americans went into this year's midterm elections angry. Two thirds of them said their nation was headed in the wrong direction, and the president's approval rating had sunk into the 30s. Yet instead of looking for steadier hands, many voters reached for the extremes. Just days before the election, half of registered voters told pollsters they would cast a ballot for a democratic socialist. The Democratic Socialists of America boasted of dozens of victories this year, with its candidates advancing in states from New York to Florida. The mood of the electorate is unmistakable: Americans have lost faith in the people running their country.

Britain is now on its sixth prime minister since 2016. Keir Starmer was forced out in July after his party was routed in local elections, and Andy Burnham took over the Labour Party without a single challenger. The British electorate has splintered so badly that Labour, the Conservatives and Reform UK have each been polling at roughly a fifth of the vote, while a new party splits the right even further.

Israel's October 27 election left neither Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc nor Gadi Eisenkot's anywhere close to the 61 seats needed to govern, while Arab parties surged to 19 seats. A nation surrounded by enemies is once again stuck in political deadlock. The nations that produced George Washington, Winston Churchill and David Ben-Gurion can no longer produce leaders their people will follow. Voters sense that something has gone badly wrong, and they are lashing out. But the problem runs far deeper than any single election.

Proverbs 29:2 supplies this wisdom: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Wise, strong leadership is a blessing. Its absence is a curse.

George Washington guided America's new experiment in republican government through its fragile first years. Abraham Lincoln held the Union together and ended slavery. Winston Churchill pulled Britain through its darkest hour to victory. David Ben-Gurion forged modern Israel out of chaos. Each put national strength and moral clarity

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ahead of personal ambition. Men of their caliber have all but vanished today.

The Prophet Isaiah foresaw this crisis thousands of years ago. Isaiah 3 records God's judgment on the end-time descendants of Israel: Britain and its Commonwealth, the United States and the Jewish nation of Israel. Because of their disobedience, God warned He would remove the leaders who give society its strength. In their place, He said, "I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (verse 4).

That prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes.

## Disappearing Statesmen

America's founders knew that no government could survive without virtuous leaders. "Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt," wrote Samuel Adams. The truest friend of his country, he argued, is the man who promotes its virtue and refuses to let anyone but "a wise and virtuous man" hold political power.

Isaiah 3:2-3 list 11 types of leaders a nation needs: the mighty man, the man of war, the judge, the prophet, the prudent, the ancient, the captain of fifty, the honorable man, the counselor, the cunning artificer and the eloquent orator. America, Britain and Israel once had admirable men filling these roles. Today, few men have the character to prosper in the offices they hold. Why?

One major reason is the collapse of fatherhood. Statesmen are not born; they are raised. Many of history's great leaders were shaped by strong fathers who took the time to train them in true virtues. In America, these included John Marshall, John Quincy Adams, Charles Francis Adams Sr., Calvin Coolidge, Douglas MacArthur and George S. Patton. In Britain, they included William Pitt the Younger, Sir Robert Peel and William Gladstone.

Theodore Roosevelt credited much of his success to his father, calling him "the best man I ever knew." The elder Roosevelt taught by example. He helped found the Children's Aid Society and the Newsboys' Lodging House, where he spent Sunday evenings encouraging the boys. He helped establish the American Museum of Natural History, and helped create the New York Orthopedic Hospital to care for children with disabilities. When his own son's health faltered, he challenged the frail boy: "You have the mind, but you have not the body. ... You must make your body."

The discipline and sense of duty Theodore learned in his father's home shaped the man who would lead the nation. Roosevelt saw public office as service, not a career. "It is a dreadful misfortune for a man to grow to feel that his whole livelihood and whole happiness depend upon his staying in office," he wrote. Such a man, he warned, cannot truly serve the people and is tempted to trade his convictions for his seat.

Selflessness is the mark of a true statesman. As 19th-century minister James Freeman Clarke observed, "A politician ... is a man who thinks of the next election; while the statesman thinks of the next generation. The politician thinks of the success of his party, the statesman of the good of his country."

When statesmen disappear, others fill the empty seats. Isaiah warned who those would be. In place of the mighty man, judge and counselor, God said He would give "children to be their princes."

## Fake Conservatives

Many religious people in America, Britain and Israel look to their nations' conservative parties to lead them into the future. Movements like Make America Great Again are pushing back against the worst extremes of secularism. Yet today's conservatives are very different from the conservatives of the past.

The 2024 Republican Party platform promised to seal the border, carry out the largest deportation operation in American history, end inflation, make America the world's dominant energy producer, and stop outsourcing U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas. It pledged to keep men out of women's sports, ban taxpayer funding for sex-change surgeries, and stop taxpayer-funded schools from promoting gender transition. But unlike the party's 2016 platform, it did not define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, nor did it call for overturning the Supreme Court's same-sex "marriage" ruling. Conservatives have surrendered these battles to the radicals.




Worse yet, many Republicans have turned to celebrities and popular entertainers to win over younger voters. This is deferring to the priorities of children. It is not strong moral leadership.

Republican leadership on the economic front hasn't been much better. The willingness to delay gratification for a greater reward is a mark of maturity. Adults devise a plan and follow it; children do what feels good. A rising national debt often signifies immature, childish leaders.

There is no statesman today. Many politicians govern by opinion polls and career objectives rather than by principle, and grift is rampant. Large majorities of Americans consistently say corruption is widespread in government. The Government Accountability Office has estimated that fraud costs federal taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars a year—as much as 7 percent of federal spending. Washington itself concentrates the problem: It has the highest density of public employees of any federal judicial district and, by some measures, the highest rate of public corruption convictions.

Britain's Conservative Party has done no better. In 2013, Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron championed a bill legalizing same-sex "marriage," even though more Conservative members of Parliament voted against the bill than for it. The party promised to cut net migration to the "tens of thousands." Instead, after more than a decade of Conservative rule, net migration hit 872,000 in 2022.

Israel's right-wing Likud party has also compromised. In 2022, Likud lawmaker Amir Ohana became Israel's first openly homosexual speaker of the Knesset. In 2005, Likud Prime Minister Ariel Sharon uprooted every Jewish community in Gaza, even though Likud members had rejected the plan in a party referendum. Hamas seized Gaza two years later and turned it into a terrorist zone from which to destroy Israel.

Past generations of conservative leaders in America, Britain and Israel managed to promote family values, balance budgets, and defend borders. Through a mix of incompetence and corruption,

today's leaders cannot. They are exactly the kind of childish rulers Isaiah warned would replace the mighty men of old.

### Childish Rulers

Young people have noticed that the older generation doesn't have the answers to the crises society faces. They are inheriting high costs of living, trillions in debt, little opportunity and major world problems. Many have concluded the system is rigged against them.

Some are going so far as to turn to socialism. Gallup's 2026 survey found that 57 percent of Americans ages 18 to 34 have a positive view of socialism, compared with 34 percent of those 55 and older. Some are going further still. A 2025 Cato Institute-YouGov poll found that 34 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 view communism favorably. On America's 250th birthday, the Democratic Socialists of America passed 120,000 members, making it the largest socialist organization in U.S. history. Its growth was fueled in part by Zohran Mamdani's 2025 election as mayor of New York City.

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Communist regimes killed tens of millions of people in the 20th century. That a third of young Americans now look kindly on such a system shows how little history they have been taught.

In that 2025 election, exit polls showed three quarters of voters under 30 backed Mamdani, including 82 percent of young women. His campaign promised fare-free buses, a rent freeze and city-run grocery stores, funded largely by higher taxes on the wealthy. Socialist leaders have no plan to pay down America's debt or revitalize its economy. Their plan is to seize wealth from those who have it and give it to those who do not.

This is no solution. It is class warfare.

God foresaw this too. He described the society these childish leaders would produce: "And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable" (Isaiah 3:5).

Such a society is not a free-market society focused on production; it is a dystopian society focused on theft. The political class in America, Britain and Israel is more concerned about winning elections than about solving national problems. But the generation rising up against that class is even worse.

In 2020, Kyle Jurek, a field organizer for Sen. Bernie Sanders's campaign, was secretly recorded by Project Veritas saying: "There's a reason Joseph Stalin had gulags, right? Actually, gulags were a lot better than what the CIA has told us that they were. Like, people were actually paid a living wage in gulags; they had conjugal visits in gulags. Gulags were actually meant for, like, reeducation. Greatest way to breaking a ... billionaire of their, like, privilege and the idea that they're superior: Go out and break rocks for 12 hours a day. You're now a working-class person and you're going to ... learn what that means, right?"

This is one example of a childish man exalting himself against the honorable. Most American socialists don't praise police-state networks of prison camps, but they are still pulling the nation in that direction. Socialists are still a tiny fraction of the population, yet the political spectrum is shifting left because America's leaders lack the will to stand up to the radicals.

### Civil War

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong explained that the peoples who settled America and Britain descended from the ancient Israelites. God made an unconditional promise to Abraham to multiply his descendants, make them into great nations, and bless them with power and wealth to enable them to become exemplary nations to the rest of the world. Mr. Armstrong showed that God kept this promise by giving the U.S. and Britain nearly three fourths of the world's usable resources at the peak of their power. But God did not promise to keep blessing these nations if they disbelieved and disobeyed Him.

He prophesied curses for disobedience, including a leadership crisis that would drive the nations of end-time Israel toward civil war. Isaiah 3:5 describes a nation turning on itself, neighbor against neighbor. Verse 6 shows the result: a society so ruined that people beg anyone to "be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand." In verse 7, the man asked to lead refuses: "I will not be an healer." The ruin is so severe that no one wants to be in charge.

Isaiah 1:5 describes the same condition: "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." The head of a nation is its government. When legitimate authority collapses and factions reject shared rules, internal conflict follows. Verse 7 describes the result: "your cities are burned with fire ...."

This is already happening. In 1992, after the Rodney King verdict, Los Angeles burned for days as rioters torched more than a thousand buildings. In 2014, after the grand-jury decision in the Michael Brown case, arsonists in Ferguson set roughly two dozen buildings and vehicles ablaze. In 2020, rioters in Minneapolis burned a police precinct, and unrest spread to Kenosha, Portland and beyond, becoming the costliest civil disorder in U.S. insurance history. In 2025, vehicles burned in Los Angeles streets. In Britain, rioters set London ablaze in 2011, and fires returned to towns from Southport to Sunderland in 2024. In Israel, riots between Arab and Jewish citizens of Lod in 2021 left synagogues, homes and cars in flames, forcing the government to declare a state of emergency.

Political violence is rising too. In 2017, a gunman opened fire on Republican congressmen practicing for a charity baseball game and critically wounded Majority Whip Steve Scalise. In 2024, a gunman nearly killed Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. In 2025, conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated while speaking on a college campus. Such violence will continue to intensify if these nations don't turn back to God. Ezekiel 5:12 prophesies that two thirds of the population of end-time America, Britain and Israel will die from violence and famine.

The major reason the U.S. survived its first civil war was the leadership of Abraham Lincoln. In one of his proclamations calling the nation to a day of fasting and prayer, he declared: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow"

(March 30, 1863). Today, there are no leaders of Lincoln's stature who will call on the people to repent.

This is why the leadership vacuum in America, Britain and Israel is so serious. It is the cause of these nations' other problems. Isaiah 3:12 says, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." With the right leaders, a nation can survive debt, division and war. Without them, it cannot survive at all.

### Righteous Leaders

The leadership crisis in America, Britain and Israel will lead to the worst suffering in human history. Jeremiah 30:7 calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble," a day so great "that none is like it."

Yet this period of intense judgment will purify and restore these nations.

Isaiah 4:1 paints one final, devastating picture: So few men survive that there are not enough husbands and fathers. Then the tone shifts. "In that day shall

# The Infantilization of the Presidency




As a teenager, George Washington copied out 110 rules of conduct. The first reads: "Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present." Rule 65 goes further: "Speak not injurious words, neither in jest nor earnest. Scoff at none although they give occasion." Rule 59 says: "Never express anything unbecoming, nor act against the rules moral before your inferiors."

None of these rules concern policy, party or winning. They concern how one carries oneself while pursuing those aims—even when the other side has supplied every excuse not to. Washington tried to live by them, and the effort helped him confer gravitas and honor on the American presidency.

When he suspected that his former secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson, was encouraging the newspapers to attack him, Washington did not answer in public. He sent a private letter complaining that his every act was described "in such exaggerated and indecent terms as could scarcely be applied to a Nero, a notorious defaulter, or even to a common pickpocket." When he addressed the nation in his Farewell Address, he named no names. He warned only against "the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension."

The presidency 230 years later is far less stately.

For most of the 19th century, presidents did not campaign for themselves nor attack opponents by name. Andrew Johnson broke that norm when he engaged hecklers during his 1866 speaking tour. Congress made those speeches the basis of the 10th article of impeachment, charging him with a "high misdemeanor in office" for a series of "intemperate, inflammatory and scandalous harangues." In that era, undignified presidential speech was treated as an impeachable offense.

Things began to change in the 1990s, however, as the television era brought on a wave of informality. The well-known turning point was 1994, when a teenager on MTV asked Bill Clinton, "Is it boxers or briefs?" Chuckling, Clinton replied, "Usually briefs." Conservative columnist Jeff Jacoby later summed up the trend: "Subtly at first, then shamelessly, presidents traded dignity and gravitas for approval ratings."

As a general rule, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama still observed the long-standing taboo against attacking political opponents by name. Yet each leaned further into celebrity culture. Harry Truman took his daily walks in a suit and tie; by contrast, Clinton and Bush jogged before the cameras in shorts and sweaty T-shirts. In 2012, Obama "slow jammed the news" with Jimmy Fallon on late-night television to promote his student-loan policy. Two years later, he promoted his health-care law on *Between Two Ferns,* an online comedy show built on insulting its guests. Even Mike McCurry, Clinton's former press secretary, cautioned that Obama should "worry about the dignity of the presidency."

Each step may have seemed harmless on its own. Taken together, though, they taught Americans to see the president less as a head of state and more as an entertaining personality. Once the office had become a stage, it was only a matter of time before someone used that stage for insults.

Donald Trump grasped early that social media let a politician bypass the press and speak to voters directly, and he used it to call out his critics and rivals. That alone is no offense. But by doing it with childish nicknames and personal insults, he has disrespected the office he holds. Conservative writer Jim Jamitis made this point in 2017, arguing that trading insults with critics was both "disrespectful of his office" and "counterproductive." Nearly a decade later, the trend has grown far worse.

In January, amid his push to acquire Greenland, the president sent a message to Norway's prime minister, Jonas Gahr Støre: "Considering your country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped eight wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America."

This is what Jamitis meant by counterproductive. A president who wants to be remembered as a peacemaker should want the conversation to be about the wars he claims he ended. Instead, every outburst made the story about himself. Such petulant, self-absorbed rhetoric can only be described as childish.

Isaiah 3:4 prophesies, "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them." Too many of our leaders today, from both ends of the political spectrum, exhibit the immature, undisciplined behavior of children. President Trump, though he does have a valiant, fighting spirit that many of his predecessors lacked, certainly exhibits such immature, undisciplined behavior and speech.

The presidency was never meant to be a stage for childish outbursts. Restoring its dignity does not require suppressing toughness or conviction. It requires that those who hold the office remember what Washington understood as a boy: how one speaks is inseparable from the honor of the position itself.

**ANDREW MIILLER**

the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel" (verse 2).

The "branch of the Lord" refers to the Messiah, a royal descendant of King David. Isaiah 11:1 describes Him as a Branch growing "out of the stem of Jesse." Jeremiah 23:5 shows He is the righteous leader these nations lack: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."

This prophecy will be fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ! And both Old Testament and New Testament show that He will not rule alone. Isaiah 32:1 prophesies, "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." In place of the children ruling today, God will install princes of proven character: the saints, resurrected at Christ's return to "reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6). God promises, "... I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning ..." (Isaiah 1:26).

Like the fathers who raised history's great statesmen, God is training His children now for leadership positions in the World Tomorrow. In Chapter 7 of *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong showed that the Bible explicitly states that Jesus will return to establish a literal, world-ruling Kingdom.

Those given authority in it will not be carnal human beings but perfect spirit beings serving under Christ. The point will have been proved: Man cannot rule man—only God and His Family can.

"No human will be given any government office," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "All in government service will then be divine Spirit beings, in the Kingdom of God—the God Family. All officials will be appointed—and by the divine Christ, who reads and knows men's hearts, their inner character, and abilities or lack of ability."

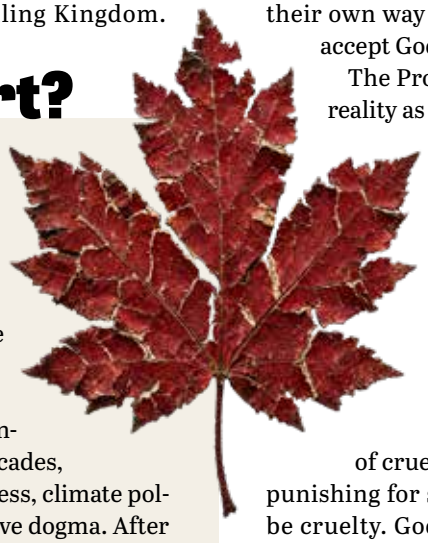
Why must these nations suffer before God appoints righteous leaders? Because as long as people still believe their own way will work, they will not accept God's government.

The Prophet Jeremiah saw this reality as few men do, and humbly prayed: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). The leadership crisis is proving this hard truth on a national scale.

God is not punishing out of cruelty. On the contrary, not punishing for sin and rebellion would be cruelty. God is a loving father who corrects His children for their own good. "... I will correct thee in measure," He promises Israel, "and will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (Jeremiah 30:11). The correction will work. "[I]n their affliction they will seek me early" (Hosea 5:15). Once humanity exhausts every alternative, people will welcome God's leaders: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord ... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths ..." (Isaiah 2:3).

God is preparing the next generation of leaders while the world learns it lacks the answers. The statesmen of the past are no more, and the children now ruling cannot replace them. But the greatest era of leadership in human history is ahead. The crisis Isaiah foresaw is the prelude to the government God promises in Isaiah 9:7: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end ...." ■

# Is Canada Breaking Apart?



Canada's national unity is being tested. Parti Québécois formed a minority government in Quebec on October 6. Its leader, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, has promised to hold a referendum to secede from Canada. The same party led a similar effort in 1995 that nearly succeeded, when a bare 50.5 percent of Quebecers voted to stay in the country. Along with the referendum, Parti Québécois leaders are escalating the constant French-Canadian culture war with English Canada.

Meanwhile in Western Canada, on October 19, Alberta held a non-binding referendum on the possibility of leaving Canada. For decades, Alberta has been at loggerheads with Ottawa over political fairness, climate policies that affect the oil industry, and the imposition of progressive dogma. After months of aggressive campaigning, the separatist vote fell flat: 75 percent of Albertans voted to remain in Canada. Unlike in Quebec, secessionists in Alberta lacked support from the provincial government and were hampered by legal challenges.

Though Alberta's independence was unsuccessful, damage to Canadian unity has been done. October showed that large numbers of people in the east and the west are divided against their central government and against each other.

A house divided cannot stand.

Bible prophecy gives us insight into where this is leading.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the British peoples descended from the Israelite tribe of Ephraim. The Bible prophecies about Ephraim apply to the British Commonwealth, which includes Canada.

The book of Hosea is a message for modern Ephraim. Hosea 5:11 says, "Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment." Instead of following the principles in the Bible, Canada has been oppressed by sinful and weak-willed, compromising leaders.

Verse 12 says, "Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth ...." In this and other scriptures, God compares curses caused by sin to a moth imperceptibly eating away the fabric of our nation. Our sins breed problems, "moths," that slowly compromise our prosperity and unity.

Separatism in Canada has been a curse consuming our nation. This division is fueling the fulfillment of other Bible prophecies that foretell the end of the Canadian experiment. Whether in the east or west, the moths are multiplying. How much longer can we hold together? **ABRAHAM BLONDEAU**

LEADERSHIP CRISIS

# THE *feminization* OF EVERYTHING

It's a woman's world. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**



IMAGINE SHOWING TODAY'S AMERICA TO YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER.

He would see law schools, medical schools and newsrooms run mostly by women. He would see millions of able-bodied men in the prime of life who have stopped looking for work, many of them living with their parents and spending their days in front of screens. He would see courts allowing violent criminals to walk free because their stories are sad. He would see marriage collapsing, birth rates at record lows, and millions of single adults saying that even if they find their perfect match, they want to stay single.

He would ask you one question: *What has happened to the men?*

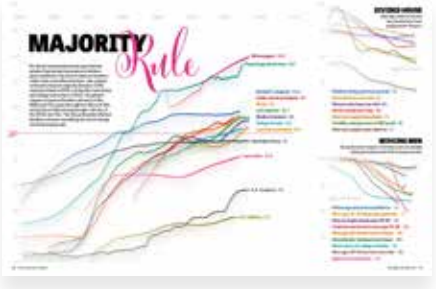
It's a good question. What we are witnessing is unprecedented in human history. It is exactly what an ancient prophecy in your Bible foretold—and that prophecy reveals both the cause and the solution.

## The Great Feminization

Some observers have a name for this shift: "the Great Feminization." The phrase was coined in 2019 by a blogger who writes as J. Stone. He argued that as women moved into the professions that shape culture—law, academia, journalism, publishing—they brought their distinctive priorities with them: empathy, emotional sensitivity, avoidance of conflict, protection of the vulnerable. Those priorities, he said, explain much of the social change of recent decades.

The trend is irrefutable. In 1979, women became a majority of undergraduate college students. Medical schools and the college-educated workforce became majority female in 2019. Women are now the majority in human resources, psychology, veterinary medicine and pharmacy. They dominate public-school teaching, nursing and social work. They make up 55 percent of the *New York Times* staff and nearly 80 percent of the publishing industry.

***SEE INFOGRAPHIC, PAGE 14***




This is a unique historical experiment, Helen Andrews wrote last year in *Compact:* "Other civilizations have given women the vote, granted them property rights, or let them inherit the thrones of empires. No civilization in human history has ever experimented with letting women control so many vital institutions of our society .... Even where women do not hold the top spots, women set the tone ..., such that a male CEO must operate within the limits set by his human resources VP" (Oct. 16, 2025). The effects on society are profound: These institutions are coming to prize the priorities women tend to hold—and are changing in dramatic and dangerous ways.

Not surprisingly, this thesis sparked swift, emotional backlash. Critics called it misogynistic, a way to blame women for all that is wrong with the modern world. They accused the author of crude stereotypes and of ignoring the harm done by institutions run by men. Some argued that feminization hasn't gone far enough.

Yet much of the pushback acknowledged the fundamental premise: that men and women think differently, which means we do our jobs differently.

## Men Thinking, Women Thinking

It has become politically incorrect to say men and women are different. Ironically, many of the people who get upset at the suggestion that men tend to think *this* way, women *that* way, are the same people who say the world would be better off if women were in charge.

The truth is, there *are* differences—plenty. Start with biology, which extends well beyond the reproductive domain: The average woman is almost 5 inches shorter and more than 30 pounds lighter than the average man, with roughly 40 fewer pounds of muscle. Men have larger frames and are physically stronger and more aggressive. They have larger voice boxes, which give them deeper, more commanding voices.

Obvious factors like these are matched by mental, emotional and temperamental distinctions. "The human brain is a sex-typed organ," says neurobiologist Larry Cahill of the University of California–Irvine. "To some appreciable degree, these brain differences have to translate to behavioral differences." As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, "The female sex hormones cause a woman's body and mind to be feminine. The male sex hormones cause a man's body and mind to be masculine."

Yes, they do. Many surveys show that women generally prioritize care and protection from harm more than men do. They tend to more strongly support gun control and social welfare spending, and are less keen about military force and the death penalty. They are more willing to trade individual freedom for safety or inclusion. They prefer cooperative social relations, and on personality tests, they score higher on agreeableness. Men, on average, are more comfortable with conflict, competition and impersonal rules applied regardless of outcome.

These are general tendencies, of course; individuals vary, just as they do in height and strength. But the patterns are real.

As we will see, these patterns *do* affect our institutions when women are in charge. But the question the Great Feminization thesis doesn't address is WHY men and women differ in these ways. The answer points us back to the first book in the Bible.

## Created Male and Female

Genesis 1:26-27 describe God creating human beings: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness .... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; *male and female created he them.*" This is extraordinary: God is neither male nor female, yet He made two categories of humans, both in His image. This was no fluke; it required careful deliberation with strategic purpose. God distributed His qualities and attributes between the sexes so that each reflects part of His nature, and together they reflect more of Him than either does alone. Men tend to manifest certain aspects of God's character, such as strength, ambition and decisiveness. Women tend to manifest other godly traits, like nurturing, sensitivity to others and attention to detail (sidebar, page 11).

Each of these tendencies is a strength—and each needs its counterpart. When the two come together, they complement and balance each other. Separate them, let one set operate without the other, and things go wrong. Rules applied without compassion can become harsh, even cruel; compassion without firm rules can excuse almost anything. A group that avoids all conflict never confronts its real problems; a group that thrives on conflict tears itself apart.

The woman brings different priorities and goals into her work than the man. And when women dominate an institution, they *feminize* it—and society with it. The Great Feminization thesis is that many of these changes are inadvertently destabilizing pillars of society.

"The problem is not that women are less talented than men or even that female modes of interaction are inferior in any objective sense," Andrews explained. "The problem is that female modes of interaction are not well suited to accomplishing the goals of many

# PERFECT Complements



WHERE DID MALE AND FEMALE COME FROM? EVOLUTION HAS NO EXPLANATION, but the Bible explains it in its first verses on the origin of man. God purposefully, intentionally made human beings male and female, different in body and mind. Individuals vary, but the patterns are unmistakable. Here are a few:

**Reason and intuition** Men are more objective and analytical. The man relies on facts and principles, and he probes a problem until he has thought it through. The woman tends to be more intuitive and perceptive, especially about people. A man without his wife's intuition can miss what is happening with the people around him. Yet intuition without principle can be swayed by a moving story.

**Big picture and details** The man looks for the overview. One series of six studies by psychologists at San Francisco State University found that men communicate more abstractly than women. Women excel in the details, the practical, everyday matters that make a household, or any organization, work. A vision without attention to detail never gets built. Attention to detail without a vision can lose sight of its purpose and aim.

**Decisiveness and counsel** The man is more willing to make a hard call and live with it, even without all the information he would like. The woman tends to weigh more angles first—especially how a decision will affect the people involved—and she often spots consequences he overlooks. Decisiveness without counsel can be rash; counsel without decision can leave a family stuck, talking through options with no one willing to choose.

**Risk and security** The man is built for action: more adventurous, more daring, more willing to take risks. The woman is more security conscious. Without male daring, many great things would never be attempted. Without female caution, many more men would die attempting them. A society that values only safety stops building; one that values only daring destroys itself.

**Thick skin and sensitivity** The man literally has thicker skin, by roughly 25 percent, and usually a thicker psychological skin too. The woman is more sensitive. She feels criticism more deeply, but she also reads the emotional climate of a home, and remembers its emotional moments, better than her husband does. Neuroscientists have found that women retain stronger, more vivid memories of emotional events than men do.

**JOEL HILLIKER**

major institutions." An academia run by consensus, she argued, "will be oriented toward goals other than open debate and the unfettered pursuit of truth." Journalism needs "prickly individualists who don't mind alienating people." A business that loses its "swashbuckling spirit" and becomes "a feminized, inward-focused bureaucracy" will stagnate.

Critics of the thesis, like Texas A&M professor Valerie Hudson, object that societies run by men have often been far worse—think of the gulag, Mao's re-education camps or North Korea. She is right. But that does not refute the Great Feminization; it confirms the principle behind it. Masculine traits unchecked by feminine ones produce recklessness, cruelty and domination. Feminine traits unchecked by masculine ones produce smothering overprotection, sentiment in place of justice, and avoidance of necessary confrontation. Our world suffers from both sets of problems—but America and other English-speaking nations are particularly plagued by the latter.

### The Pinking of Courtrooms

The effects of female-oriented thinking are reshaping significant swaths of society. One arena where feminization poses real danger is *the law.*

Consider the trial of Lindsay Clancy this summer. In 2023, the Massachusetts nurse, struggling with postpartum depression, committed a demonic act: She used exercise bands to strangle her three children, ages 5, 3 and 8 months. She admitted to the killings, and a psychologist testified to premeditation. Yet after seven days of deliberation, the jury deadlocked—only because *one* juror, a man, refused to release her from criminal responsibility. Clancy's attorney asked the state's highest court to remove him for bias against people with "debilitating mental illness." Outside the courthouse, hundreds of women held signs reading "Team Lindsay" and "She needed help." Online, mothers wrote, "I could have been Lindsay," or, "I am Lindsay Clancy"; they posted TikTok videos of themselves holding their babies under the caption "Same, Lindsay." In one poll of 45,190 people, *48 percent* said they would not find her guilty of murder.

What is going on here? How did so many people come to consider a juror who holds to the law as the problem? How did deciding a murder trial shift from whether the accused committed the crime to whether we feel for her? When did society shift from the *rule of law* to the *rule of feelings?*

The Great Feminization explains it.

"All of us depend on a functioning legal system, and, to be blunt, *the rule of law will not survive the legal profession becoming majority female,*" Andrews wrote. "The rule of law is not just about writing rules down. It means following them even when they yield an outcome that tugs at your heartstrings or runs contrary to your gut sense of which party is more sympathetic" (emphasis added).

The first woman attended law school in 1869. The first female was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1981. American law schools became *majority female* in 2016, and law firm associates followed in 2023. As women take over the legal field, we can expect judges to increasingly bend the rules for groups they sympathize with and enforce them strictly on everyone else.

College campuses have been offering a preview of this trend. Under federal pressure, many universities set up sexual-misconduct tribunals that lowered the standard of proof and restricted the accused's ability to cross-examine his accuser. Due process gave way to the desire to protect those seen as vulnerable.

This tendency means massive changes within courtrooms, Andrews wrote. "Oddly enough, both sides of the political spectrum agree on what those changes will be. The only disagreement is over whether they will be a good thing or a bad thing" (ibid). Legal journalist Dahlia Lithwick, for one, welcomes it. Her 2022 book *Lady Justice* opens with a 2016 Supreme Court argument over a Texas abortion law, in which the court's three female justices ignored the time limits and talked over their male colleagues. Lithwick celebrates the scene as "an explosion of bottled-up judicial girl power." She praises women for their disregard of the law's formalities, which she says were designed to protect the privileges of propertied white men.

Watch the headlines, and you routinely find therapy and rehabilitation replacing punishment, even for violent crimes. In Stillwater, Oklahoma, a female judge approved a plea deal giving probation and counseling instead of a prison sentence to a 17-year-old who pleaded no contest to 11 felonies, including rape and strangulation of two teenage girls. Teenage rapists in New Jersey and Washington state were given community supervision. An Illinois judge reduced a sexual-abuse sentence because of the defendant's exposure to "systemic racism." Hawaii now requires judges to weigh young offenders' past trauma. California's Racial Justice Act is turning felonies into misdemeanors.

When sentiment and virtue-signaling supplant bedrock principles of justice, that reflects *feminized* legal thinking.

The same trend is affecting other English-speaking nations. In England, judges gave teenage boys convicted of raping girls as young as 14 token fines or rehabilitation orders, to avoid "criminalizing these children unnecessarily." In Canada, the Supreme Court—majority female since 2023—upheld a reduced sentence for a man who beat his partner on a sidewalk, faulting the trial judge for not deferring enough to an indigenous "sentencing circle" that recommended no further jail time. Four of the court's five women joined the 5-4 majority; three of its four men dissented.

The fact that women are making such rulings might seem contradictory, because surveys show that women care more than men about safety. But their idea of safety is preventing harm, not punishing it, and their sympathy tends to follow whoever appears most vulnerable. Studies show female judges sentence sex offenders more harshly when the victim is a woman or a child. But when the offender has a more moving story—young, traumatized, oppressed, mentally ill, a struggling mother—the sympathy shifts to the offender. Justice then depends not on what was done but on whose story is more compelling.

That is the feminization of the law: sentiment taking the place of justice. And it's not limited to female judges. Once these values dominate an institution, the men within it absorb them too. Several of the judges in these cases were men.

The courtroom is only one place this transformation shows up. The same priorities are reshaping the wider culture.

# Lost IN THE DATING WASTELAND



The Great Feminization has reached into our most personal relationships. With the old expectations for men and women discarded, the path from dating to marriage has all but vanished.

Singles have never had more ways to meet: apps for every niche, singles events every night in big cities, matchmakers and dating coaches. Online dating is now the most common way couples meet. Yet as Faith Hill reported in an August 3 *Atlantic* article, America is in a "great romance slump." The apps generate plenty of matching and messaging but not many relationships.

Hill, who is 31, interviewed dozens of singles and attended a string of New York singles events—including a bizarre one built around three-minute hugs with strangers. She found a lot of people who are burned out. Dating, one man told her, is a constant assault on his self-confidence. Many have quietly given up, ranking romance below friends, travel, fitness and career. One woman told Hill that her girlfriends meet her emotional needs and she uses men only for sex.

Match and the Kinsey Institute's annual Singles in America study, released September 14, surveyed 4,952 single Americans and found that 48 percent had not been on an in-person date in the past year. Fifty-two percent said they were happier without a relationship, and 25 percent said that even if their perfect partner appeared, *they would rather stay single.* People are too absorbed in themselves to bother with family. Americans are treating marriage, the foundation of society, as if it is obsolete.

What is filling the void? Often, it is technology. Americans' average weekly time socializing with others fell from nearly 13 hours in 2010 to about 5 in 2024. Now artificial intelligence offers an even easier substitute: A 2025 Brigham Young University survey found that nearly 1 in 5 American adults have chatted with an AI designed to simulate a romantic partner—including 31 percent of young men.

Hill sees much of this as the price of "progress." Marriage is no longer necessary for social or financial survival; contraception, careers and the fading stigma of singlehood have given

### Feelings Over Everything

Look at the shifts of recent decades: speech codes and "hate speech" rules, cancel culture, an ever expanding definition of "harm" and "trauma," human resources-driven workplace culture, the elevation of diversity and inclusion over merit, overprotective parenting and schooling, and public policy driven by emotional stories instead of sober analysis. The idea that "if I feel it, it's truth" has become society's operating principle.

Andrews sees a common thread. "Everything you think of as wokeness involves prioritizing the feminine over the masculine: empathy over rationality, safety over risk, cohesion over competition," she wrote.

Consider free speech. Open debate requires tolerating words that offend. Yet in one survey of college students, men preferred protecting free speech over an inclusive society 61 to 39, while women favored inclusion over free speech 64 to 35. A 2024 national survey found that 61 percent of men agreed people should be allowed to say whatever they want, compared with 45 percent of women.

This helps explain cancel culture. It is what happens when the number of women in an organization reaches a critical mass: Opponents are not openly argued with but ostracized and pushed out. "Female group dynamics favor consensus and cooperation," Andrews wrote. "Men order each other around, but women can only suggest and persuade. Any criticism or negative sentiment, if it absolutely must be expressed, needs to be buried in layers of compliments. The outcome of a discussion is less important than the fact that a discussion was held and everyone participated in it."

Think about COVID-19. Most people faced little danger from the virus, yet governments insisted on keeping everyone "safe" at extreme cost: *Everybody must mask up; we can't be too cautious; we must prioritize health and safety above all else—even if we have to shut our economies down.* There were simply too few men standing up and insisting on exercising balance, sense and courage.

"If wokeness really is the result of the Great Feminization, then the eruption of insanity in 2020 was just a small taste of what the future holds," Andrews wrote. "Imagine what will happen as the remaining men age out of these society-shaping professions and the younger, more feminized generations take full control."

### The Cost at Home

The damage reaches far beyond institutions. From grade school onward, boys now trail girls in nearly every academic measurement. In 1970, 20 percent of young men had a bachelor's degree, compared with 12 percent of young women. By 2020, the numbers had flipped: 41 percent of young women, 32 percent of young men.

That education gap is profoundly impacting the formation of families. Women tend to look for a husband with at least as much education and earning power as they have, and there are fewer and fewer such men to go around. This is one reason that *marriage is collapsing.* In 1980, just 6 percent of 40-year-old Americans had never been married. By 2021, it was 25 percent—a record—and 28 percent among men (sidebar, page 12).

And within marriages, roles have reversed. A half-century ago, the husband was the primary breadwinner in roughly 85 percent of American marriages. Today it is 55 percent, and 16 percent of marriages have a breadwinner wife—more than triple the share in the early 1970s. The shift is accelerating: Women accounted for 98 percent of the

**FEMINIZATION** PAGE 31 ►

women freedoms their grandmothers never had; and she insists she is not nostalgic for the old days. Yet she admits the result does not feel like a triumph. The dream was more equal partnerships. What many got was no partnership at all.

The old guideposts have vanished—and people are lost without them. Men are told to be sensitive and supportive, yet women still want them to be decisive and to lead. One man was dropped by a woman for having "dad energy" ("I'm not 100 percent sure what that means," he said) and was told by another that she wished he would take charge. Two anthropologists who gathered studies from around the world noted "the seeming ubiquity of generally disappointing men." A 44-year-old business owner in Chicago told Hill she is tired of splitting the bills while also mothering her boyfriends; she wants a provider. Several of the people Hill interviewed openly wished for more rules.



**Given their perfect match ...**
**46 percent would date**
**29 percent aren't sure**
**25 percent would stay single**

The ones feeling the most urgency are women in their late 30s and early 40s who want children and see the window closing. Hill is one of them. After nearly a decade of searching, she found a man she loves—but he lives a nine-hour train ride away and does not want children. So she is in a long-distance open relationship with him while meeting strangers in Brooklyn bars, hoping to find someone to have a baby with. She even considered a website that matches strangers who want to raise a child together but without romance. One such couple she profiled lives on the same Texas ranch—he in his house, she and the children in a mobile home—while he travels for work and dates around, and she juggles child care and a teaching job. Hill lamented the fact that even in this unconventional arrangement, "they still follow traditional gender roles."

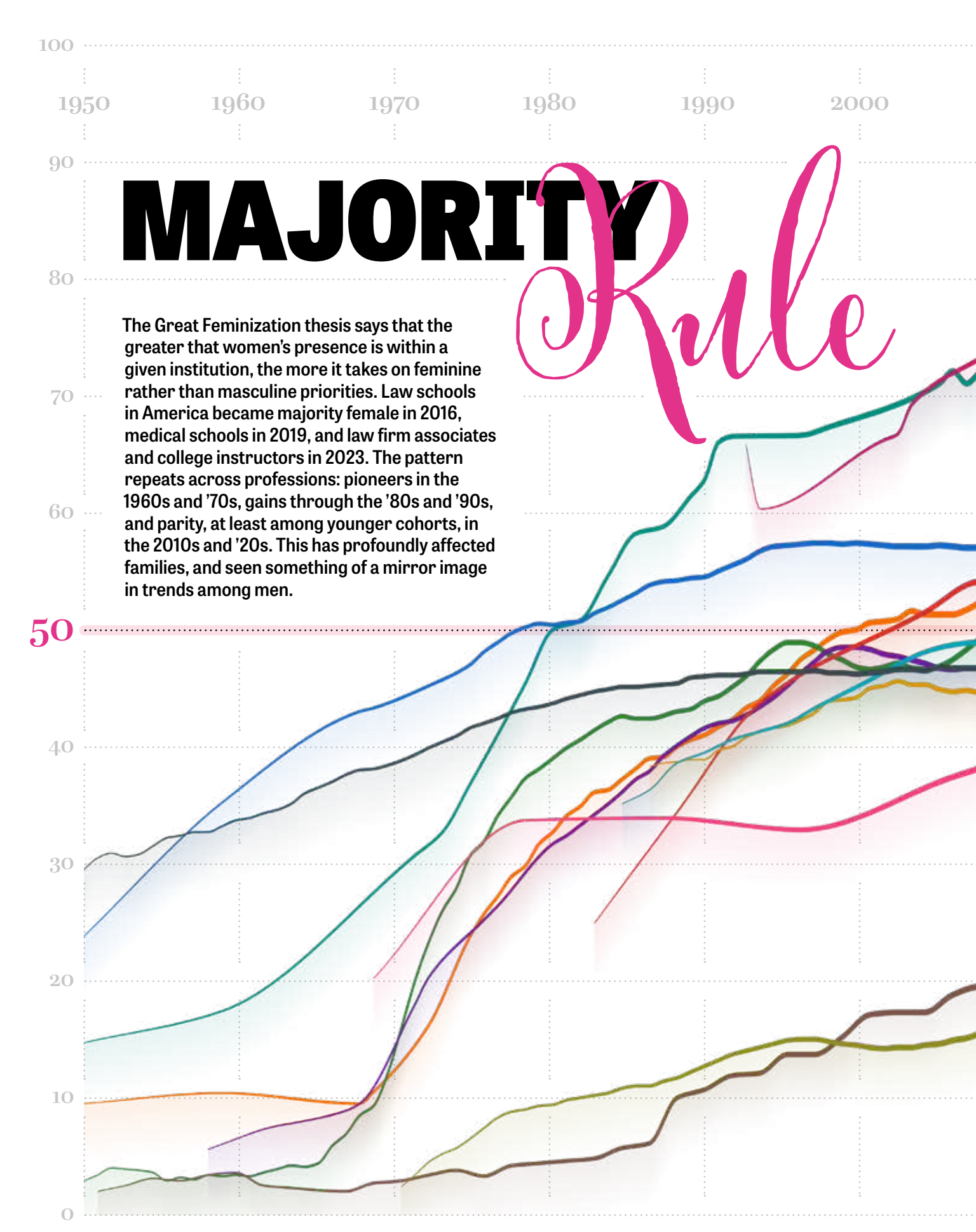
This is what happens when a society rejects male and female, marriage and God-given roles. People are left confused, frustrated and alone. Many grow self-absorbed and set in their ways, unwilling to have anyone depend on them. And many women realize too late that the promise of career fulfillment is illusory.

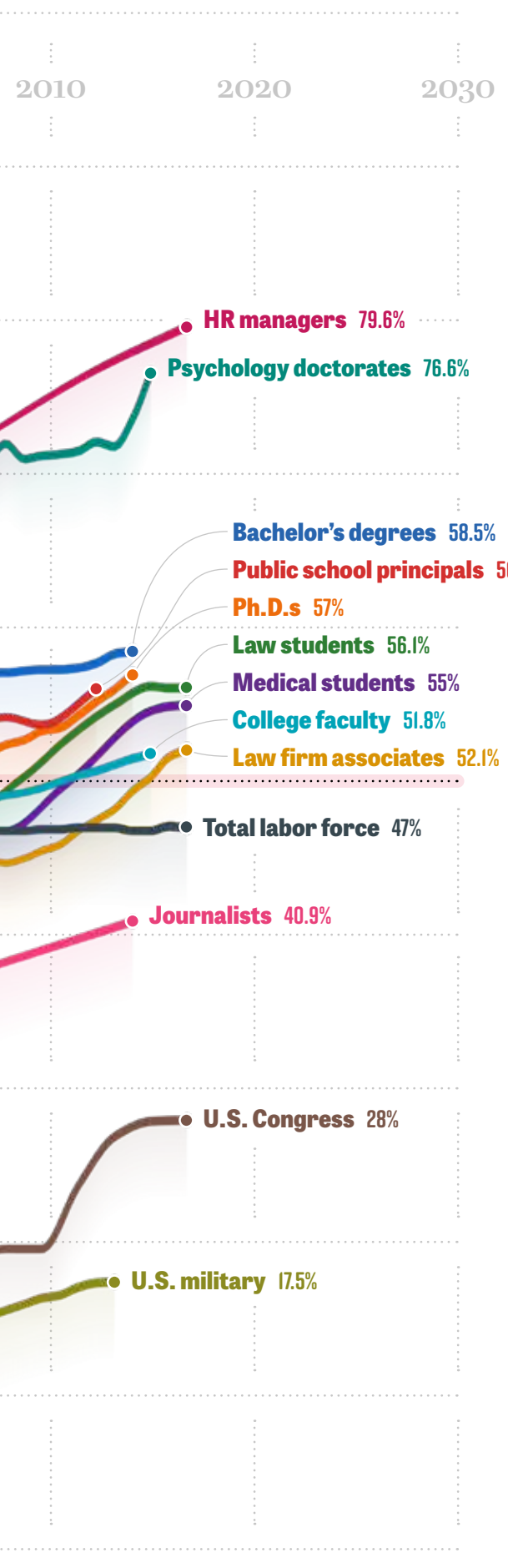
The answer is *achingly* plain. God designed men to lead and provide, women to build their homes, and husbands and wives to commit for life and raise children together. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord. ... Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord ..." (Proverbs 18:22; Psalm 127:3). What a tragedy to stand so close to the answer and turn away from it. And what a blessing God's truth is to anyone willing to receive it.

**JOEL HILLIKER**

# MAJORITY *Rule*

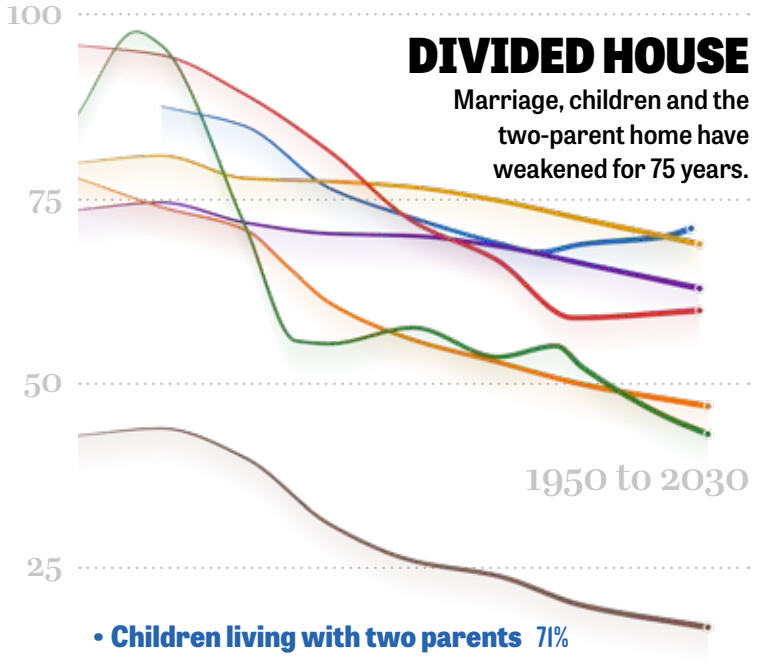
The Great Feminization thesis says that the greater that women's presence is within a given institution, the more it takes on feminine rather than masculine priorities. Law schools in America became majority female in 2016, medical schools in 2019, and law firm associates and college instructors in 2023. The pattern repeats across professions: pioneers in the 1960s and '70s, gains through the '80s and '90s, and parity, at least among younger cohorts, in the 2010s and '20s. This has profoundly affected families, and seen something of a mirror image in trends among men.






## DIVIDED HOUSE

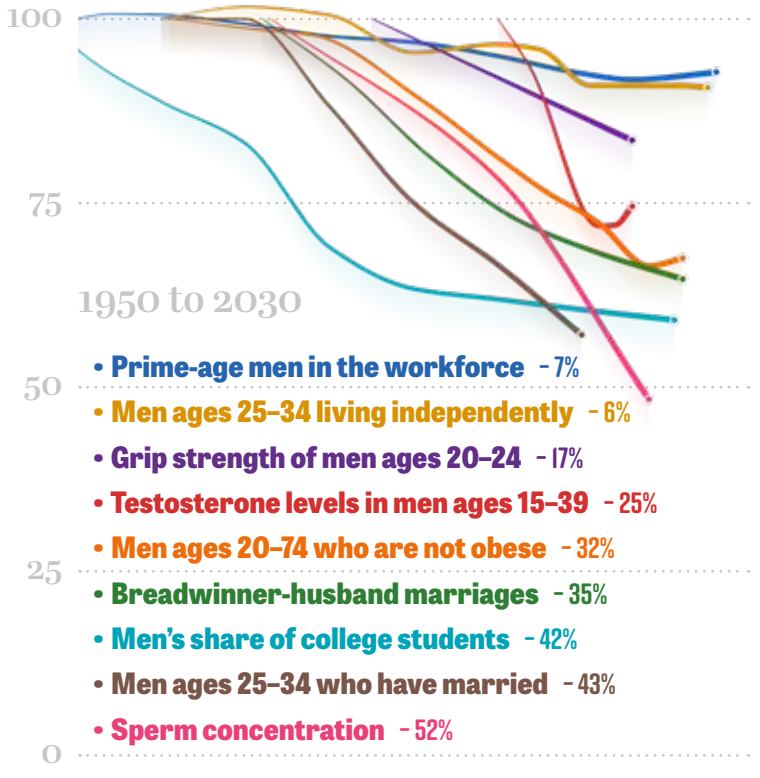
Marriage, children and the two-parent home have weakened for 75 years.




- Children living with two parents 71%
- Men who have married 69%
- Women who have married 63%
- Births within marriage 60%
- Married-couple households 47%
- Fertility rate (percent of 1957 peak) 43%
- Married couples with children 17%

## MISSING MEN

By nearly every measure, American men are steadily losing ground (percent of first measurement).




- Prime-age men in the workforce – 7%
- Men ages 25–34 living independently – 6%
- Grip strength of men ages 20–24 – 17%
- Testosterone levels in men ages 15–39 – 25%
- Men ages 20–74 who are not obese – 32%
- Breadwinner-husband marriages – 35%
- Men's share of college students – 42%
- Men ages 25–34 who have married – 43%
- Sperm concentration – 52%

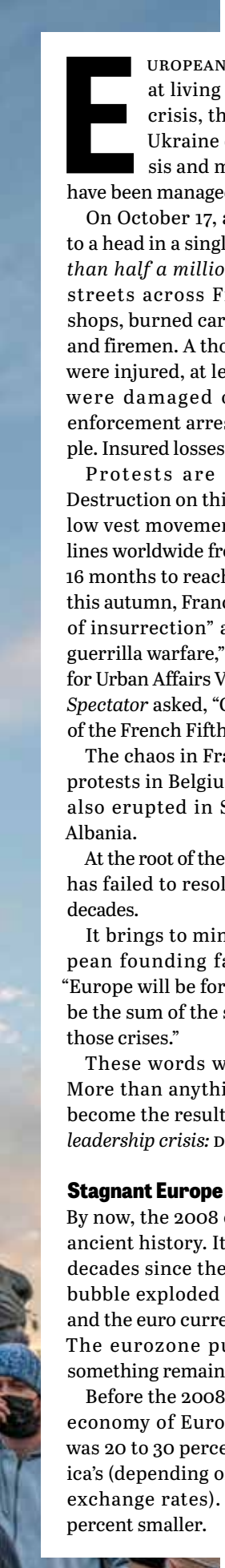



Protesters gather at the Place de la République in Paris on October 4.

# EUROPE'S CHOICE: STRONGMAN OR COLLAPSE

**Nations across the Continent are roiling with anger. History shows where such crises lead. So does biblical prophecy.** BY RICHARD PALMER

VERONIQUE DE VIGUERIE/GETTY IMAGES



EUROPEANS HAVE BECOME GOOD at living with crisis: the euro crisis, the migrant crisis, the Ukraine crisis, the energy crisis and more. For years, these have been managed but never solved.

On October 17, all these crises came to a head in a single day of rioting. *More than half a million people* took to the streets across France. They looted shops, burned cars and attacked police and firemen. A thousand police officers were injured, at least 3,000 businesses were damaged or looted, and law enforcement arrested about 2,400 people. Insured losses could top $1 billion.

Protests are common in Paris. Destruction on this scale is not. The yellow vest movement, which filled headlines worldwide from 2018 to 2020, took 16 months to reach those numbers. But this autumn, France is suffering "a form of insurrection" and a "kind of urban guerrilla warfare," said French Minister for Urban Affairs Vincent Jeanbrun. The *Spectator* asked, "Could This Be the End of the French Fifth Republic?"

The chaos in France inspired violent protests in Belgium and Italy. Protests also erupted in Spain, Portugal and Albania.

At the root of the riots lie crises Europe has failed to resolve, some of them for decades.

It brings to mind the words of European founding father Jean Monnet: "Europe will be forged in crises and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises."

These words will prove prophetic. More than anything else, Europe will become the result of its solution to the *leadership crisis:* DICTATORSHIP.

## Stagnant Europe

By now, the 2008 euro crisis should be ancient history. It has been nearly two decades since the subprime mortgage bubble exploded in the United States and the euro currency almost collapsed. The eurozone pulled through—but something remains broken.

Before the 2008 crisis, the combined economy of European Union nations was 20 to 30 percent bigger than America's (depending on how you dealt with exchange rates). Today, it's about 30 percent smaller.

Since 2008, nominal gross domestic product in the U.S. has doubled. In other words, the dollar value of all goods and services produced in the U.S. today is twice what it was in 2008. A good deal of that is inflation, but not all. In the EU, nominal GDP has grown by only a fifth.

A core reason for this vast disparity is that European productivity has stagnated. From late 2019 to mid-2024, U.S. productivity per hour worked rose 6.7 percent. This is normal: Better education and better technology mean people can produce more per hour worked. But over the same period in the eurozone, productivity rose by only 0.9 percent—a meager 13 percent of America's growth.

This has far-reaching implications. Government, society and lifestyle are built around the assumption that economies grow over time and that each generation will be wealthier than the last. When that growth stops, pensions become unaffordable. Though house prices have continued to rise, incomes haven't, pricing an entire generation out of home ownership. As a result, many people are putting off marriage and children.

This is all the more striking because Eastern Europe grew dramatically richer over the same period. The stagnation is concentrated in the West.

The only factor preventing these economies from self-destructing is debt. Nations have borrowed heavily to keep pensions and benefits rising—often faster than inflation. When COVID-19 hit, governments paid people to stay home, temporarily staving off economic disaster. To do so, they borrowed more money.

Eurointelligence grasps the scale of the crisis: "Europe's unique economic and social model, as well as its democracy, is much more dependent on economic growth than people thought" (October 19).

With the growth having evaporated, the economy, the society and *democracy itself* are under threat.

## Enter Putin

Now a new demand requires even more debt: *rearmament.* Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Other European nations believe they could be Putin's next target unless they spend enough to look intimidating.




President Donald Trump has made it clear that America has no interest in paying to defend Europe. Europeans will have to find the funds themselves.

For Germany, that's no problem. As one of the least-indebted major economies, it is maxing out its credit card on defense. For everyone else, this is another budget headache they can't deal with.

## Millions of Migrants

Another crisis that has been managed rather than solved is the ongoing migration surge. Since 2014, somewhere between 5 million and 8 million migrants have entered Europe from the Middle East and North Africa. The flow of arrivals is lower today than at the height of the crisis, mostly because there hasn't been another war on the scale of Syria's. Also, European governments have bribed repressive regimes to stop migrants before they arrive in Europe. But they have done nothing about the millions of migrants already there.

Other "solutions" are more theater than reality. European governments might shift migrants around, change their types of accommodation, tinker with their government benefits, or put checks on their borders—but *millions of migrants remain in Europe.* Why?

## Europe's Democracy Crisis

For years, power in Europe has flowed away from citizens and elected governments into the hands of unelected bureaucrats: judges, regulators, members of committees in Brussels. There is now a complex hierarchy of national and international courts, with EU rules and treaties that go on for *millions* of pages.

As a result, major European countries can rarely make a significant decision without a series of courts weighing in. Taxpayer-funded regulatory bodies sue the government and drag it through national courts—then European courts.

This is another reason why Europe's economy has been stagnant while America's has grown. The U.S. economy has major, foundational problems—but at least it is led by a government that can react to changing technologies and circumstances. Europe's can't.

The effect has been most damaging on migration. Large numbers of Europeans want migrants out. The European Court of Human Rights makes deportations tortuously complex and often impossible, even for violent, dangerous criminals.

So the millions remain.

### Political Paralysis

The backlash against these headaches has opened a new divide in European politics in addition to the fundamental left-right split. On one side are the mainstream parties of left and right, which disagree sharply on a number of issues but want to fight it out within the current system. On the other are upstarts from both the left and the right who want to smash the existing laws and norms. Their goals differ, but rightly or wrongly, all of them defy the mainstream order: They want to deport migrants, exit NATO, print money, introduce 100 percent tax rates, cancel the EU, or ally with Russia.

This new fault line has rendered most of Europe almost ungovernable. No faction can gain a majority in any parliament. Europe is dominated by convoluted coalitions, minority governments and unpopular leaders.

■ **Germany:** Chancellor Friedrich Merz hit the lowest approval rating ever recorded for a German chancellor in an October 1 poll by German public broadcaster ARD, in which only 10 percent of respondents said they were satisfied with his leadership. He leads a coalition that pairs his conservative party with its mirror opposite, the Social Democratic Party. Meanwhile, the upstart Alternative für Deutschland is polling as the nation's most popular party.

■ **France:** President Emmanuel Macron has lost the support of his parliament, and his term in office ends next spring. France has cycled through five governments since 2024. More than two dozen people have declared themselves candidates to replace Macron, but only the far left and far right have real momentum.

■ **The Netherlands** is governed by a three-way minority coalition of two center-right parties and one center-left party. Even when they agree on something, they lack the votes to get it through parliament.

■ **Spain:** Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has struggled for years to keep his left-wing minority coalition from collapsing. He finally ran out of steam on October 5, calling a snap election for November 29.

■ **Poland:** The president and prime minister belong to opposite parties. They are locked in a power struggle, with the president vetoing the most important parts of what parliament passes.

■ **Belgium** is perhaps the most absurd of all, governed by a five-party coalition that includes social democrats, center-right parties and Flemish separatists.

### The French Are Revolting

All these factors and grievances have coalesced in Europe's protest movements. French schoolchildren have attacked their own schools and teachers, cheered on by far-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

They have been joined by millions of Muslim migrants and children of



Pope Leo XIV arrives via popemobile to lead a mass during his visit to France.

MATTEO PERNASELCI - VATICAN MEDIA VIA VATICAN POOL/GETTY IMAGES

# A New Vision for Europe

THE OCTOBER PROTESTS WEREN'T THE ONLY EVENT TO DRAW hundreds of thousands onto the streets of Paris. But the 800,000 who turned out on September 26 were a different crowd. This crowd looted no shops, burned no schools, vandalized no monuments. They didn't even leave any litter.

They showed up to witness France's first papal state visit since 2008.

Pope Leo XIV distanced himself from France's current, unpopular leadership, declining President Emmanuel Macron's offer of a state dinner, military honors and the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, the highest distinction France has to offer.

He focused his September 25-28 visit on France's youth. One of his first major events was a youth vigil, where 80,000 people packed the Stade de France. Tickets sold out in under an hour. It was "like it was Beyoncé," one young fan told *Le Parisien.* The vigil included a glitzy retelling of Catholic history in France, with a 2,500-member choir, knights on horseback and fireworks.

The mass in the heart of Paris was even bigger. The Place de la Concorde, Paris's largest public square, is where France's Catholic monarchs were executed; it is a symbol of the French Revolution. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette lost their heads there. No wonder many found it deeply symbolic to see the square filled with enthusiastic Catholic worshipers excited to see the pope.

Leo celebrated the Catholic revival in France. He said the surge in new converts "far surpasses statistical and sociological analysis" and "contradicts every defeatist attitude" about the church's future.

Ten years ago, commentators were discussing France's "zombie Catholics"—people who didn't attend services but turned out in droves to support Catholic social policies and Catholic politicians. Now some of these zombie Catholics, and their kids, are returning to church. They see the pope as the solution to chaos within and without.

migrants. Algerian and Palestinian flags fly alongside the hammer and sickle. "In the name of Allah, we can kill them all," chanted one rioter. The *New York Post* wrote, "France's Riots Are No Ordinary Protest—They're an Intifada in the Heart of Europe."

Among the non-migrant protesters, some want more money for schools. Others are protesting the cost of living. Meanwhile, year after year, the government keeps overspending. Everyone agrees it must reduce its borrowing, but there is no majority in parliament to do that.

So when President Macron addressed the nation after the October 17 protests, he announced … *nothing.* There was nothing he could do. There is no money left. France's interest rates are approaching crisis levels as investors move their money out of French bonds and into much safer German ones. Macron is stuck, and so is France.

### Confidence or Collapse

Europeans have two possible paths ahead of them. They can continue to follow conventional leaders who play by the rules, campaigning for election, promising change, and then simply doing what courts, bureaucrats and frightful financial mathematics dictate.

Or they can find a dictator.

A standard politician simply cannot free himself from the patterns of futility that have brought Europe to this point. It will take someone who is unafraid to break the rules.

When Europe faced disaster in the past, such a leader stepped forward. With the unrest in France, Napoleon is the example on the minds of many. In 1789, France's massive debt, rising cost of living and discontent over inequality led to the French Revolution. Civil war, regular war, the Reign of Terror and a series of coups followed until Napoleon ended it with a "whiff of grapeshot."

Adolf Hitler would have struggled to rise to power in a stable, prosperous Germany, but an economic crisis in a defeated and humiliated nation made his simple message—*blame the Jews*—popular.

Italy was on the winning side of World War I, felt shortchanged by the peace, and still fell into economic turmoil. The result: the rise of Benito Mussolini. In fact, the chaos of the interwar period brought dictators to power in Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Few of these strongmen could have come to power if the Continent hadn't been in chaos.

For a more modern example, look at Russia. The fall of the Soviet Union, hyperinflation, civil war and inequality spurred Boris Yeltsin—once a conventional freedom fighter—to give up, get drunk, and hand the reins to Vladimir Putin.

There are plenty of other examples, however, when collapse has simply led to even worse collapse, but no strongman stepped forward. This is where the Bible, with its bold claim of accurately predicting the future (Isaiah 46:10), is essential.

For years, the *Philadelphia Trumpet* has published cover articles predicting that a strong leader will soon appear

**EUROPE'S CHOICE** PAGE 25 ▶

"A lot of people told me they appreciated this American pope for how he could stand up to today's strongmen," NPR correspondent Eleanor Beardsley said. "They say he has an important moral authority in a world of disorder."

The events of the last month seem to offer France a stark choice: migration, leftism, chaos and violence—or Catholicism, order and beauty.

Leo appealed beyond France's borders. He finished his trip in Metz, close to the German border and to the home of Robert Schuman, one of the EU's founding fathers.

"We cannot speak of Europe, then, without mentioning Christianity," the pope said, emphasizing the Catholicism of Schuman and other European founders. He discussed the importance of "recognizing Europe's debt to Christianity" and pointed out that Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires "open, transparent and regular dialogue with … churches."

It's no coincidence that the Catholic Church is offering such a contrasting vision as Europe erupts in flames.

This is exactly what Herbert W. Armstrong described in the November 1965 *Plain Truth*. "That crucial fact is this: The nations of Europe are utterly UNABLE TO UNITE THEMSELVES by their own political maneuvering," he wrote. There are important national differences. How could the Germans tolerate a French strongman over them? Or the French, a German one?

"For years the *Plain Truth* has said these nations are going to have to realize their inability to unite themselves POLITICALLY—to choose a common political-military leader that ALL can trust," Mr. Armstrong continued. "They are going to finally face the fact they must look to a supreme authority they can all trust! That supreme authority cannot be a politician or a general …. The only possible answer is a religious leader!"

*Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry has continued to proclaim the same message. "Throughout Europe's history, what has helped it to overcome its division has been a unity of purpose between *church* and *state,*" he wrote in our April 2006 issue. "… But this church-state union hasn't always been a happy marriage. Usually the two have been drawn together because of a *crisis*—an *emergency.*"

Europe's crises will push Europeans into the arms of a strongman—and toward a church that seems opposite the disorganized mobs of Muslim migrants that have poured in. They're already looking to the pope to save them from strongmen beyond their borders, and when the Catholic Church advocates for Europe to get a strongman of its own, they will fill the streets in support.

Revelation 17 portrays the coming European empire as a beast with seven heads and 10 horns, ridden by a woman—a prophetic symbol of a *church.*

When this church takes the reins, many in Europe will believe they are heading for the best of times. Bible prophecy says it will be the worst of times. This empire will unleash the worst suffering the world has ever seen.

This Catholic-led empire is a false hope. But the real hope isn't far behind. You can read more about the Bible's forecast in your free copy of *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy.*

**RICHARD PALMER**

# Latin America's Return to 'LAW AND ORDER'

**Military dictatorships and a Catholic revival included?**

**BY JOSUÉ MICHELS**

ONE STRONG LEADER CAN CHANGE A country. Latin America has witnessed a wave of them in recent years. Together they will change the continent and even the world.

Leaders in Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Honduras, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia and Peru have pushed back against left-leaning trends. Brazil is on the same track, but the swing to the right faces a major obstacle.

During the Cold War, most Latin American countries were ruled by right-wing military dictatorships. From the late 1990s to the 2010s, a "pink tide" of left-leaning governments took office. Governing parties and coalitions briefly shifted right, but a second "pink tide" rolled in after the coronavirus lockdowns.

That tide looks like it's already rolling back out. Voters across the continent are demanding something to wash away or at least cool down inflation, illegal immigration, corruption and rising crime.

Latin America's leftists have sustained a series of major defeats:



**JAVIER MILEI, Argentina**
"Milei Crushes Argentine Left" (Fox News, Nov. 19, 2023)



**SANTIAGO PEÑA, Paraguay**
"Paraguay's Conservatives Score Big Election Win ..." (Reuters, May 1, 2023)



**DANIEL NOBOA, Ecuador**
"The conservative president won reelection in a runoff against the leftist Luisa González ...." (El País, April 15, 2025)



**RODRIGO PAZ, Bolivia**
"Paz Wins Bolivian Presidency, Ending Nearly 20 Years of Leftist Rule" (Reuters, Oct. 20, 2025)



**NASRY ASFURA, Honduras**
"The election is continuing Latin America's swing to the right ...." (Associated Press, Dec. 12, 2025)



**JOSÉ ANTONIO KAST, Chile**
"Landslide Win for Kast Gives Chile Its Most Right-Wing President in Decades" (AP, Dec. 15, 2025)



**LAURA FERNÁNDEZ, Costa Rica**
"Fernández Wins Costa Rican Presidency, Steering Latin America Further Right" (*Guardian,* February 2)



**ABELARDO DE LA ESPRIELLA, Colombia** "Far-Right Millionaire Wins Colombia's Razor-Tight Presidential Election" (*Guardian,* June 21)



**KEIKO FUJIMORI, Peru**
"Peru's Presidential Vote Gives the Right in Latin America Another Win" (*New York Times*, June 29)



**FLÁVIO BOLSONARO, Brazil**
"Bolsonaro has won the first round of Brazil's presidential election, beating left-wing President Lula da Silva ...." (BBC, October 10)

In the first round of Brazil's election, Flávio won 56.1 million votes (47 percent) against Lula's 53.9 million votes (45 percent). The remaining candidates, who received nearly 8 percent, were mostly center-right, so it seemed unlikely their voters would shift to Lula in the second round.

However, to nearly everyone's surprise, the official result of the October 25 election shows Lula winning a stunning 64.3 million votes (51.8 percent). Where did the additional votes come from? Bolsonaro claims the election was stolen, and there are indications he is right. For example, a Supreme Court justice, Lula's former personal lawyer, extended the closing time in areas that favored Lula. Soon after the election, Bolsonaro had his passports confiscated and was forced to flee to the U.S.

In the meantime, Lula will not have an easy time governing at home. Bolsonaro's Liberal Party, despite failing to secure the presidency, roughly doubled its Senate caucus and is now the chamber's largest single party. Together, right-wing parties won a majority, 303 of the 513 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 49 of 81 Senate seats.

If Lula is unable to hold on to power, the country will likely shift even further to the right.

Disillusionment with left-wing promises often takes years to build, but once it sets in, countries shift right, and sometimes far to the right.

In the last three years, Latin America has vividly demonstrated this fact. Bible prophecy reveals where this trend will lead.

## Law and Order

A common factor these leaders share is a promise to reestablish law and order.

The Associated Press wrote on June 16: "Right-wing populists have been making headway in some of Latin America's biggest economies, promising a strong-arm approach to combating crime and illegal immigration as an answer to the left-wing populism that took hold in the region just a few years ago."

You can find that promise emphasized in almost every campaign of the recently elected leaders.

"[T]hose who will have a bad time and be afraid will be the criminals," Milei said in 2023.

"In my government, we are going to say goodbye to crime," Peña said in 2023.

GOBIERNO ARGENTINO, PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPÚBLICA DEL ECUADOR, JUAN MONTENEGRO/PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPÚBLICA, ANGELA WEISS / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, GALO PAGUAY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, SEBASTIAN BARROS/NURPHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES, CONNIE FRANCE / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, BUDA MENDES/GETTY IMAGES

"The fight against organized crime must be frontal and coordinated," Paz stated in 2025.

"There will be no truce against crime," Noboa vowed in 2025.

"[W]e will provide the police and members of the armed forces and gendarmerie with the material and human means for the recovery of public order and security, and we will give them all the political and legal support of the government of Chile for the legitimate use of the force of the state," Kast said in 2025.

Asfura's 2025 campaign slogan was "Security: Working and Living Without Fear."

"I will fight for a firm hand against organized crime," promised Fernández.

"The citizens' demand right now is to recover order," Fujimori said, "and that is our main proposal and the central axis of our campaign."

"[S]ecurity will return to the miracle homeland, because crime is the main enemy of freedom and stability," Espriella said this year.

"In my government, the priority will be to protect the victim and the law-abiding citizen, and not to go easy on criminals, as the current government does," Bolsonaro promised.

Several Latin American leaders have made major changes to fulfill their law-and-order promises. In January 2024, Ecuador's Noboa declared an "internal armed conflict" and deployed the military against criminal groups. Subsequently, Amnesty International documented allegations of security operations resulting in arbitrary detentions, torture and disappearances.

On October 14, Costa Rica's Fernández inaugurated a $35 million, 5,100-inmate, maximum-security prison modeled on El Salvador's mega-prison to confine the country's most dangerous criminals.

Chile's Kast has enacted a constitutional reform that places the prison system under the country's public order and security forces. He has also proposed further constitutional amendments to strengthen the police.

Honduras's Nasry Asfura delivered 342 vehicles and motorcycles to military police on June 30, pledging to strengthen the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and extortion.

Law and order is exactly what citizens across these nations need. But the trajectory is eerily reminiscent of Latin America's Cold War leaders. In fact, some of these leaders outright praise Latin American dictators of the recent past.

## Reviving Old Demons

"Chile wants change," José Antonio Kast said after winning the presidential election in December 2025. This is true for all of Latin America, and the results of prior and subsequent elections across the continent prove it. But the change revives Latin America's demons of the past.

Kast's victory is a case in point.



Police officers face inmates at the CECOT prison in Tecoluca, El Salvador.

MARVIN RECINOS / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

His predecessor, Gabriel Boric, allowed Chile to absorb a large influx of criminal Venezuelan migrants, resulting in a surge in violent crimes. Kast campaigned to end it—and the numbers show that he has delivered on that promise. Chile's Interior Ministry says that, compared to the same period last year, reports of irregular border crossings from January to August fell by 93.3 percent.

Kast thus joins a growing cohort of Latin American leaders who have turned their countries away from the leftward political trend of previous years.

But Kast himself is the son of an immigrant with quite a different background. His father, Michael Kast, came to South America after World War II—from Germany, where he was a Nazi Party member and an officer in Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht. In Chile, he founded a factory for meat and sausage products and began a new life, as did many other Nazis.

LEADERSHIP CRISIS

The elder Kast is believed to have worked with Chile's intelligence agency under tyrant Augusto Pinochet.

Kast's siblings have served as legislators; his brother Miguel served as president of Pinochet's central bank.

During the 2021 election campaign, Kast said, "If Pinochet were still alive, he would vote for me."

Kast was heavily influenced by Jaime Guzmán, an adviser to Pinochet, while studying law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

He is not the only one with connections to past authoritarian rulers.

In Peru, Fujimori was the first lady from 1994 to 2000 during her father's term in office. Alberto Fujimori ruled the nation as an authoritarian for an entire decade, from 1990 to 2000, before allegations of corruption led him to flee to Japan. In 2005, he tried to mount a political comeback from Chile but was arrested and convicted, then imprisoned for 16 years for human rights abuses committed as president.

Crime rates and political instability have gotten so bad that Keiko Fujimori's law-and-order campaign overshadowed all these past associations.

Field Marshal Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco became president of Brazil following a 1964 military coup. He began 21 years of dictatorship in Brazil, in which civil rights were limited, due process was often ignored, and political dissidents were murdered and tortured. There were 191 confirmed political murders, at least 243 disappearances and over 20,000 cases of torture.

Jair Bolsonaro, the father of Flávio, repeatedly defended Brazil's 1964–1985 military dictatorship. In 1993, as a legislator, he declared his support for the dictatorship. In 2019, as president, he called Col. Carlos Alberto Brilhante

Ustra, who was convicted of torture, a "national hero." Ustra had led a military intelligence unit responsible for repressing Brazilian citizens who were deemed opponents of the regime.

In 2019, Jair Bolsonaro reinstated military celebrations of Brazil's 1964 military coup that ousted the elected president.

Those who defend Latin America's past dictatorships often point to the many left-leaning governments that have set up authoritarian rule in the region as well. The best examples are in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. As time passes, the evils of the recent and current left-leaning authoritarians are remembered while those further in the past are forgotten.

But we need to remember the facts regarding the region's past dictatorships.

Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla led a military junta to take control of Argentina on March 24, 1976. That started a seven-year period called "the Dirty War," in which 15,000 to 30,000 people—including student protesters, journalists, artists and those suspected of holding liberal ideas—"disappeared." Many of them were thrown into the country's approximately 340 concentration camps and killed. The junta crumbled in 1983, the year after its failed invasion of the Falkland Islands.

Augusto Pinochet's military junta in Chile forcibly replaced the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973. Amnesty International estimates that his regime, which lasted until 1990, killed 3,000 people and imprisoned or tortured 40,000 others for resisting communism and other political reasons. That is a conservative estimate, and more than 1,000 people remain missing to this day.

Will Latin America's past also be its future?

## The Catholic Connection

Notably, many of the new conservative, crime-fighting Latin American leaders are Catholic. The most prominent of them are Espriella, Fernández, Fujimori, Paz and Peña. Bolsonaro and Milei were raised Roman Catholic and maintain close ties to the church.

Baylor University wrote on September 2, "The recent close elections of conservative populist candidates in Peru and Colombia suggest a new injection of Catholicism into polarized Latin American societies."

After the election of Paz in Bolivia, *Crux* wrote that the Catholic Church is hopeful that he will restore "the traditional role" the church has historically held in the country.

Catholics constitute 46 to 67 percent of adults in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru—roughly two to three times the share in the United States, where only 20 percent describe themselves as Catholic (of whom 29 percent are immigrants and 14 percent are the children of immigrants).

What "traditional role" has Catholicism played in governments in Latin America and beyond?

Historically, the Catholic Church united with European states and their military institutions to facilitate the Crusades, the conquest of Latin America, the Inquisition, the Thirty Years' War and other wars of religious suppression. Study the history of Spain, Latin America, Austria and Italy and you will see that the more successful the Inquisition was in eliminating other religious beliefs, the more Catholic that nation is today.

Government-enforced religious conversions are the main reasons Latin American populations have been predominantly Catholic over the centuries. Recently, however, this Catholic stronghold has been crumbling. Over the last decade, the share of Catholics has declined more than 10 percentage points.

During a 2022 visit to Spain, Kast lamented "an increasingly low participation of Catholics in Sunday mass" and said "some essential pillars of our religious approach, such as the family, the unborn child and education, have not been defended, perhaps with the necessary force." He warned that secularists in Latin America want to "eliminate God from our lives, from our laws, from all our daily activities."

"I am not a Catholic politician," he said. "I am a political Catholic."

Catholics are often just as sincere as other Christian denominations. But as these Catholic leaders rise up, we need to closely watch their agenda and associations—and to remember history and pay attention to Bible prophecy.

Bolsonaro, Kast and Milei all maintain close connections to Spain's Vox political party. Milei visited Madrid in October and endorsed the party for the November 29 election. These leaders remain religiously and ideologically tied to Spain and Europe, a relationship that goes back five centuries to the rule of the Holy Roman Empire under the Habsburg dynasty.

Today, the religious tie between both continents is becoming increasingly relevant once again. The leaders of Europe's largest economies are Catholic or have a Catholic background: Germany's Friedrich Merz (openly Catholic), France's Emmanuel Macron (baptized Catholic at age 12; agnostic today) and Italy's Giorgia Meloni (though she often calls herself just Christian).

Bible prophecy reveals that this connection will bind these two continents into a close-knit alliance that will lead to a siege of the U.S. (Deuteronomy 28:52).

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his free booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision:* "Herbert Armstrong long prophesied, and we expect, the alliance between Europe and South America to grow extremely strong. The most significant factors that will cement this connection are religion and language: Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion of Latin America ...."

These recent elections may be just what the continent needed to enter into closer cooperation with Catholic Europe. The October 1957 *Plain Truth,* predecessor to the *Trumpet,* stated, "Latin American nations will join in with the European revival of the old Roman Empire ...."

The final verdict of each leader is not in yet, but the direction is clear and in line with Bible prophecy. Individually, these leaders will change the trajectory of their respective country. Together, they will change the direction of the continent and even the world. ■





**The good old days?**

Is a return to Catholicism the solution for Europe? Get the answer from history and prophecy by requesting your free copy of ***The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy***.



# God's Solution to the Leadership Crisis

**He is preparing a new kind of leader for a better world. You can be one of them.** BY JOEL HILLIKER

Year after year. Election after election. Revolution after revolution. *We need new leaders. We need common sense. We need innovative ideas. We need justice. That's why I'm running for .... That's why my political opponents must be jailed .... That's why I've issued a new directive ....*

Why does this keep happening, generation after generation? We know we need leaders; we support those who seem to be, and often are, the smartest and strongest among us to lead us; we soon suffer their ineffectiveness, selfishness and brutality; and we support new leaders who seem most likely to effect our safety and happiness.

These election and revolution cycles are teaching us something, and it's not that human leaders are less intelligent, capable or moral than those they lead.

The Holy Bible reveals the lesson.

It prophesied of this leadership crisis (Isaiah 3:1-4)—and revealed its terrible outcome: Human governments are about to annihilate each other! We will approach the point where humanity faces extinction (Matthew 24:21-22).

Do you realize that the main lesson of the Gospels, the epistles, Acts, Revelation and the entire Old Testament back to the two trees in the Garden of Eden is about *government?*

Daniel 2:44 and Revelation 11:15 are among the scriptures that plainly show that God is preparing to reestablish His government on Earth. The "kingdom of God" that Jesus Christ emphasized as His gospel, the "good news," is not the afterlife or an idea that exists only in men's hearts: It is a *literal* government that will supplant the governments of this world.

Christ Himself will govern the affairs of men. But the Bible explicitly says that He will also exercise that rule through His saints, who shall take the Kingdom, and possess it forever, receiving power over the nations (Daniel 7:18; Revelation 2:26).

God is preparing those leaders *today.* He is preparing them to teach and execute completely different principles, a completely different law, than the human leaders of our generation and of every other.

"Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy" (Proverbs 20:28). Machiavellian political savvy, well-timed deceptions and ruthless pragmatism can get you far up the pyramid in human governments, whether authoritarian or democratic. Not so in God's government. His rulers must instead develop *mercy* and *truth*—loving-kindness, loyalty, faithfulness, reliability.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice ..." (Proverbs 29:2). Many people have come to believe that a leader's moral character matters less than everything else: the economy, the military, the schools and such. The Supreme Judge of the world says the leader's moral character—his obedience to the laws of nature's God—matters more than anything else.

Jesus Christ is coming to govern men, and the lesser governors who assist Him will "be appointed—and by the divine Christ, who reads and knows men's hearts, their inner character, and abilities or lack of ability" (*The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*). No campaigns, no spin, no deception. No voting, actually. Only character.

LEADERSHIP CRISIS

"Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them," Jesus said. "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28). Leaders today try to serve, or at least pretend to. In God's government, service is not for show: It is the whole purpose of authority. Christ, the King of kings, gave His very life for those He would rule.

"I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in," Solomon, the newly crowned king of Israel, told God in 1 Kings 3. "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad" (verses 7, 9). *This* is what God wants in His rulers. It is exactly the mindset a leader needs: humble, aware of his own limitations, utterly dependent on the Creator, mindful of the fact that he is no greater than those he rules. It is the attitude Jesus Christ showed when He faced His crucifixion: "[N]evertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

God's government doesn't need intelligence, innovation, cunning, might, or even "down-to-earth, commonsense values." It needs humility and obedience, like that of the King of kings!

God's government will enforce God's law and teach His way of life to every nation (Isaiah 2:3-4). It will practice God's love, serving people worldwide in ways that truly benefit them. And it will finally create the peace this world has always sought and never found.

You can learn what that world will be like in *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, by Herbert W. Armstrong (free upon request). And you can prepare to help rule in it by submitting yourself to God today. Christ promised that those who are faithful in small matters now will be given authority over cities in His Kingdom (Luke 19:17). The leadership crisis of this world is about to end. God is preparing the leaders who will resolve it. ■



Iraqi security forces in Baghdad flash the victory sign during a September 30 military parade marking America's withdrawal.

# Iraq Has Fallen to Iran

**Just as Gerald Flurry said in 1994** BY MIHAILO S. ZEKIC

"A NATION RECLAIMS ITS destiny," Rear Adm. Liam Hulin said in Arabic as the United States military completed its withdrawal from Iraq on September 30. Fulfilling a 2024 pledge by his predecessor, Joe Biden, President Donald Trump removed the last 2,500 personnel of Operation Inherent Resolve from Iraqi Kurdistan. While America pledges to continue training Iraqi groups, the U.S. mission to Iraq has ended.

September 30 was *also* the deadline Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi set for Iran's proxy militias to hand over all their weapons to the Iraqi government. But days before that deadline, he announced a new deadline: *June 2027.*

America left, but Iraq hasn't "reclaimed its destiny." The U.S. can frame the withdrawal any way it likes, but it amounts to *surrendering Iraq to Iran.*

The militias, collectively known as the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), have resisted calls for their disarmament without the complete removal of American influence over Iraq's policies. Responding to Zaidi's new deadline, Abdul Qadir Karbalai, a deputy leader of the Harakat al-Nujaba militia, said on October 21 that these are "sacred weapons of resistance" and that "disarmament" is not in his militia's vocabulary.

These militias, technically grafted into Iraq's armed forces 12 years ago, openly profess loyalty to Iran. They have actively fought for Iran for years, including the current conflict. They drape the Iranian flag over the coffins of their fallen fighters. They publicly pledge allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei.

PMF fighters represent Iran's most blatant means of controlling Iraq. The PMF also has a number of politicians who have achieved success in Iraqi elections. Meanwhile, Iran's and Iraq's economies remain heavily intertwined: International sanctions have exempted Iraq, allowing it to do business with Iran that other nations cannot. Plus, both populations are majority Shiite Muslim, linking the barely functioning Iraqi republic to the radical regime of Iran. *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry forecast such heavy influence—and more—by Iran on Iraq, all the way back in 1994.

## Then and Now

As Mr. Flurry stated then and has consistently maintained, the recent past, present and imminent future of Iraq is revealed in Bible prophecy.

Daniel 11:40-43 describe a clash between a "king of the south" and a "king of the north" at "the time of the end." Mr. Flurry has asserted since the mid-1990s that this king of the south corresponds to a modern Islamist bloc led by Iran. And he has maintained the late Herbert W. Armstrong's identification of a united European power led by Germany as the king of the north. Combining Daniel 11, a related prophecy in Psalm 83 and geopolitical analysis, Mr. Flurry foretold that Iraq would not only cease being a bitter enemy of Iran but *become subservient* to it.

In the December 1994 *Philadelphia Trumpet,* in an article titled "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" Mr. Flurry wrote: "The most powerful [Islamic] country in the Middle East is *Iran.* Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world? ... When the king of the south clashes with the king of the north, the European king of the north is victorious. ... The clash of these two kings would be hastened greatly if Iraqi oil were to fall into the hands of Iran. Germany and Europe are almost totally dependent on the Middle East for oil. The U.S. strategists said they left Saddam Hussein in power to prevent Iran from possibly ruling Iraq. Now the U.S. and [United Nations] embargo may achieve the same undesired result. Iraq could easily fall—and soon!"

Iraq in 1994 was still under the iron-fisted rule of socialist dictator Saddam Hussein. He had sent the world scrambling four years earlier when he invaded and occupied Kuwait. He sponsored Palestinian terror groups. He openly used weapons of mass destruction in warfare. In 1980 he launched a devastating war *against* Iran that lasted eight years. To many, Hussein's Iraq—*not* Iran—looked like the Middle East's most dangerous imperialist. The U.S. launched and ended the first Gulf War, almost certainly intentionally, to degrade but to also conspicuously preserve Iraq's power as a counterbalance to Iran.

But in 2003, everything changed for Iraq and for the Middle East. The U.S. again invaded Iraq and this time toppled Hussein's regime and occupied the country. The U.S. Army stood to Iran's

AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

west, as well as to its east after the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. Some even said Iraq could become an American "colony."

Yet in the June 2003 *Trumpet,* Mr. Flurry doubled down on his prediction: "Now that Iraq has been taken out of the picture, Iran is even closer to becoming the reigning king of the Middle East. It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that, in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably TAKE OVER IRAQ. At least, it will have a heavy influence over the Iraqi people. … Saddam Hussein was the only leader that Iran feared. Now the U.S. has taken him out of the way. But does America have the will or strength to guard the spoils of war? Prophecy states that it does not."

American forces left in 2011 but returned in 2014 as head of a multinational coalition to defeat the Islamic State terror group, which was quickly gaining territory for its new "caliphate." It was during this time that



A fighter in Iraq's PMF stands guard outside its headquarters in Baghdad.

AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

the PMF formed—to fight the Islamic State. Astoundingly, President Barack Obama welcomed these Iran-controlled militias as co-liberators.

Soon after President Obama renewed the mission to Iraq, the September 2014 *Trumpet* issue stated, "[E]xpect Iran to increase its control over Iraq and its government. Expect more chaos as Iran leverages its influence through radical Islamic terrorists. And expect the 'king of the south' to emerge substantially empowered, awash with more oil, power and weapons than ever."

Looking at Iraq today, *it is clear these forecasts have been fulfilled.*

Amazingly, this development has attracted little attention, let alone concern or action. Analysts today routinely speak of Iranian dominance over Iraq as a given, almost as if that has been a long-standing status quo.

Not long ago, the dispositions of Iraq and of Iran appeared bound for the exact opposite outcome. But *Mr. Flurry's analysis based on Bible prophecy has proved correct.*

### God's Hand

For most of the 20th century, Herbert W. Armstrong, publisher of our predecessor magazine the *Plain Truth,* made Bible-based forecasts on world events affecting the lives of millions. Millions read his articles in the *Plain Truth* and watched him on *The World Tomorrow.* Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, but 40 years later, the forecasts he made are being fulfilled, or—as in the case of Britain leaving the European Union—have been fulfilled. Since 1990, Mr. Flurry has continued Mr. Armstrong's legacy in the *Philadelphia Trumpet,* covering the same prophecies Mr. Armstrong spoke on and adding new understanding of these prophecies.

Prophecy can be hard to understand. "It is written in symbol, using ancient names and unfamiliar terminology," the introduction to *He Was Right* reads. "Thus, most people—even those who value the Bible—pay it little attention. This is a mistake. God intends prophecy to be *understood*—it is His tool revealing His part in steering world affairs!"

Some Christians may take no special interest in world affairs. But in reality, it is one of the best subjects to teach how the Bible is relevant for *you—today—whatever* part of the world you're in. This is the ultimate reason why what is happening in Iraq and around the world is important to you. *It proves God's hand in world events.* ■

## Gerald Flurry was right

**His Bible-based forecast about Iran was way ahead of its time. Get the proof in his free booklet *The King of the South*.**




▶ **EUROPE'S CHOICE** FROM PAGE 19

and dominate Europe. Europe's need for such a strongman is clearer than ever.

"The stark reality is, *without* such a man in charge, Europe will NEVER become the superpower it wants to be!" wrote *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry. "As much as they *talk* about building a unified military, the EU as currently constituted CANNOT rise to the intensifying challenges of a post-American world!" (*Trumpet,* November-December 2021).

Europe needs its strongman. And the strongman takes power not from a stable, free society but from people in turmoil. Mr. Flurry continued: "Europeans are facing great crises, including economic instability, terrorism and illegal immigration, rising threats from Asia. In times of crisis, people are less concerned about democratic norms. They *need* strong leadership. That has to come from Germany, which dominates and even domineers Europe today. It is the powerhouse."

Many Americans are writing the obituary of European civilization. Conditions will grow even bleaker before the strongman appears and turns things around. Many Bible prophecies describe the superpower that is about to emerge on the Continent.

God gave Daniel a series of prophecies that He said would not be understood until "the time of the end." He describes in detail the empires that would follow Daniel's time, as well as events that would take place shortly before the Messiah's return. Daniel 8 and 11 describe a strongman actually invading the Holy Land to try to stamp out true religion. Jesus Christ Himself said this passage is more than ancient history: It also describes a future event His followers should watch for (Matthew 24:15).

Revelation 17 depicts this same leader in different terms: 10 kings will give their power and strength to his empire (verses 12-13). Europe is already rising as a new form of multinational empire. An accurate understanding of the prophecy in Daniel 2 reveals that it will soon shrink to 10 nations or groups of nations—led by one strongman.

This leader must appear soon, or Europe will be lost. To learn more about what the Bible says about his rise, read our Trends article "Why the *Trumpet* Watches the Rise of a German Strongman." ■

# Examine Yourself for Self-deceit



**God's Word warns repeatedly about this common trap of our human nature.**

**BY GERALD FLURRY**

After Herbert W. Armstrong died in 1986, the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) quickly began to turn away from the truth God had taught through him.

Revelation 3:9 reveals something shocking: Within the Church in the Philadelphia era, under Mr. Armstrong, a "synagogue of Satan" existed. The devil set up *his own church* right inside God's Church—while Mr. Armstrong was alive! This satanic plot almost succeeded in the 1970s when Mr. Armstrong was close to death. He recovered and regained control of the Church, but that "synagogue" remained. Then when he died, the Church transitioned into the Laodicean era, and Satan's "synagogue" took over (verses 14-22).

Realize how Satan can work through people. He even got some top ministers to bring in what the Apostle Peter called "damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1). It took Satan about five years to destroy 95 percent of God's Church. *Five years!* It is astonishing how successful those satanically inspired men were at destroying God's Church!

Think seriously about that history. It shows you not only how skilled Satan is at deception, but also how susceptible human beings are to being deceived. In fact, without God's protection, all of us are dangerously vulnerable! God warns us repeatedly about the threat of deception—especially *self*-deception, under Satan's influence.

Read Jesus Christ's description of the Church of the Laodiceans: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). This is the way Christ describes *His own Church* during this era we now live in! Most of God's people are convinced of their spiritual richness and self-sufficiency—and are unaware of their actual wretched, impoverished spiritual state!

Ask yourself: Have *I* been deceived? Am I deceiving myself?

Yet Christ has not given up on them. He tells them to "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (verse 18). He wants *all of us* to rid ourselves of deception, to remove the scales from our eyes and see reality, to see ourselves as we really are.

*Text taken from Chapter 2 of Gerald Flurry's new book,* ***The Father's Love***




Since Christ is so blunt about His own people deceiving themselves, surely we should examine ourselves deeply for where we are falling into this trap.

## Our Deceitful Heart

Think carefully on Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Most people do not believe what God says here. They think the human heart is basically good. They could not be more wrong!

The truth is, there is *NOTHING* more deceitful than the human heart!

That is why people think they are good. We like to think of ourselves as good even when we are doing things we *know* are wrong! We justify and flatter ourselves; we explain away our sins; we downplay our guilt. Mr. Armstrong often said that the most difficult thing for the natural, vain human mind to do is to confess it is wrong.

The phrase "desperately wicked" should read "dangerously sick," "incurably sick" or "sick unto death." Can you see this in your own heart? We cannot trust our own thinking.

Understanding this profound verse is more important than any education in this world.

This verse is describing *all* human hearts. But here God is speaking primarily to *His own people*—especially the end-time Laodiceans. So many have followed their incurably sick minds into unparalleled deceit!

The Laodiceans do not believe this verse! If they did, they would not have been deceived so easily. They look to themselves and other men to understand their own minds—not God! Trusting in the human heart destroyed God's own Church.

Deceitful and sick hearts cannot be trusted. Yet astoundingly, the human heart is the foundation of this world's education and government. Our educators and leaders believe man is fundamentally good and trustworthy. They trust in evil human reasoning.

Everywhere in this sick world, we see evidence of men trusting in sick human minds. Terrifying problems are mounting all around us—and still men trust in their own minds. It seems *nothing* can convince them we are off track! Deceitful, desperately wicked human hearts are leading this world to the point where, if Christ didn't intervene, we would annihilate ourselves! (Matthew 24:21-22).

AARON ANANDRAJ/TRUMPET

This is what happens when people will not listen to God!

So God is *forcing* mankind, including His own people, to face the truth. Soon this world will be engulfed in a nuclear holocaust created by sick human minds. Only the worst time of suffering in history will get them to admit the real problem! They will no longer be able to deny the horrific fruits of deceitful human reasoning. Only then can God begin to teach them.

If you really understand the fundamental truth of Jeremiah 17:9, you will *cry out to God every day* to save you! You will not let a day pass without intensely praying and studying for the help to overcome your fatally sick heart!

Are you praying and studying this intensely each day? Mr. Armstrong recommended at least 30 minutes each of prayer and study every day just to *survive* spiritually—an *hour* of each to thrive! That gives you an idea of the intense effort it takes to build and sustain a truly robust relationship with God. If you are not doing that, it is very easy to deceive yourself about how much you love God.

God ends verse 9 with the question, "[W]ho can know it?" Only God knows the human heart. Only God can explain the mind and emotions of man. Our greatest need is to let God reveal our sickness to us and heal it.

There is no hope in man. There is endless hope in God.

## Vanity of Vanities

Human nature is naturally vain. "Vanity of vanities … all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 12:8). It is easy to have an inflated view of ourselves. We are all prone to self-righteousness, thinking too highly of our works, relying on our own deeds, our own righteousness.

That is a powerful form of self-deceit. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, HE DECEIVETH HIMSELF" (Galatians 6:3). Pride, vanity, self-righteousness, overestimating ourselves—all spring from self-deception that we need to examine ourselves for and rid ourselves of.

Such self-deceit and self-righteousness PUSH GOD RIGHT OUT OF THE PICTURE. THEY BLIND US TO GOD. WE CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM! Our thoughts become focused on SELF, leaving little room for God. WE BREAK THE FIRST COMMANDMENT BY PLACING SELF AHEAD OF GOD! God passionately hates that because He is a jealous God who loves us.

Look at the example of Job. He was quite a righteous man, but when he did good deeds, he would take the credit for himself. He liked to be seen as good by other people (e.g. Job 29:14). His motive was to exalt himself, not God (Job 32:1-2).

God helped Job overcome this problem by putting him through some excruciating trials. That brought the sin right to the surface: self-justification, self-exaltation, self-righteousness. God then gave Job an awe-inspiring glimpse into His own immense and fearsome power, the vast scale of His creation, His command of the elements, His majesty and rulership (Job 38-41).

Once Job realized his own insignificance next to God's all-encompassing greatness, HE COULD SEE GOD! "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

The clearer we see God—in all His power, judgment, love, mercy and excellence—the less impressed with ourselves we will be and the more open we will be to listening to God and accepting His correction.

## See Your Sin

Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The sharper your picture of God in all His glory, the better you will see how far short of the glory of God you fall!

Sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). God's law is holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). It is "perfect, converting the soul," more desirable than fine gold, sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:7-10). God gave us His commandments, statutes and judgments to help us see where we are not thinking like Him, where we need to change. "Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (verse 11).

Sin is the nature acquired from Satan. It is thinking the way Satan thinks. His attitude of self-love—at its root and core, vanity—transgresses the spirit of God's law.

Do you really see the sin in your life? "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults" (verse 12). Yes, because of our deceitful heart, it is very difficult to truly see our sins. In fact, IT TAKES A MIRACLE FROM GOD. We need God to show us our errors and to cleanse us from our hidden faults and those sins we can't even recognize. God must open our eyes, because "[e]very way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts" (Proverbs 21:2).

Naturally, we convince ourselves that our faults aren't that serious. This is pure self-deception. "If we say that we have no sin, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). There it is again! Don't fall into the trap of such blindness. God commands us to continually repent in prayer for our sins so He can cleanse us (verse 9).

Jesus Christ said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). Sin enslaves us in bondage (Romans 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19). Only God can free us from that bondage—and we must draw close to Him to break that yoke (Isaiah 58:6).

**Because of our deceitful heart, it is very difficult to truly see our sins. In fact, it takes a miracle from God.**

God's law is a "perfect law of liberty" that leads to *freedom!* (James 1:25). Most religions are in bondage because they reject God's law and call that freedom!

Just a few years after Mr. Armstrong died, the Worldwide Church of God stopped keeping the Sabbath, which is one of the Ten Commandments. They thought it was *freedom* to work or play on the Sabbath. In truth they put themselves into bondage to sin and the devil!

One of the easiest ways to deceive ourselves is simply to *hear* God's Word and fail to apply it. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES" (verse 22). Many people believe they are accepting what God tells them simply because they listen and agree. But if you are not ACTING on it and CHANGING YOUR LIFE, then you are kidding yourself!

Read Ezekiel 33:30-33: There are people who love to hear God's truth; they admire God's messenger the way they would a skilled musician. God tells His prophet, "[T]hey hear thy words, but they will not do them … but their heart goeth after their covetousness." That is dangerous self-deception—and it is prophesied to afflict MANY people in our day! You can read about this in Chapter 2 of my booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*, "Are You Deceiving Yourself?" (request a free copy).

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but DECEIVETH HIS OWN HEART, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26). A lot of religion is worthless because people aren't controlling their tongues or their lives. They are deceiving their own heart.

What are your thoughts and conversation like on God's holy Sabbath? Are they focused on God—or on the things of this world? This is a true test of our conversion.

We may fool ourselves for a while, but in the end, the truth will come out. God will judge us according to our works. All pretense and hypocrisy will be exposed. "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (1 Corinthians 3:13). How much better for us to learn *now* where we are off track than to wait until our sins are revealed by fire—in the Great Tribulation, or worse, the lake of fire!

We must do all we can to avoid the common, deadly sin of self-deception. "LET NO MAN DECEIVE HIMSELF. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. …" (verses 18-19).

How different our human perspective is from God's! And how crucial it is that we humble ourselves and seek God's view.

If you have gotten spiritually lazy, if your daily contact with God through prayer and study is skimpy or weak, if you have allowed material interests to crowd God out of your life, look at those problems through the eyes of your heavenly Father! Malachi 1:6-8 will help you do that.

**God will judge us according to our works. All pretense and hypocrisy will be exposed.**

### God's Perspective

Chapters 2 through 7 in the prophecy of Jeremiah are a crucial message from God to His lukewarm people today. They have a message as bold and direct as anything you will read in the Bible.

This message applies to *most* of God's people in this age. If only they would listen and heed! Sadly, most will not. But please consider God's words honestly and humbly. I urge you to study these chapters with your eyes open to anything God has to say to you. I believe *every one of us* can take to heart what God is saying here.

Notice how often in these chapters God confronts *self-delusion* in His people. He is pointing out the sins of His own begotten children—yet they claim innocence, deny their wickedness, refuse to be ashamed, trust in false assurances, and presume that God's anger has turned away.

The way God describes His people's actions in these chapters is truly devastating. Jeremiah 2:33-34, for example, show them going out and looking for spiritual lovers and causing terrible damage. But they are so deluded, they don't see their sin: "You say, 'I AM INNOCENT; SURELY HIS ANGER HAS TURNED FROM ME.' Behold, I will bring you to judgment for saying, 'I have not sinned'" (Jeremiah 2:35; Revised Standard Version).

How could God ever direct those who have such a rebellious spirit? In every way possible, they want to govern their own lives and do their own thing.

These chapters in Jeremiah's prophecy repeatedly expose their hypocrisy and spiritual blindness.

### 'I Am Not Polluted'

In Jeremiah 2:21-22, God describes how His people have polluted themselves with sin. But they respond, "I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim" (verse 23). God, in answering them, is incredulous: *How can you say this, after all you have done? You're like a restless young camel running here and there, a wild donkey in heat!* (verses 23-24). God says His people are delusional, shamelessly denying their idolatry and spiritual adultery.

After Mr. Armstrong died, many of God's people went back into pagan ways, keeping Christmas, birthdays and other practices rooted in paganism. Or they compromised with those things, reasoning that it was nothing to worry about. Have you done that?

In Jeremiah 3:3 God says, "You refuse to be ashamed" (New King James Version) or "you refuse to blush with shame" (New International Version). They lack self-awareness of their guilt and feel no remorse (see also Jeremiah 6:15). Verses 4-5 of Jeremiah 3 show that they continue to call God "my father" and presume that His anger has passed even while they carry on in their evil.

In Jeremiah 5:11, God condemns His people for their treachery against Him. How do they respond? Verse 12 says, "They have spoken falsely of the Lord, and have said, 'He will do nothing; no evil will come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine'" (RSV).

The Bible has *many* prophecies about the coming sword and famine and other tragedies. God gives these warnings to help us AVOID these nightmares! The world ignores them, despite the fact that prophecy makes up about *one third* of the Bible. Even a large majority of God's own people have developed a casual attitude about these prophecies. They deny God's judgment, or they "put far away the evil day" (Amos 6:3), having no urgency. Or they deceive themselves that if great tribulation does come, they don't need to worry about facing any consequences themselves. Do you view world events casually—even though Christ commands us to WATCH AND PRAY ALWAYS, so we are accounted worthy to escape? (Luke 21:36).

These lukewarm Christians don't realize it yet, but soon they will see: THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE PROTECTED BY GOD—because they denied God's law and government! Some of them think they will be in the place of safety during the Great Tribulation—but they won't be!

Many Laodiceans and people in the world are interested in hearing God's prophecies, but they reject God's law. What good will their knowledge of prophecy do when they are in the Great Tribulation? If seeing prophecy fulfilled does not cause you to purify your life now, then the prophesied Great Tribulation will *force* you to become pure—or die in your sin!

GOD IS TRYING TO WAKE HIS PEOPLE UP FROM THEIR DELUSIONS! How crucial for all of us to humbly ask God to show us where we are deceiving ourselves and to help us see reality!

### Whom God Loves He Chastens

In Hebrews 12, the Apostle Paul writes that God is a Father who corrects His children. "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you *as unto children,* MY SON, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH, AND SCOURGETH EVERY *SON* WHOM HE RECEIVETH" (verses 5-6).

Correction is a gift from God. If we receive correction, God is preparing us for sonship in His Family!

The Father loves His sons deeply. He does correct us—even harshly when we need it—because He loves us. We all have to keep growing to achieve our potential and fulfill our calling. His correction is aimed at helping us see where we are off track and helping us grow in righteousness.

"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons" (verse 8). Are *you* receiving correction from God? If we are not, we are not even considered His children!

Our greatest curse is when our Father no longer corrects us. Then we are no longer part of His Family! God ceases to be our Father.

Our greatest blessing is receiving correction from our Father! He is doing everything He can to help us make it into His eternal Family. That means He *must* correct us.

What is your natural response to correction?

Most people immediately get defensive. We begin to justify ourselves. We think the critic doesn't have the whole story. We reason why what we did was not that bad or was actually right. We defend our actions. We answer back.

The Bible repeatedly warns against that response. Yet it also shows that most of God's people in this end time have the wrong impression of correction. They reject it or reason around it.

If that describes you, then you are in danger of losing your salvation!

God gives us a lot of reproof and correction through His Word. But to benefit from it as God intends, we have to accept it. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Will you take that personally and put it to use in your life? It is not easy. Very few people are willing.

## 'Most of You Don't Get It'

Herbert W. Armstrong was willing to correct the members of God's Church when it was necessary. He often thundered strong correction in the Worldwide Church of God, especially during the last few years of his life. This reflected God's love. But most refused the correction.

The last Pentecost Mr. Armstrong kept was on May 26, 1985. In his sermon he spoke on the subject of "Why the Firstfruits?" He said, "Why the Feast of Firstfruits? ... I think that most of you don't understand that at all. ... I perceive that even our ministers, when they preach, take it for granted that the whole goal is to get us into the Kingdom of God; and that's all we are called for now. ... I fear that most of you just don't get it. ... I am going to try to make it plain this afternoon, and still I think you won't get it."

That was a mournful plea from God's end-time Elijah! He was teaching us the most inspiring message in the Bible—yet many people didn't care or they *refused* to comprehend it.

Mr. Armstrong said, "Most of you just don't get it." Many people thought, and some even said, *Oh no, Mr. Armstrong, that can't be! Surely most of us get it.* But the reality was even worse than he thought! Look what happened in God's Church after he died, only seven months after that warning.

How is it that most of God's people refused this correction? How did they fail to go to their knees in repentance? Why do so many of those members today, if they attend church at all, lack ministers who preach God's corrective words?

If you attend church services, does your minister give you this kind of correction directly from God's Word? Far too many people listen to preachers for their smooth-sounding words. Those preachers are leading people to ruin!

**If you attend church services, does your minister give you this kind of correction directly from God's Word?**

## A Broken Spirit

If we have godly wisdom, James 3:17 says we are "easy to be intreated." Think of King David. He committed adultery, caused a man's murder, and lied about it! Major sins. Yet when the Prophet Nathan confronted him, what were his first words? "I have sinned against the Lord" (see 2 Samuel 12:7-13). He didn't fight God. He heard God's words, accepted the correction, and repented immediately.

What a beautiful attitude! Nathan responded, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die" (verse 13). David still faced hard consequences, but his repentance saved his life.

David gives us the most powerful example of repentance in the Bible. Read Psalm 51, his psalm of repentance. He had "a broken and a contrite heart" (verse 17). We must be teachable and have a broken and contrite spirit for God to be able to lead us and use us. God wants to guide you as His son or daughter, but He cannot do so if you lack a broken spirit. You must allow God to convict you of your sins and teach you.

David committed some terrible sins. That didn't prevent God from loving him! *Because* He loved him, God corrected David severely.

Hebrews 4:12 says that "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." God's Word reveals our true thoughts and intents. It exposes what is going on in our mind. It helps us face the truth about our own heart and see how we are ruled by human nature. It reveals where we are evil so we can change!

That is uncomfortable—but so necessary and beautiful. It leads to life!

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11).

I have been corrected many times in my life. It wasn't always done exactly right, but I always tried very hard to accept the truth—and sometimes had to pray very hard to do so! Every time I have received correction, even if it wasn't handled the best, it turned out to be what I needed.

This is an area where we need to go to God and, like David, say, *Search me, God. Reveal my secret sins to me. I want to be childlike.* We each must pray for God to show us our faults. We must pray for God's correction (Jeremiah 10:24). We must use God's Word to pierce us even to the thoughts and intents of our heart. And then we must be doers of what we know to do, lest we deceive ourselves (James 1:22).

If we let a problem fester, eventually it will explode to where everyone will know about it. When the Tribulation comes, all game-playing will be over. The whole world will know who responded to and obeyed God, and who refused to do so.

### 'In What Way Have You Loved Me?'

The book of Malachi is directed at God's end-time Church. God revealed the meaning of this book to start off the Philadelphia Church of God in 1989, exposing what was happening in the Laodicean Church. (Request a free copy of the first book I wrote, *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*.) Through the Prophet Malachi, God is rebuking His people strongly, pointing out and correcting their sins.

But throughout the book, you see that God's people WILL NOT ACCEPT GOD'S REBUKE! They continually answer back, deceptively rationalizing and trying to justify themselves.

It begins in Malachi 1:2: "'I have loved you,' says the Lord. 'Yet you say, "In what way have You loved us?"'" (NKJV). They don't see God's love! He has shown His love and blessed them abundantly in so many ways. EVEN HIS REBUKE IS LOVE! But they disagree.

"I have loved you," God says—but they respond, *How have you loved us?* They reject God's message of love. They want to be left alone. *Dad, just leave me alone!* a rebellious teenager might say. Dads who don't love their sons will leave them alone. But if you really love your son, you will not leave him alone.

God says, *I have loved you!* Can you clearly see all the ways God shows His love for you—even in the correction He gives and the trials He allows? When He says, "I have loved you," our response should be, *Oh, Father—thank you! I see how you have loved me beyond anything I could ask for!*

What a shameful lack of perspective to say instead, *In what way have you loved me?* Sadly, that is what MANY of God's own sons are doing today!

### Talking Back to God

"A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein [or *in what way*] have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? ... Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? ..." (Malachi 1:6-7; 2:17).

Realize: Though this appalling attitude is expressed dramatically in these verses, we can be a lot more subtle in how we talk back to God. We communicate the same attitude by just not listening to His correction or by refusing to repent and change.

Do you really want to know what God thinks of you? Do you want His evaluation of your spiritual state? Do you want the TRUTH?

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, *Wherein shall we return?"* (Malachi 3:7).

That is a very merciful and loving promise from God to His rebellious sons: *Return to me, and I will return to you!* Anyone who has gotten away from obeying God and His commands needs to RETURN to the way they once knew. We should let NOTHING stand in the way of RUNNING back to God! He is *pleading* for His people to RETURN TO HIM!

Isn't it heartbreaking and shameful that people answer back, *What do you mean, God? How can I return? I never went away!* Yet many people whom our ministers meet display this kind of thinking. They simply cannot see how far they have strayed from their calling!

This shows you that self-deceit is much easier and much more common than most people realize. We are ALL prone to it. We all need to examine ourselves for it and be vigilant against it. Accepting correction from God is the only way we stand a chance of avoiding self-deceit.

### Accept Correction

Are *you* willing to be corrected?

"The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding" (Proverbs 15:31-32; see also Proverbs 13:18; 10:17). Proverbs 12:1 says if we refuse reproof, we are STUPID (NIV).

How can Christ save us if we do not accept His correction? How can you start as a terrible, evil, ugly human being and expect to become a God being, perfect in character, without receiving correction?

What happens if God shows us where we are wrong and we don't accept it? That is a deadly serious problem!

Proverbs 15:10 says, "Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die." If you have received the Holy Spirit of God, YOUR ETERNAL LIFE DEPENDS ON LOVING AND ACCEPTING GOD'S REPROOF!

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1). That is referring to ETERNAL DEATH. Nothing is more serious!

Yet so many of God's people are making this mistake: They are *truly* off track, rebelling against God, and will not accept His correction.

When the Laodiceans are in the nuclear holocaust, they can no longer play games of self-deceit! GOD IS GOING TO ALLOW THE GREAT TRIBULATION SO AS TO CRUSH ALL HOPE MAN HAS IN HIMSELF AND TURN HIM TO HOPE IN GOD.

You need to learn this lesson today—*before* that calamity.

History shows us that *most* eras of God's Church eventually turned away from Him. That is why we must learn from God and His Word. We must measure every doctrine and every word of God. Then we cannot be deceived.

Heed God's warnings. Realize that self-deception is our natural inclination due to our deceitful heart, our pride and our failure to apply God's truth. Avoid that snare. Ask God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24). Accept the loving rebuke and correction of your heavenly Father. Confess your sins honestly. And ACT on God's Word.


## Want to get closer to God?

This article is just part of Gerald Flurry's new book ***The Father's Love***. Get a deep study on how to get close to God—whether you've drifted from Him or just want to see His love more.



▶ **FEMINIZATION** FROM PAGE 13

jobs added to the United States economy in August, and earlier this year they overtook men in total payroll employment. The result is effectively a reversal of a male-female dynamic that has existed for virtually all of human history.

This has been no accident. For decades, the traditional pattern—men as providers, women as homemakers—has been under attack for being unfair to women and even to men, and spoken of almost as if it were the only thing standing in the way of successful families, fulfilled parents and self-actualized children. Feminism and political correctness have dictated that women pursue their own careers outside the home—and that men not stand in their way.

Women have proved themselves spectacularly capable as workers, entrepreneurs and earners. But now that the traditional roles have been abandoned, are we better off?

One unforeseen consequence has become obvious: Men have gotten the clear message that *they are not needed.* Rather than working to keep up, many have simply given up. More than 7 million American men ages 25 to 54—prime working years—are neither working nor looking for work. Few of these men are in school; they spend, on average, 2,000 hours a year in front of screens. Richard Reeves of the Brookings Institution, who studies the struggles of boys and men, describes a pattern of passivity and drift among young men—a sense that many are simply checking out.

A man needs to be needed, and marriages suffer when he isn't. Harvard sociologist Alexandra Killewald studied more than 6,300 married couples over a span of 46 years. When a husband was not employed full time, the couple was about a third more likely to divorce in any given year. A study by economists at the University of Chicago found that when a wife earns more than her husband, the couple reports less satisfaction with the marriage and is likelier to divorce.

The costs show up everywhere. Men without work, wives or purpose are lonelier, less healthy and more prone to "deaths of despair"—from drugs, alcohol and suicide; men die by suicide at roughly four times the rate of women. About 1 in 4 American children now grow up without a father in the home. This is the bitter irony of the Great Feminization: A movement that promised to liberate women has left many of them unable to find a man worth marrying, their children growing up without fathers, and their brothers and sons drifting without purpose. Women are succeeding financially and professionally—but families are fragmenting, and the nation is morally and spiritually disintegrating.

When we reject God's design, everyone loses.



**61 percent of men favor free speech.**



**Only 45 percent of women do.**

## Women Rule

Believe it or not, this calamity was prophesied in your Bible thousands of years ago. The prophecy in Isaiah 3 is primarily about the end time, in which we now live. It specifically focuses on "Jerusalem" and "Judah," biblical names for the modern descendants of ancient Israel, including America and Britain. And it describes exactly what we see in society all around us.

**This is the bitter irony of the Great Feminization: A movement that promised to liberate women has left many of them unable to find a man worth marrying, their children growing up without fathers, and their brothers and sons drifting without purpose.**

"For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff ... The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor ..." (verses 1-3). God removes strong male leadership—including, notice, the judge.

The result is a *more effeminate age,* as verse 12 explicitly states: "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women RULE OVER THEM." That is *God's view:* WOMEN RULE.

Some will argue that men still hold the most seats in Congress and most CEO positions. But women increasingly set the tone even where men hold the top posts. Effeminate thinking has taken over our politics, our business, our education—our whole society. *Everything is feminized.*

Notice: This prophecy shows that the curse begins with men. God removes the mighty man, the judge, the counselor—and because the men retreat, women rule. This is a curse from God because of our people's sins against Him.

God also says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). This inversion of reality well describes our world. By throwing out God's design, we have cast ourselves adrift in a disorienting ocean of amorality.

The Bible defines sin as the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). The devil has entrapped men today in a range of terrible sins. A man who succumbs to them grows weak, more inward-focused and self-absorbed; his ability to lead suffers. In a word, he becomes less of a man. When a nation's men retreat on a broad scale, God removes His blessings, and strong male leadership disappears.

The tendencies toward feminization have been there throughout human history. At the very beginning, when Eve gave Adam the forbidden fruit, "he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). God's judgment on him began, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground ..." (verse 17). Adam's sin was not that he listened to his wife; it was that he followed her against God's command. Something in a man's nature wants to please women. When that impulse overrides God's law, it brings disaster. Think of Samson and Delilah, Solomon and his many wives, Ahab and Jezebel. The inescapable reality is that because of human nature, mankind will always have problems. However, whenever men abdicate and women rule, you end up with a distinct set of troubles.

These are playing out on a grand scale in modern society. Thus we see with greater and greater clarity just how dangerous it is to discard God's order, His government, His revealed truth—and what a terrible curse it is, as described in Isaiah 3, when women rule.

### Two Different Roles

The design we saw earlier—male and female, deliberately different and complementary—is only the beginning. The Bible also shows how that design is meant to work in practice, including the different *roles* God gave men and women.

**It is true that men in charge have created the world's problems. But the solution is not for women to rule—it is for men to rule as God intended, in subjection to Christ.**

This is what modern society balks at most of all. Before dismissing it, though, consider whose idea it is. God says through the Prophet Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Surely we should have deep regard for instruction from the God who created us male and female.

Notice what came before God made woman. First He made Adam (Genesis 2:7). Then He gave him a job: He put him in the garden "to dress it and to keep it" (verse 15). Only then did He say, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (verse 18). A man needs a mission, and he needs a woman to help him fulfill it. She is "meet" for him, perfectly suited to him, supplying what he lacks.

The truth is, men and women are incomplete without each other (verses 21-24). You need the right kinds of male-female interactions to become a whole and balanced person.

God built interdependence into the sexes (1 Corinthians 11:11-12). He made us to function as a team, with our individual qualities and tendencies complementing one another. But that balance requires order. "[T]he head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (verse 3). It is true that men in charge have created the world's problems. But the solution is not for women to rule—it is for men to rule as God intended, in subjection to Christ!

Godly male leadership is not tyrannical. Husbands are to love their wives "even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). They are to "dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife ... as being heirs together of the grace of life ..." (1 Peter 3:7). Spiritually, men and women are equal and are qualifying for the same eternal reward. A godly husband listens, learns how his wife thinks, seeks her counsel, and takes advantage of her wisdom. God told Abraham, "[I]n all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice ..." (Genesis 21:12). Yes, a man needs a woman—but GOD GAVE HIM THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD.

### Complementary and Interdependent

God also gave each a different sphere. Men have tended to be inventive and productive in the wider world, applying their strength to provide for others (1 Timothy 5:8). Women are inventive and creative within the family, where their work directly shapes the next generation (e.g. Titus 2:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:14).

Proverbs 31 shows how beautifully this works. "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her," and, "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (verses 11-12). The exemplary woman works willingly with her hands, buys quality food for her household, and rises before dawn to care for her family (verses 13-15). Her husband, meanwhile, "is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land" (verse 23). The man is in the field working to provide for his family and at the gates creating the environment where his wife can reach her full potential. His wife is an active, dynamic force within the home—keeping it, teaching her children, and supporting her husband. There is no competition between them, no strife. Each fulfills a different role, and they need each other.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house [her household, or family]: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Proverbs 14:1). A woman makes a house a home in a way a man cannot. Yet where are the *wise women* in society today? Women today are building many things—careers, businesses, institutions—but fewer and fewer are building *families.*

Married couples now head fewer than half of American households, down from nearly 80 percent in 1949. Birth rates have hit record lows: In April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that America's total fertility rate fell to 1.57 children per woman in 2025, far below the 2.1 needed to replace the population. Commentators tend to blame economics. But as Matt Bose argued in *Chronicles,* blaming impersonal economic forces lets women off the hook for choices they often make consciously and even proudly, while treating the needs of children as a minor concern. Families are suffering in every way. If women aren't building families, who is? Nobody.

Strong families are the building blocks of a stable and upright society. The feminization of society draws women out of the home and into institutions that men should be running, and the results have been devastating.

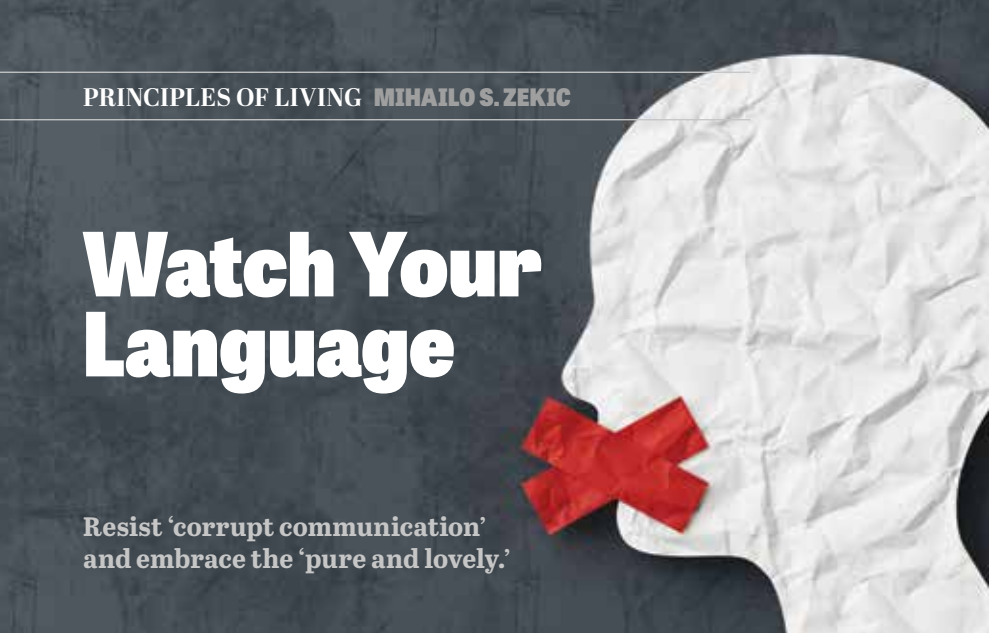
But the elusive solution is hiding in plain sight if your Bible is open. It is about embracing how we were created. Get God's perspective and submit to His design, and subject yourself to His rule. Men: Embrace the role your masculine mind and body were designed for. Women: Embrace the role your feminine mind and body were designed for. Discover that, live that, and you will be embarking on a life of growth, challenge, fulfillment, confidence and happiness, built on knowing what it really means to be a woman, and what it really means to be a man. ■

## Manhood, God's way

**God designed men to lead, provide and protect. A society that rejects that design will produce men who are lost—then blame masculinity for the wreckage. Request our free book *Biblical Manhood*, and get a copy for a young man in your life, to receive sound, satisfying instruction on how to become a real man as God intends.**



# Watch Your Language



**Resist 'corrupt communication' and embrace the 'pure and lovely.'**

Of every curse word an American president, vice president or presidential candidate has uttered in public over the last century, nearly four out of five came from just two men. A survey released around July 29 by Cardiff University tallied 692 instances of foul language from America's top political figures since 1919, and Joe Biden and Donald Trump account for 538 of them. The men who now set the tone for the most powerful nation on Earth have made coarse language a normal part of public life.

It was not always so. In 1776, the man who became the nation's first president was troubled that "the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing" was spreading through the Continental Army. George Washington warned that the new republic could "have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly." He understood something his successors have forgotten: The words a people speak have consequences far beyond the moment.

Society's standards have fallen a long way. It may be easy to let the examples of our modern leaders rub off on us, but Christ said in Matthew 12:36 that "every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

"Bad language" can generally be divided into two categories: *profanity* and *obscenity.* God's Word forbids both.

*Profanity* involves any language that blasphemes, insults or disrespects God, or otherwise associates God in a negative manner. This is so important, in fact, that God forbade it in the Third Commandment: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7; New King James Version). The Amplified Bible renders this verse: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, irreverently, in false affirmations or in ways that impugn the character of God]; for the Lord will not hold guiltless nor leave unpunished the one who takes His name in vain [disregarding its reverence and its power]."

Many regularly use the names of God and Jesus Christ as expletives or in jokes. These are the clearest examples of violating this commandment. But it can also take the form of imputing bad character to God. For example, people often use as expletives words relating to damnation, such as talking about God sending somebody or something to "hell." God wills that all men be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-4) and has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Calling on God to "damn" someone is calling on Him to act in a way that causes Him great hurt and is an insult to His character.

Using *euphemisms,* or substitutions meant to sound similar to profanity, also violates the Third Commandment. Herbert W. Armstrong in his *Autobiography* detailed a sermon he gave in 1933, where he recounted an exchange between his son Richard David, age 5, and a playmate who was using "a lot of slang." Richard became exasperated, picked up two sticks, and showed his friend a cross, telling him: "they had to put Jesus Christ up on a cross, and drive nails through His hands and His feet, and nail Him to that cross so He would die, just because you have been saying gosh and darn and gee-whiz! Don't you say those words any more!"

*Obscenity* refers to language that isn't specifically taking God's name in vain but is still crass or vulgar and considered offensive, especially in public. The Apostle Paul commanded the early Church in Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying ...." The Greek word rendered *communication* is *logos,* which literally means *word.* The word rendered *corrupt* is defined by *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* as "rotten" and "of poor quality." Paul further wrote in Ephesians 5:4 that "neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting" are fitting for Christians (NKJV).

Sadly, we live in a world where profanity and obscenity are everywhere. It is a challenge not to let this impact our thinking and speaking. Christ said in Matthew 12:34: "[H]ow can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." What comes out of our mouth reflects the state of our thoughts: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

God gives the solution to profanity and obscenity in Philippians 4:8: "[W]hatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Purify your words by purifying your thoughts. Shun entertainment that portrays foul language as if it were normal and replace it with material based on wholesome subjects. Be conscious of when you use bad language and stop yourself—realizing that you are not just indulging in a "bad habit" but violating one of God's commandments!

God wants every true Christian to be the best version of himself that he can be. As an expression of thought, pure communication is an important component of an upstanding person. Purifying our language leads to a cleaner vocabulary and public presence, a healthier pattern of thinking and, ultimately, a more wholesome state of being. ■

# WorldWatch

**TOPSHOT** A fighter loyal to Yemen's government fires an art



## EUROPE

Military expansion in **Germany** took steady steps forward this month. The nation will build a new naval base on the North Sea, after



Defense Minister **Boris Pistorius** signed a letter of intent with Lower Saxony Premier **Olaf Lies** on October 5. Germany currently has only one naval base on the North Sea. The deal is the latest of several attempts to curb the nation's industrial decline. Emden is home to one of Volkswagen's major plants and is facing massive job losses. Germany has repurposed some factories to make armaments, and its new base-building project will provide jobs for laid-off workers.

In previous generations, **Britain** would recognize increased German naval activity as a threat. But on October 8, British Prime Minister **Andy Burnham** met with German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** for the first time in Berlin, and the two nations launched a joint security partnership to combat cyberattacks, sabotage and other hybrid threats. Bible prophecy warns against trusting Germany.

America's trust in Germany was seen again when three German Air Force Tornado fighter jets participated in NATO's "Steadfast Noon" military exercises in **Italy**, which began on October 13 and lasted two weeks. This tests NATO's ability to use the nuclear bombs the U.S. has made available to several of its allies.

Meanwhile, Pistorius announced on October 1 in Lower Saxony that the German military will establish its first drone regiment in 2027.

Germany is currently **Ukraine**'s largest military partner and has acquired considerable combat data and insight. From the beginning of the war, several German drone start-ups partnered with Ukraine's military to advance drone warfare technology. Germany is gaining knowledge and experience from the war to equip its military for future combat.

Germany will use its rebuilt military power and shock the world largely due to a secret arrangement with Russia. German Foreign Minister **Johann Wadephul** met his Russian counterpart, **Sergei Lavrov**, on September 26 in New York City on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly—the first time German and Russian foreign ministers have met since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Former German Chancellor **Gerhard Schröder** visited Russia on Vladimir Putin's birthday on October 7. Schröder has been close to both Putin and top German industrialists for years. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has repeatedly warned, in his 2018 article **"Germany and Russia's Secret War Against America"*** and elsewhere, the Germans and Russians are once again colluding to limit the amount of power they expend against one another and maximize the power they expend against the nations around them—and against the United States.

Meanwhile, the rise of the Alternative für Deutschland party is shifting German politics. The right-wing party's **Tobias Rausch** was elected president of Saxony-Anhalt's state parliament on October 6. The AfD won only 39 of the parliament's 83 seats, yet Rausch received 48 votes, with the extra votes coming from members of the left-wing Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht party and likely from members of the mainstream Christian Democratic Union. This means that the unofficial "firewall" that mainstream parties in Germany had raised against cooperation with AfD and other extremist parties has been breached in Saxony-Anhalt. Extremist beliefs are increasingly tolerated and even supported in Germany, leading to a favorable political climate for a tyrant to take power, just as the Bible prophesies will happen.



Striking evidence of this trend can be seen in the German town of Heidenau, Saxony, which banned new "stumbling stone" Holocaust memorials after a September 24 city council vote. The motion, supported by the AfD and the CDU, is another example of anti-Semitism in Germany. The plaques bear short descriptions of Holocaust victims and remind pedestrians of the horrible explosion of anti-Semitism that occurred in Heidenau and across Germany nearly 90 years ago.

Italy's Chamber of Deputies approved a law granting election winners bonus seats in parliament on October 8. The move provides the prime minister greater power in order to reduce political instability. But opponents compare it to a 1923 law that helped Mussolini cement personal power over the Italian government. The Bible prophesies that Europe is about to become extremely authoritarian, with 10 "kings" rising and lending their power to one overall dictator. Legislation such as this helps prepare Italy to produce one of those kings. ■

THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/EUROPE

## MIDDLE EAST

On the night of September 22-23, the Tigray People's Liberation Front launched a renewed rebellion against **Ethiopia**, in cooperation with other rebels. The Ethiopian government quickly put down the rebellion. But since then, unconfirmed reports suggest the neighboring country of **Eritrea**, which is close to the Tigray rebels, has moved troops into Ethiopia to support them. It is confirmed that Ethiopia has built up troops near Eritrea.

Between 2020 and 2022, Tigray state and the Liberation Front launched a rebellion against the federal government that quickly devolved into civil war. Both sides committed horrendous massacres and other atrocities. With an estimated death toll of 600,000 to 800,000 people, the war may be, thus far, the deadliest conflict of

HANNES P ALBERT / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, AHMAD AL-BASHA / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

*Find links to freely access all the articles and booklets referred to in WorldWatch at theTrumpet.com/go/ww2611.

tillery gun at the Houthis around Mount al-Midan in Yemen's western Taiz province on October 26.



SIMON DAWSON VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (CC BY 4.0)

the 21st century. The threat of it restarting is very real. As Gerald Flurry explains in ***Libya and Ethiopia in Prophecy***, Daniel 11:40-43 prophesy Ethiopia will soon be involved in a massive world crisis as an ally to Iran; as the booklet elaborates, renewed unrest there could help set Ethiopia up for its future role.

**Turkey** and **Pakistan** activated their mutual defense agreement with **Saudi Arabia** on October 5, as Houthi terrorists in **Yemen** barraged the Saudis with drones and missiles. Turkish media reported Turkey sent air defense systems and Pakistan sent thousands of troops. This activation did not lead to full-scale war in Yemen, but it shows that the three Sunni powers are serious about defending each other against **Iran** and its proxy groups like the Houthis. Daniel 11 and Psalm 83 prophesy of a "king of the south" and a confederacy against the name of Israel, in the end time, which equate to a Shiite Islamic power bloc led by Iran and a Sunni Islamic bloc that would include Saudi Arabia and Turkey. This Saudi-Turkey-Pakistan mutual defense agreement could be the foundation of this prophesied bloc. The very bloc prophesied thousands of years ago may have had its genesis this year.



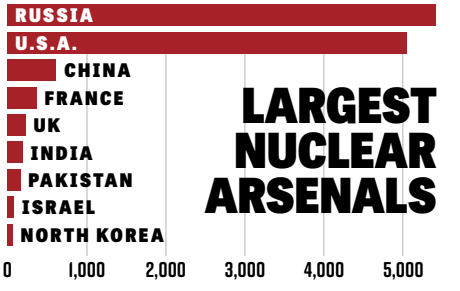
**Haman al-Hammami**, a pilot for a September 29 commercial flight from **Dubai** to Tel Aviv, stabbed the captain and tried to crash the plane in the desert of Saudi Arabia in an attempted terror attack that would have murdered about 180 people, the vast majority of whom were Israelis. The attack was thwarted when the wounded captain unlatched the cockpit door, enabling passengers to restrain Hammami and allowing off-duty pilots to land the plane safely. It subsequently emerged that Hammami is from **Oman** but appears to have been radicalized into a jihadist in **Australia**. ■

***THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/MIDDLE-EAST***

# ASIA

**China** is rapidly building up its nuclear weapons program, with major construction underway at sites across the country, according to a September 23 *Telegraph* analysis of satellite imagery. The new projects include underground test sites, ventilation stacks, massive chemical storage tanks, industrial heat exchangers, support towns for workers and a 2,000-foot-long shock tube for testing how nuclear weapons components withstand powerful blasts. Under General Secretary **Xi Jinping**, China's stockpile of nuclear weapons has more than doubled to an estimated 620 nuclear warheads as of January. The arsenal is projected to more than double again by 2035, reaching 1,500 warheads. The new construction projects show that Xi is not only expanding China's arsenal but also methodically laying the industrial and scientific foundations for a full-spectrum, nuclear war-fighting force.






On September 29, China's military opened the new Joint Flight Training and Support Center at Ban Keun Airport near the capital city of **Laos**. China says the facility will serve as a base for Chinese forces to train Laotian military pilots. But analysts expect the facility to function as far more than just a training center. Its nearly 1.2-mile runway can accommodate Chinese fighter aircraft and could be extended to handle the nation's bombers, transports and aerial-refueling tankers. The development appears to have caught the U.S. off guard, as Laos was not among the nations the Pentagon listed in its December 2025 assessment as potential sites for future Chinese military centers. China already operates a military base in **Djibouti** in Africa and is expanding its military presence at Ream Naval Base in **Cambodia**. The new facility in Laos gives it another base for projecting military power beyond its borders, a prospect that takes on added significance in light of Bible prophecies about China's future military role.

On October 2, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** oversaw parts of the "Center 2026" military drills in the Ural Mountains, which involved troops from **Russia**, **Belarus**, China, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Mongolia**, Pakistan and **Tajikistan**. Russian Deputy Defense Minister **Yunus-Bek Yevkurov** said the combined maneuvers simulated "liberating the occupied territory" of a Central Asian nation and "creating a security zone in the neighboring territory." The training highlights growing military cooperation between Russia, China and a wider group of Asian nations—a developing alliance that Bible prophecy says will soon shake the world. This is explained in our free booklet ***Russia and China in Prophecy***. ■

***THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ASIA***

# ANGLO-AMERICA

America's political hatred has turned deadly serious. A poll published on September 23 by the Center for Strategic Politics found that about a third of Democrat respondents admitted they would welcome news of President **Donald Trump**'s assassination. Of 683 Democratic voters surveyed, 32 percent reacted positively to a headline about Trump being murdered at a rally, 55 percent to one about him dying in his sleep, and 59 percent to one about a military coup removing him.

Meanwhile, violence continues to afflict America's children. On October 15, a 16-year-old shot his way into Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend, Oregon, and murdered three children and a teacher before a parent shot him dead. Eight days earlier, a student was killed and two teens were wounded outside a high school in Norfolk, Virginia. Education Week has recorded 26 K-12 school shootings with casualties through October.

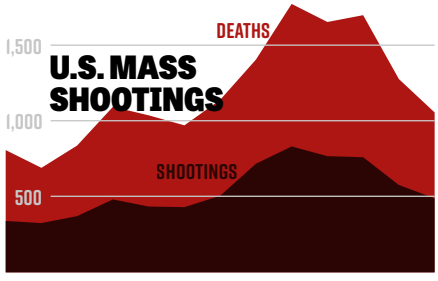
Hosea 4:1-3 warn that when there is "no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land," people swear, lie, kill, steal and commit adultery until "blood toucheth blood."

**Canada**'s courts are abandoning equal justice. Harry Cope, a Mi'kmaw man with a long criminal record, repeatedly punched his common-law partner on a sidewalk and threw her to the ground. The trial judge sentenced him to five years; an appeals court reduced it to three, and the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the reduction, agreeing that the trial judge had given too little weight to an indigenous advisory group that recommended Cope's immediate release. Leviticus 19:15 forbids such partiality in judgment.

Britain's monarchy, too, is



distancing itself from its heritage. Buckingham Palace's latest Sovereign Grant report, published June 25, redefines **King Charles III**'s religious role. It states that rather than defending "the faith," the sovereign now "protects the space for faith within the multi-faith nation." The title Defender of the Faith, bestowed on Henry VIII in 1521, symbolized England's break with Rome. Yet in October 2025, Charles prayed with **Pope Leo XIV** in the Sistine Chapel, the first time an English monarch had publicly done so since the 1517 Protestant Reformation.




These trends share a root cause: Nations that reject God's law lose respect for human law, marriage and life itself. Until they return to the God who gave that law, the bloodshed Hosea warned of will only spread.

*THETRUMPET.COM/MORE/ANGLO-AMERICA*

**CORRECTION:**
The article "Does the Geologic Column Actually Exist?" (September 2026) stated that no location on Earth contains all 12 periods of the geologic column stacked atop one another. In fact, a small portion of Earth's surface—roughly 0.4 percent, by one estimate—contains rock from all 12 periods in predicted sequence, though still with significant gaps in the record.




I just finished my first cover-to-cover reading of the *Trumpet* magazine for October 2026. I will pick it up and reread articles as I watch world events and your broadcasts daily.

**V. Whitaker** OKLAHOMA

My dad used to subscribe to the *Plain Truth* magazine. I believe the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine is the counterpart to the *Plain Truth!*

**Argielyn Madriaga** PHILIPPINES

Thanks for your article in the *Trumpet* magazine on the true Church of God. I have been searching for the past 10 years for it. At last God has given it to me.

**Kenny Kirby** TENNESSEE

We have learned more in the last six months than we have in our lifetimes.

**Brenda Abshear** INDIANA

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COMMENTARY **JOEL HILLIKER**

# ‘Is God Angry? Where Is He?’

**A heartfelt cry in the face of injustice—and God’s answer**

Why does God allow injustice? It plagues our world—why doesn’t He stop it?

A *Trumpet* reader asked this question in response to a story I wrote about the dangers of predators targeting children online. Understandable, given the grotesque facts: British authorities say some three quarters of a million British adults pose a sexual risk to children. Officers arrest about 1,000 offenders a month and still can’t keep pace—adults sending children obscene material, enticing children into sexual acts, molesting children, trafficking children. In America the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children logged 61.8 million exploitation-related files last year. One in 4 American minors ages 9 to 17 now report having had a sexual interaction online, according to research group Thorn—including 1 in 6 children as young as 9 to 12. A new UNICEF report says 1 in 5 children who go online will be targeted for sexual abuse or exploitation this year. These children are four times likelier than their peers to report suicidal thoughts, self-harm or severe anxiety.

“God is deeply angered by the abuse and exploitation of children!” I wrote in that article. “He expects parents and other authorities to *protect* the most defenseless among us. Predatory behavior rouses His wrath—as does parental negligence ....”

A *Trumpet* subscriber from Quebec pushed back on that statement, writing (in French): “I, too, am angry and disappointed. How can God ask the authorities to protect the most vulnerable when He Himself is absent to protect us from evil on this Earth? It is high time all this stopped. God must return, now, to mete out His justice. Because evil is everywhere, and I can’t bear to see it any longer. Evil reigns, the devil shows himself without shame, and people are completely blind and mad. So is God angry? ... Where is He? Why doesn’t He show Himself as Satan does? He is all-powerful; He can stop the carnage at any moment because He is God.

“I’m at the end of my tether, and my greatest wish is to see His power against evil. I want billions of people to see that He is indeed here to rid us of Satan. It’s time for His wrath to be made real. It’s all very well writing and reading about it. But this has gone on long enough. I’m still praying, but that’s no longer enough.”

This angry plea has echoed through millenniums in this unjust world. In fact, it is recorded repeatedly in Scripture itself. “Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?” (Psalm 94:3). “... Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?” (Jeremiah 12:1). “... How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10).

The reason for God’s lack of immediate action in avenging the injustices of this world is profound, and a full understanding requires study. A good start in that study is “Why Does God Allow Suffering?”, Chapter 2 of our booklet *Why ‘Natural’ Disasters?* (free upon request, and accessible online at *theTrumpet.com*). Horror at the triumph of evil in today’s world should motivate us to search out God’s explanation—and He does have one. We all need to understand it.

He isn’t intervening yet. But His promise to that discouraged reader—and to all of us, difficult as it may be for those enduring the suffering to accept—is repeated many times in Scripture, and it can be absolutely counted on: *Don’t lose hope. I am coming.*

After Habakkuk cried, “O Lord, how long shall I cry ... of violence, and thou wilt not save?” (Habakkuk 1:2), God replied: “This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and *it will be fulfilled.* If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for IT WILL SURELY TAKE PLACE. It will not be delayed” (Habakkuk 2:3; New Living Translation).

2 Peter 3:9 assures us, “The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] and is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (Amplified Bible). His plan to bring all people to repentance is much longer term than most people realize—but it is a magnificent plan that, in the end, will achieve spectacular success.

God’s indignation at wickedness and oppression is unmistakable—and He wants us to think as He does. That reader’s anger is praiseworthy. God praises righteous Lot, living in Sodom, for being tormented by the sin around him (2 Peter 2:6-8). He promises to protect “the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations” in His city (Ezekiel 9:4). It is easy to grow callous in the face of so much evil. We cannot afford to do that.

We must vigilantly protect ourselves and our loved ones, and actively seek God’s protection from the world’s dangers. And we must accept this unmistakable truth: These problems *will not* be solved until God Himself intervenes. Thankfully He will do just that—and it cannot come too soon. That is why we must pray earnestly, daily, as Jesus instructed us in Matthew 6:10: “Thy kingdom come.” ■



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