

# THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**

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**Rise of the 'hearers'**

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A series of calamities this year in Britain included the burning of the Grenfell Tower apartment building in West London on June 14, killing 80. (GETTY IMAGES)

**THE KEY OF DAVID**

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry's weekly television program [theTrumpet.com/keyofdavid](http://theTrumpet.com/keyofdavid)

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# The Fall of the British Royal Family

**This has been a bad year for Britain and its royal family. And here is why it will get much worse—before it gets better than you can even imagine!**

**“T**ODAY IS TRADITIONALLY A DAY OF CELEBRATION. THIS year, however, it is difficult to escape a very somber national mood.” These were Queen Elizabeth II’s words on her official birthday on June 17.



**GERALD FLURRY**

Just three days before, 80 people had died in a fire at a block of public housing flats in West London. Two weeks earlier, London Bridge had been the scene of a terrorist attack that killed 11 and injured 48. That followed a May 22 terrorist attack in Manchester that killed 23 adults and children, and a March 22 attack on Westminster Bridge that killed 5 and injured 50.

This really has been a rough year for the United Kingdom.

Many people in the UK were optimistic about the future last year when voters chose to leave the European Union. But things have gotten very messy. In a snap election in June that was meant to strengthen the ruling party’s position in Brexit negotiations, the Labour Party, led by the radical Marxist Jeremy Corbyn, won an unbelievable 40 percent of the vote and gained an extra 30 parliamentary seats. A week later, the leader of the Liberal Democrats resigned, saying it was impossible to head a political party and remain faithful to his Christian beliefs. That is how hostile Britain and British politics have become to the values they have historically stood for!

It has taken a few generations for the magnificent British Empire to fall from being the greatest empire in history. But 2017 has been unusually bad. Why?

It seems the royal family itself has followed a similar course. In 1952, when Elizabeth took the throne, the British Empire was beginning its descent from world power. She has witnessed it shrink from empire to commonwealth to a less and less relevant second-rate power. Some commentators say this year may mark “the beginning of the end” for the monarchy.

The Queen is 91 years old, and her husband announced in May that he will step down from royal duties this fall. In its June 30 edition, *Newsweek* published a feature article about Prince Harry, in which he said that when his grandmother dies, nobody wants to assume the throne. “Is there any one of the royal family who wants to be king or queen? I don’t think so, but we will carry out our duties at the right time,” he said.

Canada and Australia both have strong and growing movements to sever themselves from the British crown. Scotland continues to push to leave the UK.

What is wrong with Britain and the royal family? This issue is far more important than people generally realize.

## ‘Modernizing the Monarchy’

The *Newsweek* article came after a reporter received liberal access to Prince Harry for most of a year—part of the royal family’s effort to update its public image. The article showed the disturbing direction the monarchy is taking.

“We are involved in modernizing the British monarchy,” Prince Harry said. The royals are breaking with many past traditions. They are championing popular social causes. They are trying to relate to the public by showing that they are “ordinary” people. They are working to boost their popularity by rubbing shoulders with immoral celebrities and other ways that degrade the throne. **THEY ARE ALSO UNDERMINING BIBLICAL TEACHINGS.**

Most people seem to support what they are doing if they pay any attention to it at all. But it is a big mistake! This misguided effort is terrible for the royals and deeply troubling for Britain.

In April, Prince William appeared in a “Heads Together” video with Lady Gaga aimed at normalizing mental health problems like depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Prince William sued a French magazine for £1.3 million for publishing pictures of his wife, topless. Her sister, Pippa,

## The Queen has witnessed Britain shrink from empire to commonwealth to second-rate power.

recently married the brother of a reality TV star, further blending the royals with show business. Prince Harry looks like he is about to marry an actress as well. The British *Spectator* called the royals “Britain’s biggest reality TV show.”

Is Lady Gaga the kind of company the royal family of Britain should keep?

On May 12, Prince William was named the “straight ally of the year” at Britain’s LGBT Awards. “It’s so important to be proud of the person you are,” he said in a video accepting the award.

That *Newsweek* article talked quite a lot about Prince Harry’s efforts to live a “normal” life. “He tells me several times that he aches to be ‘something other than Prince Harry,’” the author wrote. She described various ways that he has essentially tried to escape from being a royal.

“Harry’s determination to be ordinary seems reflected in his love life,” the article says. “His girlfriend, Meghan Markle,



might be a well-known actress, but she is also a divorcée, a vocal feminist and American, none of which conforms to the stereotype of a royal consort.”

Do they have any sense of how much damage their actions are causing? Britain has become an immoral cesspool, and the royal family is going right along with it.

“The younger royals are just too interested in the cringe-inducing world of celebrity and in the popularization of their own image,” wrote the *Spectator*. “We are told that they are reinventing the concept of monarchy for the digital age, and so on. But that doesn’t mean it’s a good idea. ... In 30 years’ time, royal historians might look back at the Heads Together campaign, at the eager association with pop stars, and the blooming romance between Prince Harry and Miss Marle, and ask: Was this the moment when it all started to go wrong?” (May 13).

Yes, something has gone very wrong with the royal family.

### Britain Has Forgotten God

Last year, the BBC produced a beautiful brochure celebrating Queen Elizabeth’s 90th birthday—“Queen Elizabeth: 90 Glorious Years.” In commenting on the death of King George VI, the BBC editors wrote, “Britain 64 years ago was a country almost unimaginably different in outlook, attitudes, morals and ethos than today, to say nothing of technology. Opinion polls into the early 1960s showed that as many as a third of respondents believed that the Queen had been chosen by God rather than by right of succession from her father.”

The coronation ceremony for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 was saturated with biblical references and spiritual significance. A choir performed Handel’s choral anthem “Zadok the Priest,” with text from 1 Kings 1:38-40, about Solomon being anointed king. A documentary on the coronation said this about Elizabeth being anointed with oil: “It’s a ceremony so old, history can scarcely go back enough to contain it.”

The priests presented the new queen with a Bible, which they called “the most valuable gift this world affords,” and read Deuteronomy 17:18-19. “These are the lively oracles of God,” the archbishop said.

## The monarchy, rather than working to prevent the moral slide, has watched it happen and even gone along with it.

In the coronation oath, the archbishop asked Elizabeth, “Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the gospel? Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England, and to the churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?” And she answered, “All this I promise to do.”



▲ UPRISING Marxist Jeremy Corbyn’s popularity among British voters has soared in recent years.

► ATTACKED Mourners observe a moment of silence near the scene of the London Bridge terrorist attack.



Britain no longer has such respect for the Bible, or for God! There is an indisputable connection between Britain losing its belief in God and His connection to the monarchy—and the massive changes *for the worse* in Britain’s “outlook, attitudes, morals and ethos.” Britain has lost its faith in God and king, and lost its moral moorings at the same time!

Queen Elizabeth swore to maintain Britain’s religion. This she has not done. That’s not to say that the Protestant Reformed religion is the one true religion. But to the extent that it followed the Bible, Britain was blessed for maintaining it. Today, however, Britain is a morass of secularism, dangerous multicultural religious confusion, and submission to the religion of Europe that it once strongly opposed. The Queen has made unprecedented moves to reconcile with the Vatican: visiting Pope John Paul II in Rome; hosting his visit to Britain in 1982—the first pope to do so since the Reformation; allowing him to hold joint services with the archbishop of Canterbury; and appointing a Roman Catholic as her chaplain.

Prince Charles is even more committed to foreign religions than his mother. In 1999, he stated that if he were to succeed to the throne, he would want to assume the official title not as “Defender of the Faith” as generations of monarchs did before him, but “Defender of Faith”—protecting *all* faiths in Britain.

This sounds righteous to a lot of people today. Modern society has virtually swallowed whole the lie that “diversity is our strength.” But just look at the disastrous results of such thinking. It has left Britain faithless, materialistic, divided and vulnerable to foreign extremists. The Church of England has lost its moral authority, loosening its standards on all the



▼ **LAST GASP OF SPLENDOR** Prince Charles and his new bride, Diana, leave St. Paul's Cathedral.

◀ **IRRECONCILABLE** Prince Charles and Princess Diana are unhappy shortly before their divorce in 1996.

▶ **RECONCILABLE** Queen Elizabeth II welcomes Pope John Paul II to Buckingham Palace in 1982.

▲ **A BAD START** Prince Charles with his present wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.



hot-button issues of the day—women in the clergy, premarital sex, homosexuality. The monarchy, rather than working to prevent the moral slide and uphold godly standards, has just watched it happen and even gone along with it. British society has suffered immeasurably as a result.

### The Importance of Family

When William and Harry's mother, Lady Diana, married Prince Charles in 1981, the world was mesmerized. That wedding was the most-watched television event in history up to that point. More than 750 million people watched the lavish event on TV sets across the globe. It was a spectacular modern-day fairy tale.

Yet, in the *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong called the wedding "Britain's Last Gasp of Joy and Splendor."

Mr. Armstrong noted that Britain was a kingdom in decline. He was in Britain at the time, and he privately noted that in the wedding ceremony, references to the wife *obeying* her husband—based on scriptures like Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18 and Titus 2:5—had been removed. He commented, "Well, let's watch and see whether it lasts or not."

It did *not* last! Both Charles and Diana ended up having adulterous affairs. The two separated in 1992. They officially divorced in 1996. The whole world had focused on that "fairy tale" romance and marriage. And what they got was a clear example of infidelity, immorality and treachery!

Can we really pretend that that didn't have an effect on British society?

Family is the most important relationship that exists! If you study it in the Bible, you see that it is a *God-plane*

relationship—it teaches us spiritual truths about God Himself. Ephesians 5, for example, shows that marriage is a type of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church. God *created* marriage to teach us that. It is **WHY MARRIAGE EXISTS**.

How precious is a strong family, producing godly children! Anyone can look at that and recognize what a marvelous and beautiful thing it is. There is nothing else like it! (If you want to learn more about this truth, request a free copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet *Why Marriage—Soon Obsolete?*)

That is why it is so tragic when we trash what God created. Just look at what happened with the very first marriage—Adam and Eve—when they rejected God's instructions. **THEY ENDED UP HAVING ONE OF THEIR SONS MURDER THE OTHER! SURELY THAT SHOULD HAVE WOKEN THEM UP TO WHAT A MISTAKE THEY HAD MADE! BUT SADLY, IT DID NOT.** People too rarely look at the real *fruits* of their decisions.

Today the Prince of Wales is married to the woman he left his wife for. Did they have a God-plane relationship? The whole public knows it was in the lowest part of the gutter!

Now, look at the fruits of that relationship. Watch the headlines. Look at what is happening to that family. Is it any wonder we are seeing such major problems?

The royal couple that many people are so enamored with today, William and Kate, lived together for quite a while before they married. And now he is championing transgender rights. They are supposed to be an example to their people!

The *Newsweek* article said: "When asked about his family, Harry talks readily about the Queen ... and his late mother ... He says less about William and Kate, and almost nothing





◀ **UP TO DATE** Prince Harry, Kate Middleton and Prince William are working to make the monarchy more popular with the people.

about his father or his stepmother. The world now knows how unhappy that relationship made his mother, and her sons.”

What kind of family is HE going to have?

*Newsweek* says Prince Harry is trying to carry on his mother’s legacy. “Twenty years ago, when irrational fear of being infected with HIV/AIDS was at its height, Diana was photographed touching an HIV-positive man, and that one gesture altered public attitudes. (‘I’d like to be a queen of people’s hearts,’ Diana once told a TV interviewer; the moniker stuck, especially after her death.) Last December, Harry had an HIV test in Barbados before a bevy of photographers.”

What are they trying to accomplish by associating with these kinds of causes? Society is embracing terrible family-destroying perversions like gender-fluidity, same-sex “marriage” and transgenderism. The royal family is throwing its support behind this movement. Even Diana, a generation ago, was promoting this cause. Is that a legacy you want to sustain? The royal family isn’t promoting God-plane

marriage. At the same time, it is supporting what God and His Bible label an *abominable*, Sodom-plane relationship!

### Sodom and Gomorrah

“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into *ashes* condemned them with an overthrow, making them an *ensample unto those that after should live ungodly*” (2 Peter 2:6). According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the word *ensample* means “an exhibit for imitation or warning.”

God inspired Peter with this end-time message in order to impress on our minds that *this sick, Sodom-and-Gomorrah world is about to perish IN FIRE—NUCLEAR FIRE!*

God gives us a *specific* New Testament example through Peter of what happens if a city or nation is polluted with homosexuality. It is going to be destroyed the same way that depraved Sodom and Gomorrah were—huge cities are to be left in ashes!

Homosexual “marriage” is the *antithesis* of true hope! Homosexuality is the epitome of a hopeless lifestyle! (Request our free booklet *The Epistles of Peter: A Living Hope*.)

FAMILY IS THE MOST SACRED OF ALL INSTITUTIONS. Strong families are the backbone of a nation. WHEN FAMILIES FALL APART, NATIONS FALL.

In Jude 7, this incredible sweep of history continues: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

Even Jude’s mention of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah “going after strange flesh” is prophecy for today.

## WILL CANADA KEEP THE MONARCHY?

A MAJORITY OF CANADIANS believe that their country should cut ties with the British monarchy when Queen Elizabeth II dies. A Dec. 26, 2016, Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of Global News found that 53 percent of Canadians think it may soon be time to bid farewell to the British monarchy.

These types of polls tend to be affected by whether they take place around the time of large events centering on the royal family, such as the royal wedding, the births of Prince William’s children, and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Historic divisions within Canada are being brought to the surface. As Monique Scott wrote for Global News: “Calls to dump the monarchy were, as usual, loudest in Quebec, where 73 percent of respondents said the links to Britain

should be severed upon the Queen’s death—compared to between 44 and 51 percent in all the other provinces.”

French Canada has a powerful pull in Canadian politics, and it appears this resentment of the British monarchy is spreading to the rest of Canada. A great number of Canadians no longer view the monarchy as relevant.

One hundred fifty years after Canada’s independence from the British Empire, many Canadians are losing sight of the foundation of the nation’s identity. The liberal progressivism of Canadian society and morals are eroding loyalty to a monarchy that reminds Canadians of an old heritage. Yet, the British Empire and Commonwealth is key to understanding Canada’s role in the world and why it became a prosperous, free nation.

For Canadians, the British throne has been a steady, guiding hand toward maturity. The establishment of the Northwest Mounted Police (today’s Royal Canadian Mounted Police), approved by Queen Victoria, was an important factor in the long, treacherous struggle to conquer the Canadian west, to ensure that law and order reigned. Canadian industry, ingenuity and enterprise spread throughout the world. Canada’s unflinching loyalty to the throne in the world wars will forever be a glory to the nation.

It was also through fighting for King George V that many believe Canada forged an identity on the blood-soaked soil of Vimy Ridge.

The British monarchy was the moral Polaris that gave Canada some sense of heritage and identity. Without this

Homosexuality and lesbianism have become chic today in the nations of Israel. What does God think of that?

**BEFORE THE PLAGUE OF HOMOSEXUALITY, THERE IS THE SPIRIT OF FORNICATION, WHICH TEARS MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES APART! Many don't even learn the concept of marriage and family.**

We would not have the homosexual problem if we were building God-plane families. Upside-down families are the primary cause of homosexuality.

God's plan is to expand His own Family through human families. Great nations can only be built through great families. **FAMILY IS AT THE CORE OF ALL THAT IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS LIFE.**

Homosexuals and lesbians are evidence of the total breakdown of families within our society, and are a *sign* that such nations are cursed by God and about ready to be destroyed!

**JUDE 7 IS THE STRONGEST WARNING IN THE BIBLE AGAINST THE NATIONS GIVEN OVER TO SODOMY! Sodom and Gomorrah suffered fire from heaven and were reduced to ashes by God. IF WE LIVE LIKE SODOM, WE ARE GOING TO DIE LIKE SODOM!**

The major prophets discuss the great cities of America and Britain becoming "without inhabitant." **THAT MEANS NUCLEAR FIRE IS GOING TO REDUCE OUR MAJOR CITIES TO ASHES!**

**REMEMBER, JUDE 7 GIVES US AN "EXAMPLE," OR WARNING—OF PEOPLE "SUFFERING THE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE." NOW IS THE TIME TO HEED THIS WARNING!**

There is no warning stronger than this in the entire Bible!

Marriage and family are God-plane relationships that prepare us to enter our marriage with Jesus Christ, and our place in the Family of God. **IT IS MAN'S ONLY HOPE.**

**YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS SIN UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND GOD'S MASTER PLAN FOR FAMILY!**

We must comprehend what we are dealing with. **WE ARE WITNESSING THE TWISTING AND DESTROYING OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD!**

The gospel is the good news of the coming Family of God. Satan is trying to blot out any hope of understanding the Family gospel. He has sold people on the idea that they can twist and distort family any way they please and it won't matter.

That is not what our Creator says! He turned Sodom and Gomorrah **INTO ASHES—AS AN EXAMPLE FOR US—to warn us of how He would punish for this sin!**

*Is there a greater physical warning in the Bible than this?*

God is already changing the way He deals with the royal family, which explains why 2017 has been so tragic so far.

We have prepared a special report explaining the change that has occurred this year. We are printing it in the July-August edition of our bimonthly Christian-living magazine, *Royal Vision*; we will send you a free copy upon request. This change is a signal of terrible things to come upon Britain in particular—as well as America and the Jewish nation. It explains the rapid decline we are witnessing in Britain's royal family. It also explains how God is keeping His promise to preserve David's throne even amid the time of great tribulation just ahead.

On top of that, this special magazine edition shows just how *short* time is before Jesus Christ returns to take His place as King of kings and Lord of lords, personally sitting on the throne of David and ruling over the Earth! ■

**God has done something remarkable with Britain's throne. If you would like to know more about it, request a free copy of the July-August 2017 issue of the *Trumpet's* companion magazine, *Royal Vision*. This is a special issue of this bimonthly Christian-living magazine explaining the dramatic change taking place with the royal family.**

history, what would Canada be? It would be an ultraliberal, multicultural experiment with no relevance in the world. Canada is already a world leader in radical social progression and socialism. The British monarchy is the last institution to keep Canada from completely losing a sense of what its people ought to be.

There has always been a movement to be rid of the Queen in Canada, but now this movement is becoming the mainstream view. This is more dangerous than most realize. Canada has been one of the most blessed and peaceful countries in the world, a direct result of being part of the British Empire. The English-speaking peoples inherited divine blessings, and the British throne was a key link to understanding our history with God.

**ABRAHAM BLONDEAU**



FADING TIES  
The Queen visits  
Canada in 2010



# HONG KONG HANDOVER— 20 YEARS ON

Since Great Britain ceded control to China, is Hong Kong better off? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**M**OMENTS BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON July 1, 1997, the British national anthem blared with incongruous triumph throughout the halls of Hong Kong’s Convention Center extension, and the red, white and blue Union Jack was lowered from the flagpole. As the song’s final chord faded to silence, the clock struck a new day. The musicians then launched into China’s national anthem, “March of the Volunteers,” as officials hoisted the red, five-star Chinese flag.

The United Kingdom’s rule over Hong Kong was officially over.

The British had raised their flag over this strategic territory in 1841 and flown it there for 156 years as they transformed a sparsely inhabited island of just a few tiny fishing villages into a beacon of prosperity and modernity. Now the fading empire handed it to a rising giant.

“July 1, 1997, will go down in the annals of history as a day that merits eternal memory—the return of Hong

Kong to the motherland,” Chinese President Jiang Zemin said at the handover ceremony. Within a few hours, 4,000 soldiers from the “motherland” had crossed the border to assert Beijing’s sovereignty over Hong Kong.

With the historic handover, Chinese power multiplied, millions of British subjects were suddenly citizens of a newly created entity called the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, and the final act was performed in the closure of the British Empire.

## A Pearl for Beijing

One of the most densely populated regions on the globe, Hong Kong is made up of Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula, more than 200 surrounding islands, and, to the north, the New Territories.

In obtaining “the Pearl of the Orient,” China not only won control of the world’s third-highest-ranking center of global finance, it also inherited a

\$380 million naval facility constructed there by the British. And Hong Kong’s location at the confluence of the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea gives this naval base, and the territory in general, immense strategic value.

In the July 2016 *Trumpet*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry highlighted the way China’s grip on Hong Kong has boosted its effort to control the South China Sea. He wrote, “Britain actually gave the South China Sea prize of Hong Kong to the People’s Republic of China in 1997. Now that U.S. military presence in the area has been drastically reduced, China is claiming the entire South China Sea as its own!” (“China Is Steering the World Toward War,” [theTrumpet.com/13880](http://theTrumpet.com/13880)).

For the Chinese government, acquiring Hong Kong was far more than a symbolic victory.

## Good for Hong Kong?

Back in 1997, 6.4 million Hong Kongese were separated from the mainland by 156 years of ideological and institutional differences. They were uneasy about the transition.

Most were descendants of families who had come to live under British rule as refugees from communism. They were anxious about being swallowed up by the authoritarian mainland.

China promised Hong Kong that it would retain its distinct identity under a rubric called “one country, two systems.” This model meant that, for at least 50 years, Beijing would let Hong Kong continue its economic policies, and Hong Kong could enjoy what its mini-constitution, the Basic Law, called a “high degree of autonomy.”

In the early years, the “two systems” model was carefully followed. Troops from the People’s Liberation Army maintained a low profile in Hong Kong. Law enforcement bodies from the mainland had no jurisdiction in the territory. And mainland officials refrained from giving public speeches there.

▲ **CHANGING OF THE GUARD** Britain turns Hong Kong over to Chinese jurisdiction in 1997, ending its 156-year rule over the territory.

► **VOICE OF THE PEOPLE** Activists in Hong Kong City protest the Hong Kong elections, fearful of the “fake” Chinese-style democracy.



But in 2003, after some 500,000 Hong Kongese filled the streets to protest a national security law that the local government was pushing, Beijing took action. The Chinese government launched a campaign demanding patriotism among Hong Kongese and calling for the territory to be governed by leaders who “love the country and the city.” Beijing asserted its right to interpret the Basic Law at will.

A decade later, in June 2014, the Chinese State Council dropped a bombshell, publishing a 15,500-word white paper to clarify “one country, two systems.” It said that the Chinese government in Beijing has “comprehensive jurisdiction” over Hong Kong. It said that rather than having full autonomy, Hong Kong was given only whatever authority to run its affairs that were approved by Beijing.

That August, in a follow-up to the white paper, the Chinese government imposed a rigid framework for electoral reforms. It said that for the 2017 election for Hong Kong’s top civil position of chief executive, the people could vote only for candidates who had been pre-approved by the Chinese government. Essentially, this was “democracy with Chinese characteristics”—akin to that of the mainland.

Tens of thousands of Hong Kongese took to the streets to protest this as “fake” Chinese-style democracy, and to demand an unrestricted choice of candidates. For weeks, the demonstrations congested many of the city’s major traffic arteries. Occasional skirmishes broke out between protesters and police, who sometimes used pepper spray, batons and tear gas on the crowds.

Some analysts believed the protests could spread into the rest of China, and viewed them as a legitimate threat to China’s ruling Communist Party. But as the weeks went by, the number of protesters fell. Eventually it was clear that, protests or not, China would not compromise and Beijing was the only real authority in Hong Kong.

This sobering reality was reinforced in 2015 when five staff members of Hong Kong’s Causeway Bay Books disappeared, apparently abducted by Chinese agents as punishment for publishing embarrassing books about the private lives of officials in the mainland.

In late 2016, the Chinese government also blocked the seating of two politicians who had altered their oath of office in protest against Chinese rule.

Then on January 28 of this year, Chinese security agents rushed into the Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong and abducted one of the territory’s most powerful billionaires. Since then, the man’s whereabouts are still unknown.

Meanwhile, the Chinese military garrison in Hong Kong is steadily taking on a more visible and active role.

All of these developments affirm fears that Hong Kong is rapidly losing its autonomy to China. The freedoms that distinguished Hong Kong from the rest of China are rapidly disintegrating. Many wonder how long it will be before



Hong Kong is fully grafted into the authoritarian mainland. On June 26, *Time* magazine wrote, “Hong Kong’s political future has never been more fraught with anxiety.”

### Britain’s Loss

After the 1997 handover of Hong Kong, in a tragic parody of the famous Winston Churchill quote, a member of Britain’s Ministry of Defense said, “Never before has so much, used by so many, gone for so little.”

It is significant that Hong Kong is one of the “sea gates” allowing access to the South China Sea. It was one of many such gates that Britain controlled

during its empire era. Among the others were the Suez Canal, Singapore, Cyprus, the Cape of Good Hope and Malta.

In Genesis 22, some astounding promises are made to the patriarch Abraham. One of them says that his descendants, particularly the peoples of Britain and America, would come to “possess the gate of his enemies” (verse 17). The context and related passages show that this is about sea gates, such as those listed above, which allowed Britain to control the seas for so long.

The Bible also prophesied that the British peoples would later lose the sea gates that they had possessed: “And he [foreigners] shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee” (Deuteronomy 28:52).

And over the years, this has been fulfilled. One by one, Britain lost or surrendered many of those sea gates that it possessed. Twenty years ago, Hong Kong was added to the

list of surrendered gates.

At that historic time, late *Trumpet* columnist Ron Fraser wrote an assessment that events since then have proven accurate: “With the end of British rule in Hong Kong, we see the final act performed in the closure of an empire—a God-given empire ...” (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, June 1997).

To understand what outcomes to expect from China’s increasing power, and the continuing decline of the United Kingdom, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■



## Why did the British Empire lose it all?

Britain became the greatest empire in human history. Yet it ended up giving it all away. To learn what was behind the rise and fall of the British Empire, request ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***, by Herbert W. Armstrong.





# THE WORLD NEEDS JUSTICE

Open your eyes to the injustice around you—and reach out to our last and only hope for making it right.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**I**N NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA, A farmer named Umar Bate was nearly ready to harvest and sell a bumper crop of fat watermelons. A cattleman named Musa Jabbi watched over his herd of 400 cows, growing plump on fertile plains. A fisherman named Abubakar Gamandi prepared to market a rich take of fish he had smoked. But then, as the *Los Angeles Times* reported, “it all went wrong.”

Boko Haram, the Islamic State affiliate in West Africa, swept through the area, plundering and killing.

When terrorists attacked Umar’s town, he abandoned his watermelons, along with 30 tons of rice and 18 tons of maize. He was forced to move into a bleak refugee camp and reduced to a life of begging. Musa lost nearly 90 percent of his cattle and had to camp on the outskirts of his town. The terrorists seized the boys from his village and turned them into their foot soldiers. Abubakar said terrorists impeded a convoy of fishermen, slit their throats, tied them up, and dumped them into Lake Chad. No one goes back to fish out of fear of attack.

These terrorists deliberately murdered or drove out Nigeria’s food producers, looted food supplies, stole and killed cattle, and forced rural food markets to close. They sacked villages, kidnapped girls and women, and killed people indiscriminately. Their campaign of terror left hundreds of thousands of children severely malnourished and caused 1.4 million people in northeastern Nigeria to flee their homes.

Why? What is their goal? They want to establish the Islamic State in Nigeria. They are resisting the nation’s Westernization by waging war against people they consider infidels. In other words,

as they murder, pillage, loot and destroy, they think they are *doing God’s work!*

The world today has enough bad news that we can easily push it out of mind. Boko Haram barely makes headlines worldwide in the face of so many other dangerous threats. But it is real, and it is turning *real people’s* lives upside down, and *killing REAL PEOPLE.*

We are near the fulfillment of what Jesus Christ prophesied to be a time of “great tribulation”—when world conditions will become unbearable for the overwhelming majority of mankind (Matthew 24:21). But there are people on Earth today who are already living through Tribulation-like nightmares.

Nigeria is just *one* tragedy in *one* corner of the globe that receives scant attention worldwide. Think of the 17-year-old living on the streets of Salvador in northeastern Brazil, who can only survive by doing jobs for a local drug gang—“trafficking, packing, stealing, killing.” “I had a knife, a gun, all these sorts of things, to defend myself,” he told a BBC reporter. “I could only sleep in the morning because during the night I had to stay awake. There were many dangers, someone could come and kill me.” Think of the impoverished, war-ravaged refugee in Syria who sells one of his kidneys for cash. “What can they do?” says the broker who illegally convinced him to do it. “They are desperate and they have no other means to survive but to sell their organs.”

Think of the girls in Muslim countries who are having their genitals mutilated, being forced to marry old men, or getting sold into sex slavery. Think of the women who are being murdered—Islamic “justice” for the crime of dishonoring their families—because they were raped or renounced

their religion. Think of the families in North Korea who are living on \$2 per month, raising children whose growth is stunted by malnutrition, because of the tyrannical regime that diverts all its resources to its military.

**You share this planet with 7.4 billion other people. All of them desperately need God. And hundreds of millions of them, right this very moment, are suffering oppression and injustice that you may have a difficult time even imagining.**

When you see how many people are suffering and being destroyed, you realize this is Satan's world. He is now "the god of this world ... which deceiveth the whole world" (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9). Throughout human history under his rule, the vast majority of people have been oppressed, lived under the boot of a dictator, languished in slavery. Billions have lived in poverty and deprivation. Billions have been undernourished. Billions have suffered from warfare. The vast majority have lived in ignorance. The vast majority have suffered terrible injustice in this world ruled by Satan the devil.

The Apostle Paul said we must not lose sight of these people. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for ALL MEN," he wrote (1 Timothy 2:1). He urged us to offer up supplications, prayers, intercessions and even *thanks* for all of them! We lose sight of them amid day-to-day busyness and distractions—but we must learn to think of them the way that God does: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (verses 3-4).

God has a *marvelous* plan to extend salvation to all people. Jesus Christ died for *all men*, to be dealt with in due time (verses 5-6). God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. But right now this world is ruled by Satan, who would have all men to suffer and be destroyed.

But God sees what is happening. And He promises to bring perfect justice—TO ALL PEOPLE.

10 THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

## The God of Perfect Justice

Imagine how God feels when He sees a pitiful human being oppressing another human being. It makes Him *furiously* angry!

Read God's command in Zechariah 7:8-10: "Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart." Every single human being is ultimately a child of God. Show COMPASSION. Especially look after those



who are neediest. This is a command! It is truly important to God.

Sadly, this world, under Satan's influence, has not heeded God's instructions. "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: THEREFORE"—NOTICE!—"came a *great wrath* from the Lord of hosts" (verses 11-12). They have not executed true judgment; they have not shown mercy or compassion. They have been respecters of persons and unjust. They have been harsh and dictatorial. They've oppressed the weak, the widow, fatherless, stranger and poor. This has outraged God, and He is going to send great wrath! Terrible punishment is coming because of man's terrible treatment of fellow man.

"Therefore it is come to pass, that *as he cried, and they would not hear; so*

*they cried, and I would not hear, saith the Lord of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate" (verses 13-14). This is an expression of God's perfect justice: They didn't listen to me—so I will not listen to them!*

The good news is, God *will* establish *perfect justice*. This punishment leads right into the family vision of Zechariah 8: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof" (verses 4-5). In order to bring this happy vision about, God must first confront the injustices of this world!

God is passionate about establishing and administering perfect justice. And He wants to build that same quality of character in you.

## What God Commands of You

God wants you to hate oppression and suffering. His law repeatedly commands us to look after the blind, the deaf, the poor, the stranger—those who are in need. "He who oppresses a poor [low or weak] man *insults his Maker*, but he who is kind to the needy honors him" (Proverbs 14:31; Revised Standard Version). God takes the way you treat your fellow man very personally!

When Christ returns, He will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-33). By what criterion? By how you treated those who were hungry and thirsty; how you treated the stranger and those who were naked, sick or in prison. If you *fed* them, gave them water, took them in, clothed them, visited them, then, He says, it is like you did that to Him personally! If you ignored those who were suffering and treated them with disdain, He takes *that* personally too! And to you, He says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (verse 41).

▲ **NOT JUST ANOTHER VICTIM** A girl leans on the coffin of a relative killed during recent clashes between Turkish forces and militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party. Over 20 civilians were killed in the fighting, which deprived residents of access to essential amenities and triggered food shortages. The three decades of fighting have killed tens of thousands of people.



► **FLEEING** A migrant boy waits on a train bound for Serbia at the transit center for migrants at the border between Greece and Macedonia. Serbia and Macedonia have become major transit countries for tens of thousands of migrants trying to reach the European Union, with Macedonia forced to declare a state of emergency in 2015.

## 12 MONTHS OF HELL

**302,093** MURDERED WORLDWIDE  
**576,133** COMMITTED SUICIDE  
**103,437** KILLED IN CIVIL WARS  
**5,000,000** KILLED BY POLLUTION  
**12,800,800** DRIVEN FROM THEIR COUNTRY  
**25,300,000** PUSHED OUT OF THEIR HOMES



It is easy to treat someone dismissively and to think nothing of it. But God says this has eternal consequences!

“Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished” (Proverbs 17:5). How many in this world are *glad* at calamities? Seeing people go down is great entertainment. God says such contempt for others will be punished.

God wants you to treat others the way you want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). When God sees someone experiencing calamity, He is not glad—He is *grieved!* He has no pleasure in death—even the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).



“Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them” (Proverbs 22:22-23). Isn’t that perfect justice? Many people think they are getting away with their robbing, oppressing, spoiling—but God is keeping track. He promises to see that justice is done!

“He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want” (verse 16). There have been many publicly

traded companies that have lost *billions*, costing investors a fortune; yet somehow, chief executives have walked away with several millions. People call it a disaster, but the executives didn’t think so—they got theirs. Is there anything *just* about that? God says He will *spoil* those who spoiled others! Those who came by their wealth unlawfully didn’t mind bringing other people to poverty. God will ensure they understand what it feels like to be on the other end of that exchange.

“The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all” (verse 2). Many rich people think they are better than other. But wealth doesn’t change someone’s status in *God’s eyes*. He made *all* mankind—and He wants *every one* to achieve his or her full potential.

### God Will Arise

Think of the 302,093 people who were murdered worldwide in a single year, 2010, according to the United Nations. *All* of those victims received injustice. And many of those murderers escaped justice. An additional 576,133 people committed suicide. That cold statistic represents a mountain of suffering, both from those who took their own lives and those they left behind.

The UN Human Development Program stated that 103,437 people were killed in civil wars in 2010; 25.3 million were pushed out of their homes; 12.8 million refugees were driven from their country. On top of that, 5 million people were killed by pollution such as unsanitary water and unclean air. So many of these problems are caused by

mismanagement on the part of leaders who have no concern for the people.

Psalm 12 was written when unrighteousness was rampant. Verses 2-4 describe conditions much like those of today. How will God respond? “For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, NOW WILL I ARISE, saith the Lord ...” (verse 5). God hears the sighing of the needy—and He will *stop* the oppression! “I will set him in the safety for which he yearns,” says the New King James Version.

You can have absolute confidence in God’s promises (verse 6). People say, *Where is God?* He hasn’t come on their timetable, but He is coming—have faith in that!

**God hates oppression and suffering! He hates the fact that this world is ruled by Satan, subjecting mankind to suffering and bondage to sin. God is filled with compassion to relieve the world and set mankind free!**

In Psalm 72, which he wrote for his son Solomon, King David described righteous rulership. “Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king’s son. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor” (verses 1-4). So much rulership in this world is *oppressive!* God’s rulership *breaks* oppression—it saves the children of the needy.

▲ **A PARENT’S NIGHTMARE** A Somali mother and her malnourished child seek food at the Towfiq feeding center in south Mogadishu. The UN warned of looming famine in southern Somalia after five years of poor harvests, saying the war-ravaged region needed large quantities of seeds, tools and food. The agency warned that 700,000 southern Somalis faced severe food shortages, with more than 300,000 at greatest risk.



# G-20 Summit: The Outlines of a New World Order

Key takeaways about Germany and America from an international conference **BY RICHARD PALMER**

**T**HE G-20 MEETING HELD IN HAMBURG, Germany, on the weekend of July 9 was in many ways like any other G-20 or G-7 summit—full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. It generated a flurry of headlines, but it is the type of event that will be forgotten in a month or two.

Although not much of consequence was decided, it was noteworthy if only for this reason: It shined a spotlight on some of the most important trends on the world scene.

## The G-19

On July 5 in Hamburg, in the run-up to the meeting, the European Union and Japan—two of the world’s leading economies—announced plans to form one of the largest and most powerful trade blocs in the world.

The timing of the announcement was deliberate, as was the location. Hamburg is Germany’s largest port, and Europe’s second biggest. The venue was chosen before Donald Trump was elected—but it is still clear that Chancellor Angela Merkel wanted to draw the world’s attention to Germany’s trade credentials.

Vox wrote, “Japan and Europe have a pointed message for the U.S.: We’re taking your place as global leaders in free trade” (July 6). The *Economist* wrote, “[N]ow both want to show that they can fill the vacuum left by America’s

withdrawal under Mr. Trump from its role as the world’s trade leader” (July 8).

Combined, the economies of Japan and the EU are similar to those of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA). A trade arrangement between them is a big deal indeed.

Japan had planned to join a different, massive trade bloc: the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). But Mr. Trump

**“Germany has reached a historic high point in terms of politically motivated violence.”**

**HEIKO MAAS, FEDERAL MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

pulled the U.S. out of that agreement on his first full day in the White House. Then Europe quickly stepped in.

Vox quoted Edward Alden, of the Council on Foreign Relations, as saying, “I have no doubt the final rounds were accelerated to try to conclude the deal as quickly as possible and send a message that the EU and Japan are prepared to lead on trade even without the U.S. The fact that it was concluded right before Trump’s first G-20 summit is a symbolic poke in the eye to the Americans” (op cit).

Caroline Freund, of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, pointed out that the new trade bloc will be so large that the common standards it agrees to will inevitably set standards for the whole world. “They’ll get to be the rule-setters ... setting the standard for global trade agreements,” she said (ibid).

“That’s the role the U.S. has played for decades, and it’s fading,” Vox wrote.

Once the conference got underway, America’s retreat from leadership continued. One of Angela Merkel’s big priorities for her time hosting the G-20 was Africa—and no wonder. Mass migration and Islamic terrorism from North Africa are two huge issues for all of Europe. But Donald Trump—attending the biggest international conference of his presidency so far—was so uninterested that he didn’t even bother showing up to those discussions; he sent his daughter instead.

The group’s pledge to uphold the Paris climate agreement left the U.S. obviously isolated. America had good reasons to pull out of the deal—reasons the *Trumpet* outlined in last month’s issue. But America has been demonized for decades as the biggest threat to the planet because it has refused to sign up—or to stay signed up—to agreements like this one. Other countries leaped on this opportunity to pose as the real moral leaders of the world.

The summit left the commentators talking about the G-19—the 20 major economic powers of the world minus America. As *Slate* wrote, “The nickname may stick: The summit seemed to indicate that other world powers are determined to unite against the Trump administration’s erratic isolationism. ... It’s far from clear what a G-19 world will look like, but last week in Hamburg, we saw it starting to form” (July 10).

## Dangerous Political Extremism

When Chancellor Merkel chose Hamburg as the location of the German-hosted G-20 summit, she wanted to show off the economic power, the culture and the coolness of Germany’s second-largest city.

Instead, Germany ended up broadcasting to the world “an orgy of violence,” as the German press dubbed it.



The scenes of violence and chaos gave us a glimpse of the dangerous anger boiling in Germany.

The 20,000 police who were deployed in the city lost control. Foreign leaders, including the wife of the American president, had to be locked down while the mob raged nearby. Rioters looted stores, burned cars, and attacked police with rocks, bottles and fireworks. The mob injured nearly 500 police officers and caused millions of dollars' worth of property damage.

One police spokesman called it a "new dimension" of violence. Justice Minister Heiko Maas said that "Germany has reached a historic high point in terms of politically motivated violence."

Many Germans were furious. *Tagesspiegel* wrote that "the pictures of helpless police who could not secure state order and protection of property are a political catastrophe."

The police even resorted to the constitutionally questionable step of receiving support from German military special forces.

The government has promised federal aid to help the city rebuild and has called for European Union help in combating far-left extremism.

Of course, not all the protesters were violent. Police estimate that around 20,000 demonstrated and around 1,500 rioted. But even the "peaceful" ones called their first official march "Welcome to Hell"—hardly an invitation to a restrained exercise of the right to peaceful protest.

But who were these far-left agitators who torched Hamburg?

The G-20 protests revealed that Germany has a dangerous problem with far-left movements. Hamburg has been a hub for home-grown extremism and far-left violence for decades, going back to such militant groups as the Red Army Faction during the Cold War. At the same time, it is also part of a growing, global, far-left movement.

As Douglas Murray pointed out, imagine if all this violence had been the work of far-right militia. "Would it not attract attention?" he asked in his *Spectator* blog. "Would it not also, quite rightly, lead to major opinion pieces and much opining elsewhere about the

# GERMANY'S SPYING SCANDAL

## Why It Should Alarm You

The media went into a frenzy when America was caught spying on Germany. Why then do they ignore revelations that Berlin is spying on America? **BY RICHARD PALMER**

**I**N 2013, AMERICA WAS CAUGHT SPYING on Germany. Former National Security Administration contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the United States had been spying on the country from more than 150 sites and had even tapped German Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone.

The world was outraged.

"While the U.S. media did not cover the scandal in great detail, it created a huge splash in the German media," wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry. "This whipped the German public up into a frenzy, which politicians exploited" (*Trumpet*, October 2014).

"Spying on friends is not acceptable," Ms. Merkel said at the time. Her government declared that its foreign intelligence network, the BND, has never spied on the United States.

Which is why a June 22 *Spiegel* report should be deeply embarrassing to her.

"Documents that *Spiegel* has been able to review show that the BND, until a few years ago, actually had considerable interest in the United States as a target of espionage."

Between 1998 and 2006, Germany spied repeatedly on the United States. *Spiegel* has no information on activities outside this period, but there is nothing

to indicate it stopped after 2006.

The BND monitored the telephones, faxes and e-mails of the Marine Corps, the Defense Intelligence Agency, defense companies like Lockheed Martin, foreign embassies and institutions on U.S. soil, and even the White House itself.

"The truth is that the Germans were snooping far more extensively than

they ever wanted to admit," wrote *Spiegel*.

This is the latest in a series of revelations about the spy agency. In 2014, *Spiegel* revealed that the BND had tapped the phones of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. A year later, a leak within the BND showed that Germany had been spying extensively on its European allies.

Yet in stark contrast to the wall-to-wall coverage of America's spying scandals, these revelations received little attention. Almost no major U.S. media company gave them any coverage.

In a way, the story is not surprising. You would have to be pretty naive to believe the German government's insistence that it had never spied on the U.S. But just the hypocrisy Germany has demonstrated over the last few years should at least make it newsworthy.

When you understand the disturbing history of Germany's intelligence



**AWKWARD** After revelations that the United States was spying on Germany, Chancellor Merkel said Germany wasn't spying on the U.S. Turns out, she was wrong.

agency, however, this story gets a lot darker. What exactly is this organization that just got caught spying on the United States?

### A Nazi Organization

The story of the founding of the BND sounds like a fanciful spy novel—so outlandish it would be unbelievable if not for the fact that it has been thoroughly documented.

After World War II, America was desperate for intelligence on the Soviet Union. So they resurrected a Nazi spy agency.

They found the perfect partner for this effort in Maj. Gen. Reinhard Gehlen.

Gehlen commanded the Wehrmacht's Foreign Armies East military-intelligence unit from 1942 to 1945, a highly capable intelligence network in Eastern Europe and Russia. From this vantage point, Gehlen knew the war would end badly for Germany. So he prepared. He had his intelligence files printed on microfilm and stored in watertight containers, and he hid them in the Alps.

Gehlen made sure he surrendered to the Americans, and then swapped his treasure trove of intel in exchange for freedom for himself and his staff.

Then, America paid Gehlen to essentially resurrect his old organization, using many of his old command staff, toward the end of 1946.

“The Pentagon-Gehlen agreement in practice guaranteed the continuation of the all-important Abwehr division of the German General Staff,” wrote T. H. Tetens in *The New Germany and the Old Nazis*. “Hundreds of German Army and SS officers were quietly released from internment camps and joined Gehlen's headquarters in the Spessart Mountains in central Germany.”

Gehlen wasn't picky. Ex-Gestapo, ex-SS, war criminals, Nazis who had participated directly in the Holocaust—all were welcome. According to one estimate, 10 percent had worked for SS head Heinrich Himmler. The Americans, so worried about the Soviet threat, allowed this network to flourish.

Ten years later, Gehlen's spy agency was formally transferred to official West German control and became the BND. Gehlen remained the spymaster.

Unsurprisingly for an organization full of Nazis, the BND devoted resources to helping Nazis on the run. In 2011, documents leaked to *Bild* found that the organization had helped cover for the infamous Adolf Eichmann, one of the chief organizers of the Holocaust. It also recruited Klaus Barbie, the “Butcher of Lyon,” as an agent in 1960, despite the fact that his war crimes were so extensive and so proven that he had been sentenced to death.

Gehlen was also aware of other organizations run by ex-Nazis. For example, in May 2014, papers released by the BND show that a group of ex-Nazis put together a secret army capable of fielding 40,000 men. The documents show that their leader—Albert Schnez, a colonel in Hitler's army—had meetings with Gehlen, who was assigned by German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to “look after and to monitor the group.”



ON RECORD Gen. Reinhard Gehlen's mugshots and fingerprints. After World War II, Gehlen was hired to create Germany's postwar spy network.

These are just some of the most high-profile examples. Germany's foreign intelligence agency was founded by Nazis, run by Nazis and helped cover for Nazis for the first couple of decades of its history.

But the full extent of the BND's Nazi history is lost forever. The BND destroyed the files on around 250 of its early officials. These included the files on those who had held “significant intelligence positions in the SS, the SD (the intelligence agency of the SS and

the Nazi Party) or the Gestapo,” according to an independent commission of historians. Some had been investigated for war crimes.

“There have already been several curious incidents involving the BND archives in the past,” *Spiegel* wrote when the scandal was uncovered (Nov. 30, 2011). It detailed how it had asked for access to BND files relating to a former SS commander, only to find that those too had been destroyed.

When did this cover-up take place? The late 1940s? The '50s perhaps?

It happened in 2007.

Yes, as recently as 10 years ago, the BND was actively covering up its Nazi past.

### Breaking Up Yugoslavia

The Cold War kept the BND busy. But as Soviet power began to wane, the group started to work harder on expanding German power.

The breakup of Yugoslavia was a seminal moment for Germany. Initially Britain, France and the U.S. all opposed it. But Germany saw a brief window of opportunity to eliminate what could easily become a powerful Russian ally right in the heart of Europe. At the same time, it could clear its own path toward the Mediterranean.

This was the first time the newly reunified Germany really flexed its muscles. And right in the middle of this effort was the BND.

German Nazis weren't the only ones the BND protected. It also protected its wartime

allies, the Croatian Ustashi.

The Ustashi massacred hundreds of thousands of Serbs and thousands of Jews. Their methods were often gruesome: Smashing heads with sledgehammers, removing organs one by one, and tearing a victim's limbs off were among their methods of execution. Famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said, “Even the Germans were appalled by the crimes committed [in Croatia].”

The BND worked closely with ex-Ustashi members, and used them to support the Croatian independence movement from the 1960s onward. They

# Yesterday's Farm, Today's Desert

**Almost all resources  
come from the ground.  
But what happens when  
we destroy the ground?**

**BY ANDREW MILLER**

**B**ALBINA NYONI KNOWS HOW quickly fertile land can turn to desert. When she was a girl growing up in Sianyanga, Zimbabwe, her home was beautiful. A small river flowed through her village. The vegetation of the savanna was so thick that it was difficult to walk through. Her family's livestock always had plenty of food and water.

When Nyoni was a teenager, her environment began to change. First, the river where she swam as a child dried up. Then the vegetation began to die. The ground became dry and bare. The land could no longer support herds of grazing animals. People had to travel farther away in search of water and forage for their cattle. Sometimes, the village men had to be away from home for months in order to herd their cattle far enough to find new water sources.

By the time Nyoni became a mother, she was struggling with hunger and a lack of clean water. Colonies of *izinyebe*, stinging ants, covered the soil. Their stings felt like scalding water pouring over her skin. Nyoni wrapped her feet in plastic to protect them, but the ants still ate her vegetable garden and the eyes of her baby goats.

By the time Nyoni was 37 years old, her beautiful childhood home had

become a barren wasteland. "I wake up very early to travel several kilometers to fetch water before it gets too hot," she told Global Press journalist Gertrude Pswarayi in 2011. "By the time I return home, I will be so exhausted, but I still have to fetch firewood, prepare a meal for my family and do an endless list of other domestic chores, such as cleaning and washing clothes."

Eventually, the villagers became reliant on international food aid in order to survive. In less than a lifetime, their land had disintegrated into desert.

Sianyanga is not the only place where fertile land has been destroyed. Worldwide, more than 45,000 square miles of arable land turn to desert each year. If this rate of destruction were to continue, two thirds of the planet's landmass would be desert by the end of this century: most of Africa, Australia, Central Asia and the western United States.

How bad is desertification, really? Will it affect you? And can it be reversed?

## **Soil Degradation**

Desertification may be the greatest environmental threat facing humanity. One study conducted by the Economics of Land Degradation, backed by the United Nations, found that expanding deserts could drive 50 million people from their

homes within a decade. It could also reduce global food production by 12 percent over 25 years, resulting in higher prices, malnutrition or starvation.

To stave off this crisis, UN officials have called on governments to tax meat and milk consumption in an attempt to reduce methane emissions from cattle and other livestock. Their argument is that methane from cattle flatulence is insulating the planet to an unnatural extent, altering weather patterns and causing deserts to spread. According to Prof. Edgar Hertwich, the lead author of a UN report on resource management, a global shift toward a vegan diet is vital to save the world from hunger and poverty.

While the threat of spreading deserts is real, this UN plan to halt desertification is dangerously flawed.

Methane emissions do not create deserts. Actually, increased levels of greenhouse gases have helped boost green foliage in some of the world's most arid regions.

So what causes deserts?

In temperate and subtropical climates with a rainy season and a dry season, vegetation is necessary to hold moisture in the soil between the rains. But for this kind of vegetation to thrive, it needs a healthy soil containing decomposed plant and animal matter.



This organic matter is called humus. Once the humus content of the soil falls below a certain threshold (3.5 percent in most temperate climates), both the nutrient storage capacity and the water storage capacity of the soil decline. This reduces the ability of plants to survive a long dry season. Once humus content drops below 1 percent, traditional farming is no longer possible.

This is exactly what happened in Sianyanga, Zimbabwe, during the latter half of the 20th century.

For years, the villagers cut down shade trees for firewood. They burned down natural grasses for cropland and herded their cattle into much smaller grazing areas (paddocks) where they remained day after day. They grew corn on the same plots of land. What they did not realize is that the humus content of the soil was depleting. Fields that formerly yielded 2,000 pounds per acre barely produced 100 pounds per acre. Meanwhile, cattle paddocks were overgrazed to the point where the soil dried up from direct exposure to the sun. A once fertile ecosystem became an expanse of dry dust, only able to support colonies of stinging ants.

### Ecosystem Management

Deserts spread through soil degradation caused by mismanagement like deforestation, overgrazing and crop monocultures. Scientists estimate that Earth's soil has lost 25 to 75 percent of its original humus content since the dawn of human agriculture. While the drylands of Africa and Central Asia are the regions hardest hit, the most intensively used agricultural soils of Europe and North America have also been depleted.

Many farms in the U.S. have humus values below 2 percent. They are able to sustain high crop yields only by using chemical fertilizers and intensive

irrigation. But such industrial farming techniques work only for so long. Once the soil's humus content falls below 1 percent, even chemical fertilizers start losing their effect.

The only way to reverse soil degradation is to stop destroying humus and start *creating* it. While UN scientists might find this fact ironic, the best way to create humus involves herds of

increase the humus content of arid soil. Under Savory's Holistic Management Plan, domesticated livestock are used to fulfill the role that wild herds formerly performed.

Cattle nibble down grasses in a way that promotes growth. Their hooves trample dead plant matter into the soil to be decomposed by microorganisms. They add organic matter to the soil in the form of manure. Because the herds are moved regularly, continual grazing doesn't damage the plant cover to the point the soil is overexposed.

When the villagers of Sianyanga reached out to Savory's Africa Center for Holistic Management in 2006, the first thing the staff recommended was pooling the village cattle into a single herd. The animals were herded through all the paddocks, never spending more than a few days in any one place, but spending each night in an enclosure to keep them safe from predators. They would return to that enclosure each night for a week or two, then the enclosure

would be moved. The animals would aerate and fertilize the soil in the enclosure so effectively that the enclosure also became a tool they could use to prepare an entire crop field. This usually required several moves of the enclosure to cover the whole field. The grazing areas surrounding the fields also benefited from the herd, and grass was able to grow again. This system was designed to mimic the natural effects a herd of cape buffalo would have on the land.

After seven years of these techniques, the land surrounding Sianyanga started to become fertile again. Most of the ants have left, and the riverbank is covered with grass. Water has even started flowing in the riverbed for part of the year. The revived landscape has attracted wild animals back to the area, and the crop yield of the village fields has tripled.



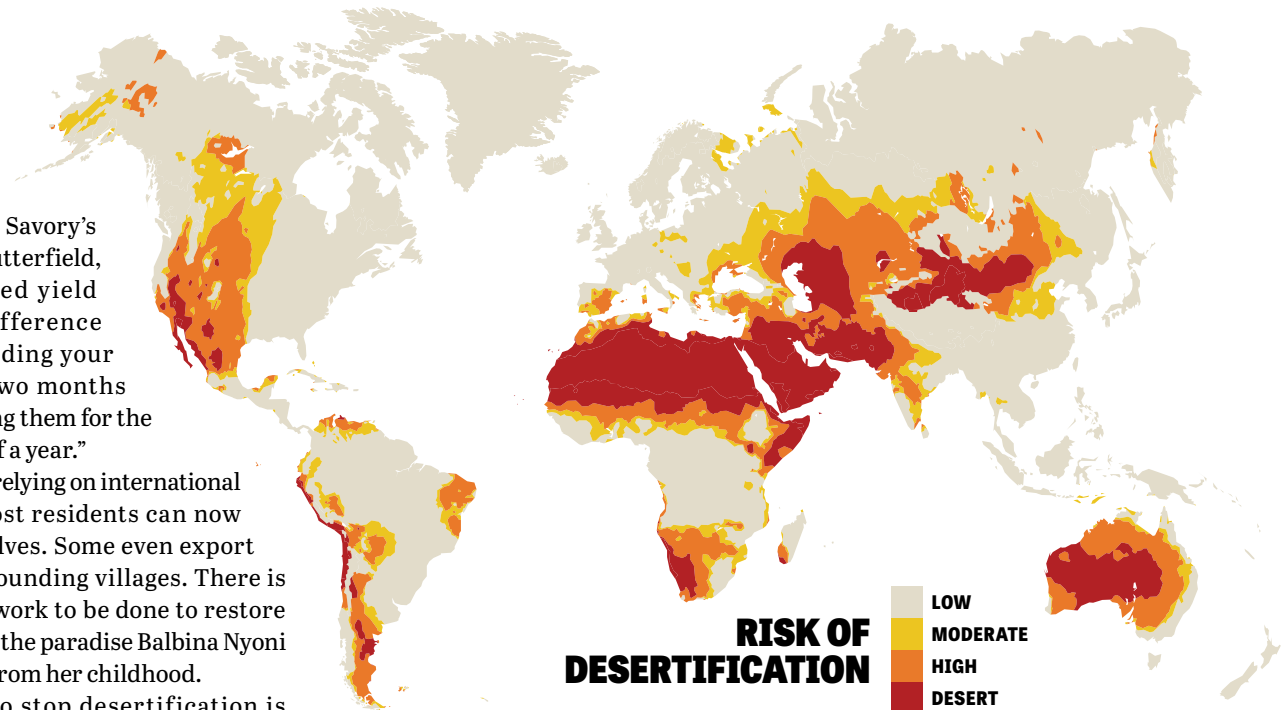
**CATTLE-TREATED CORNFIELD** This photo shows a crop field in Sianyanga, Zimbabwe, at the boundary where Allan Savory's Africa Center for Holistic Management kept a herd of grazing cattle in an enclosure for seven nights. The soil on the left was left untreated, while the soil on the right has been enriched by manure.

methane-producing cattle.

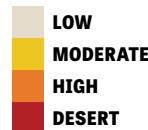
In the 1950s, wildlife biologist Allan Savory observed parkland in Northern Rhodesia where roving herds of grazing animals were blocked from entering. A strange thing happened: The soil began deteriorating.

Savory concluded that the plant life of an ecosystem is just as dependent on the animal life as the animal life is on the plant life. Desertification did not occur in healthy ecosystems where herds of antelope, buffalo, gazelles, wildebeest and zebra grazed on the grass. This was because the hooves of the animals aerated the soil, and their manure fertilized the land. But when the animals were killed or driven away, the soil degraded and the land turned to dust and sand.

Over several decades, Savory developed a set of principles designed to



## RISK OF DESERTIFICATION



According to Savory's wife, Jody Butterfield, the increased yield was "the difference between feeding your family for two months versus feeding them for the better part of a year."

Instead of relying on international food aid, most residents can now feed themselves. Some even export food to surrounding villages. There is still a lot of work to be done to restore Sianyanga to the paradise Balbina Nyoni remembers from her childhood.

The way to stop desertification is to stop degrading the soil, such as with crop monocultures. Animals and plants need to be raised together on bio-integrated farmsteads that keep soil ecosystems healthy.

"There is only one option, I'll repeat to you, only one option left to climatologists and scientists, and that is to do the unthinkable, and to use livestock, bunched and moving, as a proxy for former herds and predators, and mimic nature," Savory stated during a TED Talk in 2013. "There is no other alternative left to mankind."

### Land Sabbath

What biologists like Allan Savory likely do not realize is that many of the ecologically sustainable principles they espouse were revealed to the ancient Israelites at Mount Sinai some 3,500 years ago.

One Old Testament law that critics mock is the *land sabbath*. God commands people to let their land rest every seven years from crop production. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the Lord. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the Lord: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard" (Leviticus 25:2-4).

During the land sabbath, no crops can be sown or sold. Nothing can be harvested except what people pick from their personal gardens for their own consumption. Grain stored during the previous six years can still be sold, but the land sabbath severely discriminates against landowners who rely solely on crops for their income. This is a major reason God instituted this law. Growing crops is good—but if not controlled, it becomes a lethal weapon against the soil.

"[T]he land sabbath uses the sheer power of economics to encourage farmers to adopt a diversified program; based on livestock and the production of meat, milk, eggs, wool, etc," reported the December 1971 issue of the *Your Living Environment* series, produced by the agriculture department of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England. "It encourages grassland farming (the feeding and fattening of livestock on grass), rather than excessive dependence on cereal grains as animal feed. It discourages an excessive dependence on crops that require annual sowing and harvesting. And it encourages small vegetable gardens, diversified and intensively managed. Interestingly enough, by encouraging just such a program, God induces farmers to adopt the ideal fertility-building methods."

Instead of robbing the soil of nutrients until the land turns to desert,

God's agricultural laws ensure that the soil is rejuvenated at least once every seven years by the microbe-rich manure of grazing herds. There is a reason God promised the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey. Where there is milk, there are cattle. Where there is honey, there are bees. Both cattle and bees are vital to a healthy ecosystem with enriched soil and vibrant plant life.

God molded the first human being out of humus and gave his family stewardship over the planet. He provided mankind with instructions on how to sustain the environment, including these two principles: "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to *dress it and to keep it*" (Genesis 2:15). Yet tragically, mankind as a whole has selfishly depleted the soil and failed to take care of the planet entrusted to them.

The Bible tells us that a time is soon coming when "the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). But first, mankind must learn to stop robbing the soil, and instead start regularly rejuvenating the soil so that a healthy and proactive ecosystem can be sustained indefinitely!

**Request your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.***





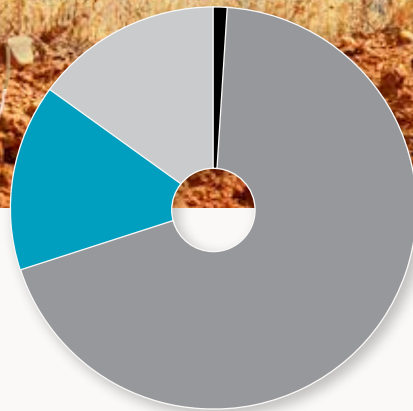
# GROUND SUPPORT

Healthy soils are vital to feeding the world. One pound of soil contains over 60,000 pounds of living microbes and over 60,000 species of plants, and it is vital to sustaining life on Earth. However, soil health is being lost through unsustainable agricultural practices.



## OLD WRONG WAY

Under the slash-and-burn agriculture system, native plants are cut down and burned up to create bare fields and feedlots. Crops like corn, oats, sorghum and wheat are grown until the organic matter in the soil is depleted. This causes both the water-storage capacity and the nutrient-storage capacity of the soil to decline. Once the amount of organic matter in the soil falls below a certain threshold, crops no longer grow. People are forced to migrate to another area, leaving a desert behind.



### SOIL PROFILE

**1% organic matter**  
**69% mineral particles**  
**15% water**  
**15% entrapped air**

“Disease is the punishment meted out by Mother Earth [God] for adopting methods of agriculture which are not in accordance with nature’s [God’s] law of return. ... Most of this disease can be traced to an impoverished soil.”

SOIL AND HEALTH, BY SIR ALBERT HOWARD



## NEW WRONG WAY

Under the industrial agriculture system, native plants are still removed to create bare fields and feedlots. The amount of organic matter in the soil is still depleted by frequent tillage, soil compaction, crop monocultures and biomass burning. But farmers use industrially produced chemical fertilizers and irrigation systems to keep crop yields high. This type of agriculture takes a heavy toll on the human body, as foods grown using chemical fertilizers contain toxic residues.

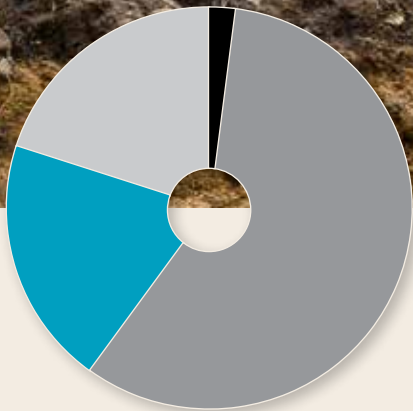
“The using up of soil fertility is as transfer of wealth to enrich a dishonest present: It is banditry, particularly mean form of banditry because it is done for generations which are not here to defend it.”



World's 7.4 billion people. It is estimated that an acre of healthy soil contains over 1,500,000 pounds of decaying organic matter. This organic content is called humus, and it is the lifeblood of the soil. Man-made deserts attest to the fact that mankind has depleted the soil's humus content. Such practices rob future generations of the means to feed themselves.

“Soil fertility is both a biophysical property and a social property—it is a social property because humankind depends heavily on it for food production.”

BOB SCHOLLES, COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH



**SOIL PROFILE**

**2% organic matter**  
**58% mineral particles**  
**20% water**  
**20% entrapped air**

of past capital and of future possibilities are very pure and simple. Moreover, it is a system that involves the robbing of future generations of themselves.” **SIR ALBERT HOWARD**



# GOD'S RIGHT WAY



**SOIL PROFILE**

**10% organic matter**  
**40% mineral particles**  
**25% water**  
**25% entrapped air**

Under God's agriculture system, farmers return organic matter to the soil. The most important way they do this is by allowing their livestock to fertilize the land with their manure once every seven years (Leviticus 25:1-7). Under good rainfall conditions, a herd of cattle can recycle the bulk of plant nutrients grown on a particular pasture seven times in a year. A properly managed farmstead, which includes grazing animals as part of its crop rotation, can actually increase the amount of organic matter in the soil. A healthy and proactive ecosystem can be sustained indefinitely!

“Ultimately, the only wealth that can sustain any community, economy or nation is derived from the photosynthetic process—green plants growing on regenerating soil.”

**ALLAN SAVORY**



that the traditional approach of medication and suppressing the voices wasn't working. They decided to stop treating voice-hearing as a mental illness and to begin speaking about it openly.

They went on a national television talk show to openly discuss with the world the things Patsy was experiencing. Hundreds of people responded to the program admitting that they heard voices but had managed to live with them without the help of psychiatry.

This is when the Hearing Voices Movement began. Angela Woods wrote that “the world’s first hearing voices congress was held in Holland later that year [1987], and from there an international voice-hearing movement spread first to the UK, which now has a network of over 180 hearing voices groups, and then to Europe, Australia, America and beyond.”

The Hearing Voices Movement is a loose network of locally organized groups with the goal of helping hearers cope with the voices in their heads.

“The groups encourage an approach in which, with the help of a facilitator or counselor, hearers listen to, speak back to, and negotiate with the message they hear in hopes of learning to cope,” Frankel wrote. The *New York Times* reported that these types of groups “have tripled in number over the past several years, to more than 80 groups in 21 states.”

### Who Is Really in Control?

Psychiatrists admit they do not know very much about the science behind voices. For the intellectual community, it is hard to decipher the physical cause of what appears to be a spiritual problem. In his article, Frankel quotes from an anthropologist named Tanya Luhrmann. When asked about voice hearing and its relationship to mental health, Luhrmann responded, “There’s so much we don’t understand.”

Encouraging people to embrace those voices and then trying to normalize that behavior, however, is the most dangerous approach yet.

The mystifying source of these voices becomes clear and simple, however, if you believe the Bible and understand that there is a spirit world.

“Do evil spirits affect even your own life?” Herbert W. Armstrong asked in his book *Mystery of the Ages*. “It is a

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## Encouraging people to embrace those voices and then trying to normalize that behavior is the most dangerous approach yet.

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mystery to almost everybody, but the Bible reveals a very real but invisible world—another dimension, as some choose to call it—existing along with our own, absolutely indiscernible to our five senses. It is the spirit world,” he wrote.

The Bible describes a “god of this world” who is also “the prince of the power of the air.” This being also “deceiveth the whole world”: It is Satan the devil. The Bible says that Christians “wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). It also says specifically that Satan and the demons have been cast down to Earth.

The Bible also reveals how to respond to this evil spirit world. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Ephesians 5:11 says, “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Revised Standard Version). This is the opposite of what doctors are advising people to do.

Scientists who reject the existence of the spirit world will say the Bible is nonfactual and invalid. Yet at the same time they offer no explanation for why people hear voices. If they worked from a foundation that acknowledged the spirit world, they would be able to understand why so many people are hearing voices—and even why these numbers have increased since the mid-1980s. They would understand that encouraging people to entertain voices is the most dangerous prescription they can give! It is extraordinarily dangerous for society to try to normalize this sort of behavior.

Even many Christians doubt there is a real, literal devil or real, literal demons. Yet Jesus Christ encountered Satan (Matthew 4) and demons many times and warned about their evil

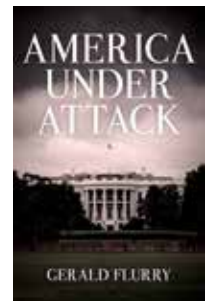
influences (e.g. Mark 1:23-27; Matthew 8:28-34; 17:18; 12:43-45).

The spirit realm is real, and human beings are definitely influenced by it. It is responsible for more of the troubles in this world than people think.

Under the influence of Satan the devil, society wants to normalize behavior that directly contradicts what God teaches in the Holy Bible. But just keep watching, because the more people embrace this sort of behavior the crazier this world is going to get. The academics are just as confused about how to solve the problem as the people going to them looking for answers. But it doesn’t have to be a mystery. You can understand why this is happening. You can understand who is involved and how they’re involved. And that will lead you to the real solution. ■

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**Request your copy of *Mystery of the Ages* and read Chapter 2, “Mystery of Angels and Evil Spirits,” to understand the real source of the voices people hear. To understand why society began, in 1987, to be more accepting of those who hear voices, request Gerald Flurry’s booklet *America Under Attack*.**





# JUST A BIBLE STORY?

# The Great Flood



Is this classic account limited only to Genesis?  
BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES

**T**HE GREAT FLOOD IS ONE OF THE most well-known accounts in the Bible. It has been the subject of everything from Bible classes to nighttime stories to immense research and heated debate. It has stirred numerous expeditions to find the ark. Some consider the Flood a historically accurate event. Many others consider it a fable that has been perpetuated for millennia.

Yet perhaps not so many realize that the story of the great Flood is not limited to the Bible.

Taking the Bible literally means believing that the great Flood was not a regional event. It means believing that the floodwater covered the *entire* Earth. “And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy *all flesh*, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and *every thing that is in the earth shall die*. ... [E]very living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth” (Genesis 6:17; 7:4). Aside from Noah, his family, the animals inside the ark and any aquatic animals surviving

the floodwaters, this was a worldwide destruction that wiped out *everything* “under heaven.”

“And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and *all the high hills*, that were under the *whole heaven*, were covered. ... [T]he mountains were covered ... and Noah *only* remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark” (verses 19-20, 23). This was a globe-covering catastrophe.

If such a worldwide event occurred affecting *all* human life, it should be expected that ensuing generations would all have their own memories, records and legends of this epochal event.

Remarkably, this is exactly what we find, *all around the world*.

## The Epic of Gilgamesh

Various descriptions of a great, cataclysmic ancient flood are common throughout the nations. These common ideas point to a common *root event*. The account of the Flood is not just found among the Israelites, who came on the scene some 700 years after the floodwaters receded. Examining the accounts

of other sources from other cultures tells us a lot about the reliability of the biblical record.

Probably the most famous extra-biblical Flood account is *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. It is engraved on a series of tablets from the ancient city of Nineveh. The most complete tablets date to around 650 B.C., but these are known to be copies from more ancient tablets (parts of which have been found), dating to around 2000 B.C. In turn, these 4,000-year-old tablets are *themselves* thought to have been sourced from even older material. Chronologically, this puts the Sumerian account quite close to the time of the Flood that the Bible indicates.

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* describes a Noah-like figure named Utnapishtim. According to the epic, Utnapishtim built a boat within which he, his relatives, and all species of animals survived a flood that destroyed all mankind. As in the Bible, *Gilgamesh* states that the reason for the flood was human wickedness. Like the biblical account, the large boat came to rest on a mountain.



describing the boat as perfectly round in shape), yet the commonality with the Bible in other details is remarkable.

The Greek myth of Deucalion states that after human beings were created, they disobeyed the gods. It was decided that they should be destroyed. The righteous Deucalion and his wife were spared in an ark from the flood that destroyed mankind. Deucalion's ark landed on a mountain, and after surviving the flood, he offered sacrifices. Interestingly, Deucalion's great-grandson was Ion. Ion compares to Noah's grandson Javan, whose name is actually spelled with the Hebrew letters I/E, O, N.

The ancient Chinese told many myths about floods, some describing the waters as "reaching heaven." In some of these legends, the main character is a female named Nüwa (a name strikingly similar to Noah). She repopulates the Earth and repairs the broken heavens. In imagery invoking the rainbow of Genesis, Nüwa patches the damaged sky by smelting stones of five colors.

Then there's the Hindu tale of Manu, who is warned about a flood and builds a boat to contain the seeds of life with which to repopulate the Earth. His boat, tugged by a fish, comes to rest on a mountaintop, and Manu offers a sacrifice.

You can read further of Irish and Welsh flood myths, Finnish and Norse flood-deluge myths, numerous African

anthropologists and ethnologists.

"While the differences are not always trivial," he wrote, "the common essence of the stories is instructive, as compiled below":

- Is there a favored family? **88%**
- Were they forewarned? **66%**
- Is flood due to wickedness of man? **66%**
- Is catastrophe only a flood? **95%**
- Was flood global? **95%**
- Is survival due to a boat? **70%**
- Were animals also saved? **67%**
- Did animals play any part? **73%**
- Did survivors land on a mountain? **57%**
- Was the geography local? **82%**
- Were birds sent out? **35%**
- Was the rainbow mentioned? **7%**
- Did survivors offer a sacrifice? **13%**
- Were specifically eight persons saved? **9%**

Morris concluded, "The only credible way to understand the widespread, similar flood legends is to recognize that all people living today, even though separated geographically, linguistically, and culturally, have descended from the few real people who survived a real global flood, on a real boat which eventually landed on a real mountain. Their descendants now fill the globe, never to forget the real event."

The deduction is straightforward and sound. A common idea points to a common experience. And the story of a great Flood must be one of the most common in human history.

Both accounts describe birds being released to test whether the water had sufficiently subsided. In fact, both accounts describe the use of the same bird *species*, the dove and the raven. Both accounts record that sacrifices were offered after the Flood, and both records say that the men (Utnapishtim, Noah), were afterward blessed.

*Gilgamesh* differs from the biblical account in a number of ways, but the similarities as described above are too striking to overlook.

### Ark Tablet and Other Stories

Another ancient account of a great Flood is the Babylonian Ark Tablet. This dates to around 1900–1700 B.C. The god described on this tablet instructed Atra-hasis to build a boat for himself and the animals to survive an imminent flood. It also specifically states that the animals entered the boat *two by two*. The Bible records the identical fact: The animals boarded in pairs (Genesis 7:2, 8-9).

The Ark Tablet also differs from the biblical narrative (for instance,

**If such a worldwide event occurred affecting all human life, it should be expected that ensuing generations would all have their own memories, records and legends of this epochal event.**

flood myths, Pacific flood myths and ancient American flood myths.

This begs the question: How did all of these completely different peoples, all over the globe, get the *same* general—and sometimes very specific—ideas?

### A Common Experience

In an article titled "Why Does Nearly Every Culture Have a Tradition of a Global Flood?", John Morris, Ph.D., described his collection and analysis of more than 200 accounts of floods, originally reported by missionaries,

Many scoff at the biblical story of a great Flood. Yet its account has been preserved by *so many* ancient civilizations right around the Earth. Dismissal of this event out of hand would be either naive or intellectually dishonest. What must have happened to trigger the recording of such stories? Perhaps a great worldwide flood *really did* happen—one that would have thus left a significant historical and cultural mark afterward, not just on the Israelites, but on *all* mankind. And if the Bible is right about the great Flood, what else is it right about? ■

SEEKING PEACE? **Palestinian Authority President Abbas and Chancellor Merkel give a joint press conference in Berlin.**



## Germany—new Mideast peacemaker?

**T**he Palestinians have a backup plan if they don't like United States President Donald Trump's efforts to negotiate peace. Just like much of the rest of the world, they have a backup leader of the free world to fall back on: Germany.

An unnamed "senior Palestinian minister close to President Mahmoud Abbas" told *Al-Monitor* that they were willing to work with Mr. Trump, according to a June 18 article. "But should Trump disappoint, like others in the international community," he said, "we have decided to opt for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in conjunction with French

President Emmanuel Macron, to take the lead in preventing a deadlock in the peace process."

This official reportedly said that the Palestinian Authority already has close contact with German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and that Chancellor Merkel is now equipped to actively and independently assert German influence in Israel and the broader Mideast.

*Al-Monitor* paraphrased the official as saying that Germany wants to be part of "a Western-Arab coalition against terrorism, to uphold the Iran deal and to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process based on a two-state solution."

## French election could transform EU

**F**rench President Emmanuel Macron came from nowhere to win 360 out of the 577 seats in the national legislature after a two-stage election held on June 11 and 18.

Macron founded his *La République en Marche* (Republic Onward) party just last year. Now he is president and his party holds one of the largest majorities in France's history. A brand-new party coming from nowhere doing so well shows that voters are radically

dissatisfied with France's traditional parties and with the entire political system.

Macron's victory also made another dubious record: For the first time in modern French history, turnout at a legislative election fell below 50 percent in both rounds of voting.

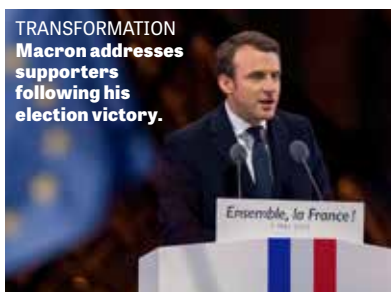
Macron wants to strengthen the eurozone, giving it its own finance minister and parliament, as well as shared debt and a banking union with shared

Ever since German reunification in 1990, the *Trumpet* has forecast that Germany will form an alliance with a group of Middle Eastern countries. The outlines of this alliance can already be seen in Germany's pattern of arms dealings with predominantly Sunni powers. It's only a few steps away from a formal "Western-Arab coalition."

*Al-Monitor* said Germany is planning "an 'EU Marshall Plan' for Israel and the Palestinian Authority in close cooperation with the Arab League."

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in December 1996: "Europe is moving not only to be a cosponsor in the peace process—they want to gain control of it!" Further back still in July 1971, the *Trumpet*'s parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, referred to "new calls for Europe to assume a greater role in the Middle East, including the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli confrontation."

Bible prophecy is the source for this analysis. It warns that Germany is a counterfeit peacemaker that will betray Israel's trust. The same prophecies that describe a "Western-Arab coalition" also state that this coalition will turn against the State of Israel and its allies. ■



deposit insurance. However, this plan needs German support because it requires German taxes to subsidize other members of the eurozone. At the very least, it gives other eurozone countries some access to the German credit card.



## Europe hit by bank failures

**S**pain's sixth-largest bank, Banco Popular, was bought by Santander Group on June 7 at a cost of just €1. The bank had run out of money, and bond holders had lost €3.3 billion before the Santander rescue. Then, on June 25, Italy bailed out two of its troubled banks, in its biggest ever bank rescue. The nation set aside €17 billion, the equivalent of its entire annual defense budget, to rescue Banca Popolare di Vicenza and Veneto Banca.

The bailout pushes Italy's debt up to 133 percent of gross domestic product, at a time when the nation needs to be reducing its debt burden.

The bailouts demonstrate that Europe's financial problems aren't fixed, and that there is still plenty of room for trouble in the bloc's economic system. ■

France's economy has major problems. Every time France has pushed for eurozone shake-up, Germany has refused to budge until France gets its own house in order. It doesn't want to be stuck bailing out a dysfunctional French economy.

Macron aims to use his majority to push through changes in France that Germany has been demanding for years, confronting France's restrictive labor laws. France's trade unions will protest, but with his majority, Macron can probably make these changes. Then he will turn to Germany. ■



## Sunni states cut off relations with Qatar

**S**audi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5. The four Sunni states also blockaded land, sea and air traffic with Qatar, which is the world's top producer of liquefied gas.

These nations presented a list of 13 demands to Qatar and threatened to expel the country from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a union that Qatar cofounded 36 years ago.

Qatar is accused of meddling in its neighbors political affairs, funding terror and supporting terrorism-sponsoring Iran.

Qatar relies on the Gulf Arab states for 80 percent of its food. This severing of ties is intended to

hurt Qatar and pry the nation out of Iran's grip. But it could have some unintended consequences.

With Qatar losing support from these other nations, Iran is poised to increase diplomatic and trade relations with Qatar. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official told *Al-Monitor* that Iran has "enjoyed good relations with Qatar from before. ... [Iranian President Hassan Rouhani] assured the Qatari emir that he could count on Iran for foodstuff and using Iran's airspace for Qatari planes" (July 3).

*Al-Monitor* wrote on July 3 that Saudi Arabia and its allies calculated that the United States would unreservedly support their isolation of pro-Iranian



Qatar. But the matter isn't so simple, from an American standpoint. Qatar is host to Al Udeid Air Base, America's largest air base in the Middle East and home to its biggest concentration of military personnel there. On June 9, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urged Saudi Arabia and its allies to ease its blockade

on Qatar. Five days later, the U.S. signed a \$12 billion weapons deal with Qatar.

The Saudi-led effort to punish Qatar and, by extension, undermine Iran, might fail spectacularly and weaken a union that has striven to counter Iran's regional belligerence and hegemony. ■

## Iran operating large-scale missile production

**I**ran's largest opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), recently revealed more evidence of Iran's march toward nuclear weaponry.

In its June 20 report, the NCRI identified 42 independent missile centers involved in the production, testing and launching of missiles. More than half of these are storage facilities, missile launch pads and training centers for deployment brigades. Fifteen of the sites are missile manufacturing plants with multiple weapons factories.

"The regime has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to build each one of the centers underground and inside mountains, which sheds light on the magnitude of the resources allocated to its missile program overall," the report noted.

The NCRI revealed more evidence of Iran receiving help from North Korea, a regime that deceived the world about

its own nuclear weapons program until it detonated its first nuclear test in 2006.

Iran's missile centers are strategically spread across the nation in a way that "clearly reveals [Tehran's] missile objectives towards western and southern borders," the NCRI reported. Launch centers in the south are well within range of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman—two of the region's most crucial waterways. Tehran has threatened these shipping lanes.

The NCRI says the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, often called the "nuclear deal," did not slow Iran's push for nuclear weapons: It accelerated it. That is just what *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry forecast, with the aid of Bible prophecy, in his October 2016 article "America's Deadly Nuclear Deal With Iran" ([theTrumpet.com/14179](http://theTrumpet.com/14179)). ■



## Israel threatened from the north and east

**O**n June 26, 27 and 28, Syrian government forces fired mortars that struck in Israeli territory in the Golan Heights. Israel Defense Forces immediately closed off the area to traffic and fired back at Syrian forces.

Syria claimed the mortars were errant fire, but the quick succession of explosions indicate otherwise. Analysts say this development is an indication that Iran, via its proxies, is changing tactics and using Syria to increase its military pressure on Israel.

Hezbollah is Iran's terrorist proxy in Lebanon. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said during a Quds (Jerusalem) Day celebration on June 23: "The Israeli enemy must know that if an Israeli war is launched against Syria or Lebanon, it is not known that the fighting will remain Lebanese-Israeli or Syrian-Israeli. ... [T]his could open the way for thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of fighters from all over the Arab



and Islamic world to participate."

Iran has over 100,000 battle-tested ground troops in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon who answer directly to Qassem Suleimani, its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force leader. One Hezbollah officer told *Newsweek*: "Since we went into Syria, we became much stronger." He added, "What was Hezbollah before? We were defenders. Now, we've learned how to attack offensively" (July 3).

When the Islamic State is defeated, Iran's Shiite warriors will be free to attack Israel from the north and the east.

These developments might presage terrible violence in Jerusalem. This violence is prophesied in Zechariah 14. ■



COOPERATION  
**Putin and Xi are  
 strengthening ties  
 between their nations.**

## Russia and China plan military events, cooperation

**R**ussia and China announced on June 7 that they will hold “enormous” and “important” joint military activities from 2017 to 2020.

“This year, we plan to hold very large, enormous, important events,” Chinese National Defense Minister Chang Wanquan said to Interfax during a meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, with his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu.

Shoigu said, “Our experts have prepared a road map for development in the military sphere between Russia and China in the years 2017 to 2020.”

Chang spoke of the personal role that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have both played in boosting military cooperation between the two countries.

“In recent years, under the personal guidance of our heads of state, the level of cooperation and trust between the armed forces of China and Russia have continuously increased,” he said, adding that the “scope of our cooperation is constantly expanding, and the trend of developing military

cooperation has maintained a good trajectory.”

Shoigu attempted to frame the military cooperation as a defensive necessity that positions Putin and Xi as the guardians of the planet. “It is important that Russia and China are ready to defend the world with mutual efforts and strengthen international security,” he said.

Alexander Korolev, research fellow at the Center on Asia and Globalization, said that since the Cold War’s end 25 years ago, Moscow and Beijing have “progressed from a relationship of ‘good-neighborliness’ to ‘constructive cooperation,’ and then to ‘comprehensive strategic partnership,’ and further on to ‘comprehensive strategic partnership and coordination.’”

So much groundwork is now laid in the Russo-Chinese partnership, particularly in the realm of military cooperation, that if Moscow and Beijing decide to boost it to the next level—a formal alliance—they will need to take only minor steps. See the prophetic significance in our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

## Why is Russia buying so much gold?

**S**ince May 1, the Central Bank of Russia has added 700,000 troy ounces to its national gold reserve, pushing Russia’s total gold holdings up to 1,707 tons. This is a 56 percent increase over its holdings in 2000, when Vladimir Putin came to power, and gives Russia the seventh-largest gold hoard on the planet.

Russia is among the nations stockpiling gold in an effort to reduce their economic dependency on the United States dollar. “According to our estimates, there will be a downward trend in the dollar exchange rate in the next 15 years,” financial expert Philip Klinkmüller told Sputnik Germany. “In the long run, it cannot be guaranteed that the dollar will remain a global reserve currency” (June 9).

While Sputnik News is a state-media outlet known for spreading propaganda, it cannot

be denied that Russia, China and Germany are increasing their gold reserves. Since 2000, China has increased its own hoard by 74 percent, and Germany has brought 300 tons of gold formerly stored in the vaults of the U.S. Federal Reserve back to the German Central Bank in Frankfurt.

While the U.S. allegedly has the largest gold reserves, when you divide America’s M2 Money Supply by the market value of its gold reserves, you find it holds only 2.2 percent of its money supply in gold. Meanwhile, China holds 2.8 percent, Germany holds 3.9 percent, and Russia is swiftly approaching 10 percent holdings.

If the world plunges into a second Great Depression, Americans could wake up and see the dollar dislodged from its position of global primacy by currencies backed by more than paper.

## India enters SCO, boosts Russia’s power

**T**he Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held its 17th summit on June 8-9 and added two notable nations to its membership: India and Pakistan.

Analysts have viewed this Eurasian political, economic and security bloc as an organization dominated by China, with Russia in a second-tier leadership position. But bringing India in is expected to boost Russia’s power in the group.

For decades, India and Russia have cooperated on a range of issues, including combating terrorism and increasing bilateral trade. Russia is India’s primary military partner and its top arms supplier. Now that India is an SCO member, Russia and India can overcome the largest hindrance to their



ADDITION **Putin  
 welcomes Modi  
 to the SCO.**

bilateral commerce: a shortage of connectivity. The two are expected to prioritize development of the International North-South Transport Corridor.

The India-China relationship is strained, hindered by border disputes and differences over China’s Belt and Road initiative.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified Russia, not China, as the main power that will lead an end-time power bloc of Asian nations. The SCO could be a tool Russia uses to leverage the power of this group.



## Transgenderism now law in Canada

**T**he Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed a law on June 1 that cements transgenderism into the province's culture. The Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017 repeals and replaces the former Child and Family Services Act that governs adoption, foster care and child protection services.

The new law requires social workers to evaluate "gender identity" and "gender expression" as two new categories when determining the best interests of a child. Parents who try to dissuade a child from transgenderism are now at risk of having their children taken away if a social worker deems that it is "abusive" to the child. The new law also removes the parents' religion as a factor to be considered. Only the *child's* interests are to be considered.

"The matters to be considered in determining the best interests of a child are changed," the law states. "The child's views and wishes, given

due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity ... must be taken into consideration .... [T]he current act includes the religious faith in which the child is being raised [as a factor to be considered] while the new act includes the child's race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, citizenship, family diversity, disability, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression."

Ontario Minister of Child and Youth Services Michael Coteau, who introduced the bill, told QP Briefing that he sees even questioning a teenager's self-identification as transgender as abuse.

"I would consider that a form of abuse, when a child identifies one way and a caregiver is saying no, you need to do this differently," he said. "If it's abuse, and if it's within the definition, a child can be removed from that environment and placed into protection where the abuse stops." ■

## Most Americans believe in human evolution

**T**he percentage of American adults who believe that God created mankind in His own image has fallen to a record low. A May 22 Gallup poll found that only 38 percent of adults now accept that God created humans in their present form at some point within the past 10,000 years. For the first time since Gallup began tracking this trend in 1982, the belief that God directly created humans is no longer the most common belief.

Among U.S. adults, 38 percent believe God guided the process of human evolution over millions of years, while 19 percent believe God had no role in man's development from less advanced life forms. That is a total of 57 percent who believe in human evolution from less advanced life forms.

This belief in human evolution is most stark among millennials. According to a Pew Research Center poll two years ago, 25 percent of Americans between ages 18 and 29 believe that God guided the process of human evolution, while 51 percent—a majority—believe God had no role in man's development. ■



## Australia's household debt crisis

**A**ustralians are burdened by a crippling amount of household debt. Total household debt reached a whopping AUD2 trillion in 2016, according to the Reserve Bank of Australia. This is an average of AUD250,000 (US\$190,000) per household.

Since the country's gross domestic product in 2016 was just AUD1.6 trillion, Australia comes in third for the embarrassing "highest debt-to-GDP ratio in the world" award. Only Switzerland and Denmark have greater problems with household debt.

Australia comes in first for the highest debt-to-income ratio among developed nations, with a record 190 percent. At

the peak of America's housing bubble, which popped catastrophically in 2008, Americans' debt-to-income ratio was 130 percent.

Australia is addicted to debt. The staggering weight is carried primarily by investors and owner-occupiers, but their knees are starting to buckle. ■





Those children aren't just in far-off El Salvador or South Sudan. They are in *your town*. Last year while traveling by plane, I sat next to a woman who worked in a mental health facility in Oklahoma City. She told me that this place serves children as young as 6 years old. They have been terribly abused, to the point where some of them now hear voices telling them to *kill their parents!* Such tragedies are unfolding within a couple miles of my home in peaceful, rural Oklahoma. What is happening *right now* in your neighborhood?

“For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight” (verses 12-14). God is *passionate* about establishing perfect justice.

### The Prayer of the Afflicted

Psalm 102 is titled “A prayer of the afflicted.” You could view it as a prophecy of what people will be saying in the Great Tribulation. “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily” (verses 1-2). Psalms like this offer great hope to those in affliction. Soon, this will be the prayer of the world!

**God is going to rise and have mercy on those who suffer (verse 13). God is putting the unjust leaders of this world on notice (verse 15).**

“When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; To declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are

gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord” (verses 16-22). God speed that day, which will come after the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord.

In 2016, the UN Children’s Fund warned that 25,000 children are suffer-



ing from severe acute malnutrition in North Korea. Severe drought had crippled its agricultural production, and women and children in particular were hit with reduced food rations. This nation is spending massive resources to build intercontinental ballistic mis-



siles and nuclear warheads! Western nations want to punish it by imposing economic sanctions, but North Korea’s leaders are largely impervious to sanctions because *they don’t care* if their people starve around them!

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates around 795 million people suffered from chronic

undernourishment in 2014–2016. The UN Children’s Fund estimates that 156 million children worldwide are affected by stunting—a long, slow process caused by poor nutrition that causes them to have normal body proportions but fail to reach a normal height. Some preschool children in North Korea are fully 5 inches shorter than their peers—even from the same family—in South Korea! In the sub-Saharan region, more than 1 in 4 people are undernourished. Undernutrition causes 3.1 million child deaths every year. In 2011, it accounted for 45 percent of all deaths of children under 5!

**Each one of these children is as precious as your children and mine. These are not extras in a movie—these are real people who are slowly shriveling.**

“Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness” (Psalm 107:5-9). This has a spiritual application as well; God will fill the spiritually hungry in this world. But it is also exciting to think on how He will correct the problems of malnutrition, hunger and starvation.

This world is also about to experience a revolution in health! Good, healthy food will be available for everyone, and *supernatural healing* for those who are sick (verses 17-20). Just consider what Christ did at His first coming: He healed people constantly! “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease* among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and

▲▲ **EFFECTS OF WAR** Jay Thiep, a government soldier in South Sudan, was found unconscious, suffering from severe malnutrition. Thiep was thought to have been hiding without food for roughly three weeks in the bush after a retreat by government soldiers. Civil war raging in Sudan has left many unable to plant crops.

▲ **EARNING A “LIVING”** Karim, age 15, works in a black iron oxide factory in Bangladesh. Every day he works 12 to 14 hours and earns about \$21 per month. The manufacture of black iron oxide is considered one of the most hazardous occupations in Bangladesh.

those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and *he healed them*" (Matthew 4:23-24). God wants to heal the *whole world*.

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end" (Psalm 107:23-27). This world is experiencing all kinds of storms. In 2016, at least 10,000 people were killed in each of the ongoing wars in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Nigeria—55,000 died *just in Syria!* Wars in Mexico, Yemen, Pakistan, Ukraine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt and Libya each killed at least 2,000 people *just last year*. God *longs* to bring peace to these war-torn regions (verses 28-30).

### Releasing the Prisoners

Psalm 107 also describes those suffering in prison: "Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help" (verses 10-12). How many in this world live in captivity because of their own rebellion? How many are sitting in prison because of *other people's sin*?

During World War II, Germany was bombarded by Allied air raids on its industrial complexes, so it began constructing production facilities underground. At one facility, the Dora-Mittelbau Camp, prisoners dug huge tunnels and constructed large underground factories and development facilities for missiles and experimental weapons. Prisoners were kept mostly underground, deprived of daylight and fresh air. The mortality rate was higher than at most other concentration camps. The crematoria were kept busy incinerating the corpses.

In April 1945, the Soviet Army was advancing, and the Nazis began

to evacuate the prisoners from Dora-Mittelbau and send them to the Bergen-Belsen Camp. Thousands were killed during death marches under horrendous conditions. One Jew who survived and made it from Dora-Mittelbau to Bergen-Belsen was Alan Zimm.

"Exactly at 9 o'clock, the gate of the camp, which was two blocks away," Zimm said, "you could see far away, the gate opened up and a jeep with four military police, the English, dressed up in the white belts and the white gloves and the red hats. They sit in the front of the jeep, four of them with machine guns like that. And a truck with loudspeakers behind them, and he said, 'My dear friends,' in every language. In German, in Polish, in Yiddish, you name it. *'From now on you are free. You are liberated by*



**GOD WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED.**

**That time is coming soon!**

*the Allied forces. And the Germans have nothing to do to you anymore. You are free people.'*

"Everybody was crying. It was such an emotional experience. It's hard to describe it. The people were jumping and hugging and kissing. And everybody was running to the jeep. ... [T]hey lifted up the MP on their shoulders and carried him all the way around the block. And still people did not believe. There were a lot of people still afraid" (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum).

"Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron

in sunder" (verses 13-16). What a *wonderful prophecy!* This type of liberation is going to happen on a *global scale!*

Gerda Weissmann Klein was 15 when Nazis invaded her country, conscripted her brother, and moved her and her parents to a ghetto. Her father was taken away forever, dying in Auschwitz. Then she was torn, kicking and screaming, from her mother, who would also die in Auschwitz. She spent years enslaved in concentration camp textile factories. Then she was forced into a 350-mile winter death march that killed about 3,880 out of 4,000 women, including Gerda's best friend, Ilse, who died in her arms.

"All of a sudden I saw a strange car coming down the hill, no longer green, not bearing the swastika, but a white star," she said. "It was sort of a mud-splattered vehicle *but I've never seen a star brighter in my life*. And two men sort of jumped out, came running toward us and one came toward where I stood. ... [H]e spoke to me in German—he said, 'Does anybody here speak German or English?' and I said, 'I speak German.' I felt that I had to tell him we are Jewish ... I was a little afraid to tell him that but I said to him, 'We are Jewish, you know.' He didn't answer me for quite a while. And then

his own voice sort of betrayed his own emotion and he said, 'So am I.' I would say it was the greatest hour of my life."

She said, "He looked to me like a young god. I have to tell you I weighed 68 pounds. My hair was white. And you can imagine, I hadn't had a bath in years." But this man called her a *lady*. He asked her to show him where the other *ladies* were—and said, "Won't you come with me?" "And I said, 'Sure.' He held the door open for me and let me precede him, and in that gesture *restored me to humanity*."

"And that young American of the day," Gerda said, "is my husband" (ibid).

"He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield

supported Croatian attacks against Yugoslavian government personnel. By the 1980s, the BND almost completely controlled the Croatian intelligence services, according to Yugoslavian intelligence chief Antun Duhaček, himself a Croat.

This cooperation with Croats continued even after war broke out.

The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation reached a similar conclusion in its report on the role that intelligence services played in the conflict. It wrote, “The BND is said to have also cooperated closely with Croatian intelligence services, such as the Bureau for National Security (Ured za Nacionalnu Sigurnost), the intelligence service of the Croatian Army (OSHV), the intelligence service of the General Staff of the Croatian Army and the Security Information Service.”

The institute wrote, “The Germans made equipment available” to some of these groups “and arranged training and education.” It added that it is “noteworthy” that these same Croatian organizations worked against the United Nations mission in the region.

“NATO intelligence flowed to the Croats via the [BND], much to the displeasure of NATO members,” it wrote. Despite this, America continued to cooperate closely with the BND. The Americans were “adopting an increasingly unfriendly attitude towards the British,” who “still had a balanced view of the conflict,” according to the Dutch study. Instead they relied on Germany.

Germany worked with other anti-Serbian forces, including Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRGC had deployed to the region in support of Bosnian Muslim forces. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that BND had sold the IRGC advanced German spy technology. German officials denied the story, but confirmed that German intelligence staff had met with then Iranian spy chief Ali Fallahian.

But the BND made much larger contributions to Croats and Bosnians than this.

According to investigative reporting by Germany’s state-owned TV channel,

ARD, the BND infiltrated the EU’s monitoring missions and used them to smuggle in weapons and money.

“In one instance, Christoph von Bezold, head of the German EU monitors in Zagreb, Croatia, was allegedly actually a BND agent and on March 27, 1994, he shipped munitions across enemy lines to the Bosnian Muslim-controlled pocket of Bihać, Bosnia, in boxes supposedly containing powdered milk,” wrote Britain’s *Daily Telegraph*. “Apparently this was just one of many such shipments using EU monitors as cover” (April 20, 1997).



“In addition, Germany appears to be Croatia’s largest arms supplier during the war, although this is in violation of German law prohibiting the shipments of arms to an active war zone and a violation of the UN arms embargo on Yugoslavia as well,” it wrote. “Most of the Croatia military hardware comes from East German supplies rendered obsolete in Germany after East and West Germany merged. Germany even smuggled former East German MiG-21 fighters to Croatia.”

The reporter on one German documentary said the evidence they had uncovered gave “a very good reason indeed” for the criminal prosecution of the leaders of the BND.

Cyrus R. Vance, the United Nations special mediator on the crisis, called the conflict “Genscher’s war” because of the role that then German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher played in starting it. It was a war begun by Germany, and which the BND had prepared for and played a major role in fighting.

Ulrich Schiller, a veteran journalist for Germany’s ARD TV news, as well as *Die Zeit*, concluded that Yugoslavia was destroyed by “the spirit of the old

Nazi-infested Gehlen apparatus, the spirit of old German arms brotherhood with the Ustashi fascists.”

### The Modern BND

The fallout of those revelations earned some angry words and secret closed-door sessions in the German Parliament. But nothing much changed. Instead, the BND has gone on to become involved in a litany of scandals.

The BND spied on German journalists from 1992 to 2005; this news emerged in 2006. The BND followed journalists, paid their colleagues to spy on them, dove through their bins, and more in order to discover the sources of leaks to the press. A German parliamentary report concluded, “These measures were predominantly illegal.”

In the 1994 Plutonium Affair, the BND engineered the smuggling of plutonium on a Lufthansa flight to Munich. Agents ignored all security procedures and had a dangerous radioactive element used in nuclear bombs transported on a commercial flight because they wanted a dramatic headline in time for Bavarian and national elections. Having arranged the transport, the BND easily intercepted the plutonium in Munich, thus creating a splash in the media.

This was very convenient for Germany’s two right-wing Christian Union parties, which were campaigning on a “tough on crime” platform, emphasizing the risk posed by international nuclear trafficking. Sure enough, they won the election. One of their first acts was to expand the BND’s power by giving it a role in fighting organized crime for the first time in its history. The incident also helped Germany to convince Russia to work more closely with it on nuclear trafficking.

Once the truth came out, *Spiegel* accused the BND of “abetting serious crime, endangering human lives, lying to the public, and dangerously gambling with foreign policy” (March 1995).

In 1999, the BND began spying on foreign journalists. It surveilled at least 50 journalists, tapping their phones and intercepting their e-mails. This



included journalists from the BBC, the *New York Times* and Reuters.

Reports have also been trickling in of murky connections between the BND and neo-Nazis. It is yet another unbelievable story, but here it is, in the words of Israel's Ynetnews: "It's April 6, 2006, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Halit Yozgat, a 21-year-old German citizen of Turkish descent, is sitting behind the counter in the small Internet café he recently opened in Kassel, Germany. He is waiting for his father to come and relieve him from work when two shots pierce his head, killing him instantly.

"A few seconds later, Andreas Temme, an undercover agent for the German Federal Intelligence Service, the BND, gets up from one of the computer stations positioned only several meters from where Yozgat is now lying dead. He places a few coins on the counter as payment for his time there and leaves. Next to the coins are three drops of blood.

"Later, Temme will testify that he did not hear the shots—fired by an unknown assailant with a Česká manufactured pistol with a silencer—and he did not see Yozgat's body, either, which was sprawled behind the counter near the entrance" (April 24).

Yozgat was the ninth in a series of immigrants, mostly Turkish, gunned down in broad daylight. The police had blamed the shootings on Turkish gangs. Instead, it was the work of the National Socialist Underground (NSU), a neo-Nazi group.

The presence of a BND member—who somehow didn't hear shots fired or notice a body sprawled on the floor—at the scene of one of the crimes isn't the only thing that links these killings to the intelligence services. Yavuz Narin, a lawyer of Turkish decent, spent years exposing the connections between the NSU and the BND. Ynetnews wrote, "Narin has many more examples of either direct or indirect involvement by security agencies in the NSU's activities." He told Ynetnews, "The government,

security agencies, the Interior Ministry and, unfortunately, even the chancellor's office, are trying to prevent a full investigation on the matter."

"The worrying question that arises is whether the German security agencies merely failed at doing their job, or did they actually turn a blind eye and intentionally enabled the NSU's activities," Ynetnews continued. "And if so, could neo-Nazis have infiltrated Germany's spy agencies and actively encouraged the crimes? The authorities' insistence on covering up information and stonewalling investigation on the matter only raise further suspicions.

"The involvement of security services with the NSU continues to rile up the German public, and is still under a heavy clout of secrecy."

The BND also proved crucial in the NSA's spying within Germany and Europe that provoked so much outrage when it was revealed in 2013. The two organizations worked together to spy on German targets and other European countries. The cooperation was so close that some experts believe the BND probably knew that the Americans were tapping Ms. Merkel's phone.

But the BND also spied on allies of its own accord, not just on behalf of the NSA. Across the world, government departments, international organizations and even charities have become targets of BND surveillance. The spying on the White House is merely the latest in a series of revelations.

Somehow the BND has been caught doing all this without provoking anywhere near the outrage that greeted the NSA. But really the world should be even more concerned.

### Why You Should Be Concerned

"From the very start of World War II," German leaders "have considered the possibility of losing this second

round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically planned in such eventuality, the third round," wrote *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong in 1945.

"The Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND," he wrote.

The BND is a clear example proving him right. There are many more.

The latest revelation shows that an organization that is the successor to the Wehrmacht's Foreign Armies East military-intelligence unit is spying on the United States.

Mr. Armstrong wrote this while Gehlen was secretly negotiating with the Pentagon and the CIA. How could he know what was happening in Germany?

He had no secret sources leaking information to him.

Mr. Armstrong's forecasts were based on the Bible.

For a full explanation of Revelation 17, request a free copy of *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*, by Herbert Armstrong.

Revelation 17 describes a European power that rises repeatedly, before being defeated and going underground. It is called "the beast that was, and is not, and yet is"—because of the way it disappears and lies dormant. When the beast—this European power—arises for the last time, it ascends "out of the bottomless pit."

This is how Mr. Armstrong knew that Nazi leaders would go underground, hide and continue to work behind the scenes. And this is why you should be concerned about this organization that is spying on Americans, as well as the people of just about every nation. It is part of this power that your Bible says will rise up one last time.

Rather than being overlooked, the latest BND spying scandal should be of huge concern to everyone.

But the good news is that Revelation 17 also promises that this is the last resurrection of the beast power. A dangerous power is rising, but this is the last time it will ever threaten the peace of the world. ■

## Germany has already conquered one nation. Who is next?

People are starting to look to Germany as leader of the free world, but they ignore recent history showing that modern Germany is not as different from World War II Germany as we would like to hope. To learn this recent history, and find out what is next in Germany's plan, request *Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*, by Gerald Flurry.



far right being ‘on the march’? Would it not be treated as something more than just weather by the BBC and other news organizations?” (July 10).

It would, quite rightly, be treated as a serious and ominous development. But because it has the label of “left,” it is being ignored outside of Germany.

The fact that tens of thousands (more than 100,000 according to many estimates) were willing to take part in such extreme protests in modern Germany shows a serious unhappiness with the current economic and political system.

The G-20 violence comes amid an upsurge in far-left violence across the country. Germany’s Interior Ministry recently concluded, “In the past few years, the acceptance and intensity of violence in the far-left scene has noticeably increased. This is especially true of violence against police and political enemies.” Such violence is rising across Europe. Europol’s latest terrorism report said there was a “sharp increase” in far-left attacks from 2015 to 2016.

You can see this same unhappiness

Yet the Left Party has been winning significant support in regional elections and has even joined the government state coalition in Thuringia after receiving nearly 30 percent of the vote.

The extreme left is rising in Germany. The rise of the fringe-right Alternative for Deutschland certainly is concerning and has drawn significant coverage. Yet it lags quite a ways behind the Left Party.

It’s important to remember that “Nazi” stands for “National Socialist.” It was as much a left-wing movement as a right-wing one.

### **Wanted: Strong Leadership**

The response from Germany’s more mainstream leaders was a revealing indicator of how Germany responds when confronted with this kind of crisis.

The United States has typically caved in to these kinds of demonstrators. When people rioted in Baltimore, the mayor actually said that she instructed law enforcement to protect demonstrators and that she “gave those who wished to destroy space to do that as well.” New York Mayor Bill de Blasio

the ugliness that was on display to the world during the G-20?

Gabriel and Justice Minister Heiko Maas have called for a Europe-wide response, where countries share a database on left-wing extremists. Maas also called for those who supported this violence to be put on trial. Maizière called on the courts to impose “tough sentences.” Many others are calling for the government to shut down the well-known centers that support this kind of extremism and to implement significant changes to the way Germany polices and monitors these kinds of groups.

The rise of radical extremism is a global problem. Across the world, populations are dissatisfied with the status quo. But thus far, Germany is unique in demanding a forceful response to the left-wing extremist manifestation of this dissatisfaction.

The level of outrage gives a good indication of Germany would respond to other crises—to major Islamist terrorism, for example.

The rioting at the G-20 is a snapshot that reveals what is boiling under the surface in Germany. A Germany competing for leadership of the world’s economic system while national economies turn against America. A Germany with simmering political discontent. But also a Germany where many want stability and law and order—and will support a forceful governmental response against those who disrupt it.

The Hamburg G-20 summit shone a light on some of the biggest trends the *Trumpet* is watching. Germany and the U.S. are on different paths. America is becoming a pariah to the world; Germany is being hailed as its new leader. America is threatening to raise tariffs on German exports; Germany is one of the foremost preachers of free trade (though what it actually practices is another matter). America’s politicians cave in to the radical left; Germans rally around the rule of law.

The radical left is weakening America. But in Germany, there is strength.

The *Trumpet* has warned, based on Bible prophecies, that America is in decline. The same prophecies foretell a German-led, European new order that will replace it. The outlines of that new order were visible in Hamburg. ■

## **Remember that “Nazi” stands for “National Socialist”—it was as much a left-wing movement as a right-wing one.**

and extremism in the rise of the far-left parties in Germany. There is the Left Party, the successor to the old East German Communist Party. Since a merger in 2007, this party incorporates the old Socialist Unity Party, which ran East Germany’s infamous Stasi secret police and backed the Soviet Union—the empire that comes in just behind Mao Zedong’s China on the list of all-time most murderous regimes. The Left Party wants to end NATO and big business. It takes busts of Karl Marx on the campaign trail. After an interview with one of its leaders, even the columnist called “Charlemagne” in the left-leaning *Economist* magazine wrote, “I found myself praying that these people never get anywhere near power” (Sept. 20, 2013).

No wonder some Left Party members (in Bavaria, it’s the entire party) are under government surveillance due to fears that it wants to overthrow the state.

even traveled to Germany to address the crowd protesting Donald Trump.

But politicians from Germany’s main right-wing *and left-wing* parties have been queuing up to condemn the riots.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière told a press conference that those behind the riots were “despicable, violent extremists just like neo-Nazis and Islamist terrorists.” Sigmar Gabriel, a leader of Germany’s main *left-wing* party, correctly identified the violence as an attack “on the rule of law.”

In America, the main left-wing party quickly sided with the protesters. In Germany, they condemned them.

Meanwhile, the entire spectrum of the German press is outraged. Germany has a far-left extremism problem that indicates a far wider dissatisfaction with the status quo. But outside of those far-left extremists, there is little tolerance for this kind of violence.

How will German leaders try to fix

# Will Your Marriage Last?

You can tell—if you pay attention to just one hour of conversation.



**W**ILL YOUR MARRIAGE LAST? SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CAN have a pretty good idea just by listening to the two of you converse, on just about *anything*, for only a few minutes.



JOEL HILLIKER

When you talk to your mate, you probably don't realize how much you communicate beyond the content of your words. That smile, that tone of voice, that roll of the eyes—you are constantly, automatically broadcasting signals about your underlying attitudes regarding him or her.

Beginning in the 1980s, John Gottman ran a lab at the University of Washington where he monitored thousands of married couples having

conversations. In addition to videotaping them, he hooked up each mate to electrodes and sensors measuring heart rate, skin temperature and other physical particulars during the conversation. His staff interpreted all these nuances in order to register a specific emotion out of a list of 20—neutral, admiration, anger, sadness, whining and so on—on each spouse for *each second* of interaction.

That sequence of emotions, meticulously analyzed, provides remarkably accurate information regarding the health and long-term prognosis for the marriage. In fact, if Gottman analyzed an hour of discussion between a husband and wife, he could predict with 95 percent accuracy whether they would still be married 15 years later.

How? Essentially, his staff measures the amount of *positive and negative emotion* in a couple's interaction. "[O]ne of Gottman's findings is that for a marriage to survive, the ratio of positive to negative emotion in a given encounter has to be *at least five to one*," wrote Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Blink* (emphasis mine throughout). Yes—a healthy marriage needs at least *five times* more positive feelings than negative.

God knows marriage. He created it. He knows how it must work; and He keeps it simple for us. In a single biblical verse, God spells out exactly the basis for a healthy marital relationship: A husband must *love* his wife; a wife must *revere* her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

*Love* covers a multitude of sins—it glides right by the minor irritations of daily living. 1 Corinthians 13 says that godly love is patient and kind, never irritable or resentful—always eager to believe the best. A husband who *loves* his wife never lets

petty flaws overwhelm his underlying glow for her and his sense of appreciation for the value and richness she adds to his life.

*Reverence* is rooted in a deep respect for a husband's office as head of the family. A wife who *reverences* her husband never lets his imperfections overwhelm her abiding honor for him and her loving respect and appreciation for his leadership.

When *love* and *reverence* form the core of a husband-wife relationship, a virtuous cycle of positive emotion binds the two closer over time.

When there is an erosion of those basic requirements—a routine violation of that bibli-

cal command regarding marriage—the relationship spirals into negative territory. The longer that continues, the deeper the damage to both individuals—emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Gladwell quotes Gottman as saying, "People are in one of two states in a relationship. The first is what I call *positive sentiment override*, where positive emotion overrides irritability. It's like a buffer. Their spouse will do something bad, and they'll say, 'Oh, he's just in a crummy mood.'" That is a "believe the best" approach—giving the other person the benefit of the doubt in light of your prevailing love or reverence for him or her.

"Or," Gottman continued, "they can be in a *negative sentiment override*, so that even a relatively neutral thing that a partner says gets perceived as negative." How often does this happen in your marriage? Whenever I catch that starting to crop up between my wife and me, I know that we are overdue for a date—a one-on-one evening together where we can catch up on each other's lives.

When "negative sentiment override" prevails, one spouse feels not just that the person said or did something wrong—but that *there is something wrong with the person*. He or she gets irritated not with what they did, but who they are.

Gottman suggests that, in one sense, our daily interactions are like a stock-market chart—with ups and downs every day, and also a larger, more gradually sloping trajectory. "Some go up, some go down," he says. "But once they start going down, toward negative emotion, 94 percent will continue going down."

Four emotions are the worst relationship killers, in Gottman's experience—he calls them the Four Horsemen: *defensiveness* ("yes but"), *stonewalling* (turning away—more prevalent in men), *criticism* (condemning a person's character—more prevalent in women), and *contempt* (trying to put the other person on a lower plane than you). Contempt is so harmful that it has a demonstrably negative effect on the other spouse's immune system, causing colds and other health problems.

You can quickly see how the Four Horsemen are the antithesis of what we might call the Two Pillars—the *love* and *reverence* commanded by God.

Give your spouse the benefit of the doubt. In your daily interactions, check to make sure you're in "positive sentiment override"—allowing the minor irritations to brush past. Let *love* and *reverence* form the basis of your attitudes toward each other. Doing so virtually guarantees that the overall arc of your relationship will rise toward a greater, more godly love for one another.



**I have been reading the magazine for some time and agree that your analysis has been spot on in the issue of Iran. I really enjoy the magazine and feel that we are entering a time that really leads up to the end times. I pray each day more people will come to realize what the future holds. It seems God is holding off some of the disaster, hoping that people will change their way of living, but it seems that history is about to repeat itself.**

**Joseph Washburn** AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

I have to tell you this is the most amazing periodical I have ever read. I have been reading it for 12 years now and everything you have said will happen or has happened. But that doesn't surprise me because the Bible doesn't lie.

**John Bowcock** CORAM, NEW YORK

This article was a great read! ("The World's Most Powerful Weapon," *theTrumpet.com/15655*). It inspired me to re-read *From Darwin to Hitler*, by Richard Weikart. It's about evolutionary ethics, eugenics and racism in Germany at the time of Hitler and how Darwin helped to bring him about.

**Tom Anderson** NEWPORT, KENTUCKY

I was so happy when I discovered the *Trumpet* by accident. I read the one with Donald Trump

on it four times over. According to this book, we are close to World War III. I don't care for President Trump, but some members of my family think he is a gift from God. I told my daughters that he was going to lead us to destruction and they didn't believe me. Then I found the *Trumpet* and it agreed with me! I really love the PCG. I am not really good with the Bible, but you put it all before me; I can read with the Bible and it is easier for me to understand. I appreciate your work so much.

**Bradley Borges** LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

When I read the *Trumpet*, it gives me a lot of insight into what's going on in our country! We need someone to boldly stand up and not be afraid to speak out about what needs to take place in our country. The Lord gives that person the ability to do just that! We need to



follow the Constitution that our forefathers wrote and not act like it was never written! It would be amazing how things would change here in our country.


**Jeffery Miller** BEEVILLE, TEXAS

I always read the entire magazine, all of it. I showed the magazine to a friend, and he started reading it. Unfortunately, he died, but now his widow is reading it. We all love the *Trumpet* very much; no one goes as deep into the Bible as you, no one.


**Rebecca A. Johnson** FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

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# The Death of Trust

America has lost one of the world's most valuable commodities. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**T**RUST IS ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO WIN BACK ONCE IT is lost. It takes only moments to lose, but you can spend a lifetime trying to regain it—and not succeed.

America is suffering a trust crisis.

Do you trust those around you? Do you trust the government, the police? Do you trust the financial system? How about scientists, religious authorities, academia?

If you are like most Americans, the answer is no—or at least not nearly as much as you used to.

That is disturbing, because trust is what makes the world go round. It is one of the most important factors that historically differentiated Western society from the developing world.

For the past 17 years, Richard Edelman has surveyed people around the world to gauge trust in various institutions. This year, his marketing and public relations firm has warned that, in many countries, trust is “in crisis.”

“You see it across all the four institutions, especially drops in media and government, in NGOs and businesses teetering on the edge,” he says. “Today, we’re talking about a *trust crisis that is causing a systemic meltdown*. Only 15 percent of our respondents actually said that they trust the system” (emphasis added).

Whether it is big media, government, science, the medical industry, religion, academia, industry or the economy, people are rapidly losing trust.

Consider the United States presidency. What does it mean for the nation when somewhere around half the people do not trust what comes out of the president’s mouth? When half the nation believes he lies continually, he hates women, he is colluding with the Russians to subvert democracy, he is a racist who wants to ban all Muslims, and he is using his office to greedily enrich himself?

What are the effects on the public of being repeatedly told that society is inherently racist, and that all white people are racist, even if only unconsciously? What is the effect of being told that police are racist because black people are arrested at higher rates than white people, that the justice system is racist because African-Americans and Mexicans make up a disproportionately high percentage of the inmate population? That teachers are racist because children of certain minorities get suspended at higher rates than white children and Asians? That America is not the land of opportunity but of suppression and oppression, as America’s previous president expressed?

On June 6, the *Guardian* published an article titled “Why We Can’t Trust Academic Journals to Tell the Scientific Truth.” It highlighted a disturbing trend that has some scientists agitated: lack of trust in scientific findings.

Seventy-two percent of scientists know of others who have fabricated results to prove their thesis. Fourteen percent know of scientists who have made up whole data sets. Fifty percent of life-science research cannot be replicated. Fifty-one percent of the findings in economics papers can’t be replicated. As other journalists have highlighted, up to 40 percent of medical studies published in gold-standard peer-review journals cannot be replicated. Do cell phones cause cancer? Yes. Then no. Does eating eggs for breakfast increase your risk of heart attack? Yes. It also decreases it. Does drinking milk make people obese? Yes, then no. Do certain fats actually help you lose weight? No. Then yes.

“The findings of these studies resonate with the gut feeling of many in contemporary academia—that a lot of published research findings may be false,” wrote the *Guardian*. “Just like any other information source, academic journals may contain fake news.”

Not even science can be trusted?

Every year, *Oxford Dictionaries* selects a word or expression that epitomizes the social discourse of the year. 2016’s choice? *Post-truth*.

It means: “Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.”



**Whether it is big media, government, science, the medical industry, religion, academia, industry or the economy, people are rapidly losing trust.**

That *is* a rather fitting word for 2016, and rather alarming. We increasingly live in a post-truth world. And the ramifications are only beginning to emerge.

According to Richard Edelman, lack of belief in the system + economic and societal fears + loss of trust in institutions = populism.

And when populism runs rampant, history shows that tyranny is not far behind. Dictatorial leaders take advantage of the massive breakdown in trust. And when the system eventually breaks because people fail to solve the cause of problems (think Communist Russia and Boris Yeltsin)—anarchy results.

And a whole new system is needed.

This is exactly what America needs. A new system. One that brings happiness, prosperity, justice.

There are solutions to this world’s problems. But people need to be willing to listen and actually do the things God says lead to happiness and peace.

So there are some dark days coming, but God also says that beyond the darkness is fantastic light.

And that is a truth you can trust.

► **JUSTICE** FROM PAGE 29

fruits of increase. He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease” (verses 35-38).

Soon, people will never have to experience such horrors again. Umar Bate, Musa Jabbi, Abubakar Gamandi—and all those others living through nightmares around the world—will never experience another terrorist attack. Soon they will have plenty—blessings poured out!

“Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord” (verses 41-43). The whole world will understand *firsthand* the God of perfect justice!

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ... to comfort all that mourn. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. ... For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations” (Isaiah 61:1-4, 11).

God will have *all men* to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. Christ gave Himself as a ransom for ALL, and ALL will be able to claim that gift in due time. That time is coming soon!

Christ instructed us to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). This is a prayer of yearning to see God relieve this world of its suffering. Fervently pray it daily. Do all you can to be part of the solution rather than contributing to the problem. Support God’s work that warns people about what they are doing to themselves and offers the HOPE that God will STOP this madness!

Look around at this world and *cry out* for God to arise! See the vision of God’s plan for all mankind. And do all you can to *hasten* the day when we can help God finally bring perfect justice to all mankind. ■

## Why does God allow suffering?

This question can challenge your faith. What is the biblical answer? To learn why God is allowing people to suffer so terribly, request our free booklet **Why 'Natural' Disasters?**



# THE KEY OF DAVID



**Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at [keyofdauid.com](http://keyofdauid.com).**

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Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

#### AT&T U-verse

Entertainment Studios, 7:30 ET, Sun

#### Direct TV

CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun

ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri

Justice Central/Comedy.tv, 7:30 ET, Sun

#### Dish Network

ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri

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**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri;

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8:30, Sun

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**Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun

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**California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

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**Eureka** KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Los Angeles** KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00, Fri

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9:30, Sun

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**Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;

8:30, Wed

**Kauai Ho'ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

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**Terre Haute** WBI 9:30, Sun

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**Laurel** WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun  
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**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun  
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**Montana, Billings** KSVI 7:00, S  
KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Bozeman-Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Glendive** KWZB 8:30, Sun  
**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Helena** KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Missoula** KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**Kearney** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**North Platte** KWPL 8:30, Sun  
**Scottsbluff** KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00, Fri  
**Binghamton** WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun  
**Elmira (Corning)** WENY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York City** WPXN 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun  
**Plattsburgh** WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Syracuse** WSPX 6:00, Fri  
**Utica** WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Asheville** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charlotte** WAXN 10:00, Sun  
**Durham** WRXP 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun  
**Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greensboro** WGPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greenville** WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**New Bern** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Raleigh** WRXP 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Dakota**  
**Bismarck** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fargo** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Minot** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Valley City** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Lima** WBOH 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Toledo** WMNT 8:00, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** K TEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Medford-Klamath Falls** KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KPXG 6:00, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00, Fri  
**Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Anderson** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charleston** WCBP-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Florence** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Greenville** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Spartanburg** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KEVN 6:30, Sun  
KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls (Mitchell)** KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Chattanooga** WFLI 10:30, Sun  
**Jackson** WBJK 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WPXK 6:00, Fri  
**Memphis** WPXX 5:00, Fri  
**Nashville** WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30  
**Texas, Abilene** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Amarillo** KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dallas** KDAF 7:00, Sun  
**Harlingen** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Houston** KPXB 5:00, Fri  
**Laredo** KYLX 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KJTV 8:00, Sun  
KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Odessa** KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KDXE 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman** K TEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KWVB 8:30, Sun  
**Waco-Temple-Bryan** KYLE 9:00, Sun  
**Weslaco** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00, Fri  
**Vermont, Burlington** WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WPXV 6:00, Fri  
**Richmond** WUPV 8:00, Sun  
**Roanoke** WPRX 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WPXW 6:00, Fri  
**Washington, Pasco** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun

**Seattle-Tacoma** KWPN 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Spokane** KGXP 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun  
**Yakima** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WCWP 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Madison** WREX 10:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Superior** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun  
**Riverton** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

**CANADA**

**Nationwide satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Nationwide cable**  
Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun  
**Atlantic Provinces**  
CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun  
**Alberta, Red Deer** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Calgary** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Edmonton** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Medicine Hat** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Lethbridge** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**British Columbia, Vancouver** CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**New Brunswick, Moncton** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Saint John** CKLT-DT 11, Sun  
**Nova Scotia, Halifax** CJCH-DT 11, Sun  
**Sydney** CJCB-TV 11, Sun  
**Ontario, Ottawa** CJOH 5:30, Sun  
**Toronto** WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**P.E.I., Charlottetown** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVVNY 10:30, Sun  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFQC 5:30, Sun;

**CARIBBEAN**

**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Bahamas** FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WSJX 8:00, Sun



**LATIN AMERICA**

**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

**AUSTRALASIA**

**Australia**  
**Nationwide** 9GEM 8:00, Sun  
**Regional Western Australia** 7TWO 6:00, Sun  
**Regional Victoria** 7TWO 6:00, Sun  
**Regional New South Wales** 7TWO 6:00, Sun  
**Regional Queensland** 7TWO 6:00, Sun  
**Adelaide** TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed  
**Perth** WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat  
**New Zealand** TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun  
**Philippines** TV4 7:30 PHT, Sun

**CBS United Kingdom**

Station	Day	Time	sky			
CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 74	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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