

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**Deathblow to the dollar:
a new economic era**

**Shaken: Why the Nepal
earthquakes happened**

**The radically changing
American family**

**The man who grew
his own forest**

'Your Cities Are Burned With Fire'

-Isaiah 1:7

**But there is
great hope!**



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America's race riots were prophesied. So was their inspiring end.

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PHOTO: A protester throws a gas canister at police during riots in Baltimore on April 28. (REUTERS/ERIC THAYER)

COVER: A car burns in Baltimore on April 27 during riots that broke out after the funeral of a drug dealer who died of injuries inflicted while in police custody. (GETTY IMAGES)

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'Your Cities Are Burned With Fire'

Racially charged unrest is boiling over—and law enforcement is being critically undermined. Many people are framing the issue as a pursuit of justice. Some call it a revolution. Many are bracing for race war. You need to know where this is leading!

IN APRIL, THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, WAS BURNING. Riots, looting and fire raged after the funeral of Freddie Gray, a young black man who died in police custody. Before it was even revealed what caused the death, protests against the police began. These soon erupted in riots, in which downtown storefronts were smashed and police cars were damaged. Rioters cut fire hoses that firefighters were using to put out a fire at a CVS pharmacy.



GERALD FLURRY

Accusations of police racism are heightening public mistrust of law enforcement and fueling a trend of violent race-related incidents and lawlessness. Anger among certain high-profile segments of the black population in particular is growing, and is boiling over in rioting and violence with increasing frequency in American cities.

People realize that these riots and violence could spread like wildfire. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president of the United States, recently said that “there is an unease in our big cities.”

Baltimore is only about 40 miles north of Washington, D.C., which could explode into serious riots at any time.

Did you know that these burning cities were prophesied in your Bible?

Isaiah 1:7 states that “your cities are burned with fire.” That is referring to OUR TIME TODAY—and you can prove it.

Few people realize how grave this trend is. As we have been forecasting for over 20 years, race-related violence in our cities is going to play a major role in the unraveling of our society!

In Isaiah 1, God tells us *why* these violent protests are burning our cities. He also tells us how to *solve* this problem. Shouldn't we be interested in that?

Prophesy Smooth Things

Isaiah addresses his message to “Israel” (e.g. Isaiah 1:3-4, and nearly 100 times throughout this prophetic book). As we have been teaching for over 50 years, Israel does *not* refer to the little nation in the Middle East. Actually, two nations in particular represent Israel in this end time: the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Don't believe me—you *need* to prove this truth to yourself. We will be happy to send you a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which contains ample proof. God says—even *commands*—that we “prove all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Jeremiah 17:5 says,

“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.” So don't believe a *man*, but *do* believe God.

“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever” (Isaiah 30:8). The Hebrew expression for “the time to come” means the *latter day*. Isaiah wrote his message on a table, or a tablet, for the people of his day, but why did he write it in a book? Because this is dual prophecy. It is primarily for this *end time*, and God ensured it would be preserved for our day today.

Will you accept God's Word about this? Not many people will. Most tend to be like those described in verse 10: “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits.” People naturally don't want the truth, even though they may act like they do. Most people want to hear *smooth things*, not truth right out of the Bible the way Isaiah teaches it.

They continue by saying, “Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us” (verse 11). These people CAUSE God to leave! Israel refuses to LISTEN to God; people won't HEAR God's Word because they're



“THERE IS AN UNEASE
IN OUR BIG CITIES.”

RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY SENATOR AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

listening to *smooth things*. They SCOFF at the very Word of God itself, and CAUSE Him to fade from the scene.

Pushing God aside is the worst sin of all! If you think there won't be repercussions, then you don't understand these prophecies.

Isaiah knew there was danger in delivering God's message anciently. It will never be received like it should be. Tradition says that Isaiah was actually *cut in half* because of the message he preached! That is how *violently* he was treated because he didn't teach *smooth things*. He loved those people and had the courage to tell them what God said and not the *deceit* they wanted to hear. As all human history has proven, that deceit always ends in violence, burning cities, chaos and anarchy!

What will all this violence do to the nation? What will America's enemies do when they see this terrible division among the American population?

God says His Word is truth (John 17:17). But how many people really want the truth? U.S. President Barack Obama said the

people of Baltimore want the truth. But do they really? Does ANYBODY really seek the truth? Very few. Still, God tells us the truth about how to *prevent* suffering and chaotic violence that tears everything apart.

“Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come” (Isaiah 41:22). God specifically says we need to look at “former” events and “consider” them if we are to understand the “latter END” of His prophecies. In other words, to understand prophecy for this end time, we must also study history—specifically Bible history. As the Apostle Paul later wrote, the Old Testament was recorded for our learning today, “UPON WHOM THE ENDS OF THE WORLD ARE COME” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Are *you* willing to hear what God has to say about burning cities, as well as the clear solution He provides for this problem?

‘Stand Down!’

Race is a highly charged subject in the United States today, and in many other nations. Past wrongs and present inequalities create fertile ground for hurt, frustration and anger.

Many prominent leaders, both black and white, are deliberately fueling those grievances for their own political gain. They are using *race* as a deadly weapon! The problems that will result are *far* more dangerous than they realize.

When you look objectively at the facts of these high-profile, racially charged riots, you can see why they are certain to grow much worse.

Many powerful politicians and people in the media believe that there is *justification* for the violence tearing up our cities. Many say they “understand” why lawlessness is overtaking these areas. Some even think there is something NOBLE about it—they see it as a kind of righteous search for long-denied JUSTICE.

THIS IS TERRIBLY MISGUIDED AND PERVERSE REASONING! It is multiplying the problem many times over!

In Baltimore, police were accused of *allowing protesters to commit crimes* without punishment. But *why* did they do so? In a press conference during the rioting, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake admitted that she asked the Baltimore Police Department to “give those who wished to destroy SPACE TO DO THAT” (emphasis mine).

“We work very hard to keep that balance [between free speech and destructive elements], and to put ourselves in the best position to de-escalate,” she said.

This mayor was trying to find a “BALANCE” between allowing these criminals “free speech” by DESTROYING THE CITY—and fulfilling her DUTY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND ENFORCE THE LAW!

She later denied telling the police to stand down. But police came forward and said they were in fact told not to stop the violence. For example, Michael Lewis, a Maryland sheriff who traveled to Baltimore to help stop the riots, said that Baltimore police thanked those who came from out of town, and said, “We could have handled this, we were very capable of handling this, but we were told to stand down, repeatedly told to stand down. ... [T]hese guys told me they were essentially neutered from the start. ... I heard it myself over the Baltimore City police radio



that I had tethered to my body-armor vest, I heard it repeatedly: ‘Stand down, stand down, stand down! Back up, back up, retreat, retreat!’ I couldn’t believe those words.”

The effect of responding to lawlessness by handcuffing law enforcement is very dangerous. It is certain to add fuel to the fire that is burning cities like Baltimore. Yet it is happening across the country: so-called leaders saying that law enforcement policies and procedures disproportionately affect racial minorities, and that the answer is to back down.

For example, in New York City, after the high-profile arrest and death of Eric Garner for selling untaxed loose cigarettes, legislation is being crafted to decriminalize certain public-order offenses. An accidental shooting in an East New York housing project has led to calls for police to scale back their patrols of public housing. The death

of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, has created a movement to reduce penalties for failing to pay criminal and traffic fines or to show up for court appearances—even though that case had *nothing* to do with those issues!

It is mind-chilling that people think these measures will solve anything! These kinds of “solutions” only encourage more unbridled emotion, angry protesting, looting and violence!

That is exactly what the Prophet Isaiah foretold would happen.

God Has Spoken

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children [or sons], and they have rebelled against me” (Isaiah 1:1-2).

Most people would disagree, but God is speaking through Isaiah to us today! GOD HAS SPOKEN! “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O

Isaiah was specifically written for our nations in this end time. To prove this, request our free booklet *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision*.



SHOWS OF FORCE
Rioters filled Baltimore streets with flames, smoke, debris and violence. Authorities eventually responded by deploying police and the National Guard.

earth,” He says. **GOD IS ADDRESSING ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE!** He has *spoken* to the righteous angels and to Satan and the demons. He has *spoken* to all mankind—both we who are alive today and all who have *ever* lived. We *all* need to hear this message. He says, *Hear this! This is what will happen! You had better be careful, or you will have disastrous trouble!*

About 25 percent of the New Testament is comprised of quotes from the Old Testament, and *most* of those quotes come from the book of Isaiah, so this is a New Testament message as well. This is telling us what is happening *today*.

If people want to impugn the Bible and scoff at it, they can do that—but God says the burning cities are going to intensify if we don’t learn what He is telling us. The time is coming soon when the scoffers are going to vanish like snow under the hot sun because everything will have come to pass *exactly* as God has *spoken* it to us!

“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider” (verse 3). What does Israel not know? Its people **DON’T KNOW GOD**, and they don’t know the Bible because they won’t listen to God and to His messengers, and they have *caused* Him to go away.

God chose the nation of Israel anciently to reveal Him to the world and show the world how God would bless people if they obeyed Him. But the Israelites failed. In this end time, Christ has built His Church to stand up and deliver this message—to reveal God to the world and give true understanding of what is happening on Earth. But 95 percent of God’s own people turned away from Him and refused to deliver that message because they wanted to teach smooth things and *deceits!* Thankfully, God has raised a little remnant to deliver His message and show the world how to *solve* these enormous problems that bring so much suffering.

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have **FORSAKEN THE LORD**,

they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ...” (verses 4-5). God is **PLEADING** with us: *WHY should you be stricken any more? Why not listen to me and solve these problems?*

Will you listen to God, so you don’t have to suffer?

Sick Head, Faint Heart

Isaiah 1:5 concludes by saying, “[Y]e will revolt more and more: **THE WHOLE HEAD IS SICK, AND THE WHOLE HEART FAINT.**”

The “head” refers to the leaders of modern Israel. God says “the *whole head* is **SICK**”! The minds of our leaders are **SICK** with wrong human reasoning that is deceitful and anti-God! Their decisions are perverse and leading to greater and greater calamities!

Authorities in Baltimore decided to give protesters “space” to

The big lesson to protesters and agitators was clear: Lawlessness gets results.

commit lawless acts. Then they hastily indicted six police officers who had been involved in Freddie Gray’s death, charging them with murder and manslaughter. These charges were very severe and will probably be reduced or disproved in court. Why such harsh charges? **TO TRY TO PACIFY THE CROWD.** The angry mob was howling for the blood of these policemen. The Baltimore state attorney, Marilyn Mosby, essentially gave them the indictments they were looking for and expected them to calm down.

It appears that decision was made out of *fear* of the rioters—if it wasn’t a racially motivated effort to “seek justice” at the expense of the law. State and federal authorities tried to show themselves *sympathetic* to the criminals—even more than to the innocent people of Baltimore!



SEEKING JUSTICE?
Youths vandalized police cars, destroyed personal and commercial property, and looted shops in Baltimore to protest the death of Freddie Gray.

Whatever their reasons for doing so, the big lesson this sent to protesters and agitators across the country was clear: *Lawlessness gets results. Violent protests are a legitimate, effective means of seeking justice.*

What a dangerous example and precedent! Already you can see how each time a high-profile case like this hits the news, public anger boils to the surface faster and more aggressively than the time before. There is a rising sense among a growing portion of the population that the inequalities and injustices in society *must* be met with violence!

At the same time, decisions like the one to have police “stand down,” or to make an example of these six policemen, DESTROY the morale of the nation’s law enforcers. Certainly there is no excuse for police brutality. But how many *good* policemen will fear to do their jobs—jobs that are sure to become even more dangerous as disorder intensifies—knowing the state might side with the criminals, or knowing they could be unjustly prosecuted? The institution that protects and preserves the stability of America’s cities is being undermined and weakened.

AS THE VIOLENCE SPREADS, THE WILL TO STOP IT SHRINKS. The Baltimore incident will *inevitably* create MORE VIOLENCE throughout America.

“THE WHOLE HEAD IS SICK, AND THE WHOLE HEART FAINT,” God says. In the face of such problems, our people have become *faint-hearted*—too *cowardly* to do what needs to be done. We are afraid of almost *everything*, it seems, because we don’t know God and don’t let Him empower us and give us the courage we need.

MORE AND MORE WE ARE SEEING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS TOO IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. The current presidential administration has done a lot to inflame the racial problems throughout the country. Practically everything it does when it intervenes makes the problems worse!

Burning Cities

Look now at this lightning-bolt prophecy—explaining the terrible CONSEQUENCES of our grave national sins: “Your country is desolate, YOUR CITIES ARE BURNED WITH FIRE: your land,

strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers” (Isaiah 1:7).

THIS PROPHECY IS A GUARANTEE THAT OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE IF WE DON’T LISTEN TO GOD! He is *pleading* with us to hear His message, to *listen* to Him and to *fear* Him. But we, God’s own Church and His own nations of Israel, refuse. As a result, the degeneration continues to get much worse very rapidly.

In the last five years, about \$1.8 billion of stimulus money was spent on Baltimore for education, teachers’ unions, and employment and social benefits. Did that solve Baltimore’s problems? No—the crises grew WORSE.

Money is not the solution, and it never has been. The problems go much deeper than that.

GOD IS TRYING TO HELP US SEE THAT SOMETHING IS FRIGHTENINGLY WRONG! He says, *DON’T POINT FINGERS AT THE LEADERS, BECAUSE YOU’RE ALL TO BLAME!*

That is not a smooth message, but it is the *truth*. God blames us all! We are trying to solve these problems our way, and it simply cannot be done.

Anciently Israel was known as “Zion” (e.g. Psalm 9:11; 132:13). In Isaiah 1:8 it talks about “the daughter of Zion.” That is another indication that this is a *prophecy*—not for Israel in Isaiah’s time but for the modern *descendants* of Israel.

Spiritually, Zion applies to God’s own Church.

This verse prophesies that “the daughter of Zion” will be “left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.” This is a poetic description of modern Israel’s destruction: Our nations will be like a little hut after all the harvest is over—abandoned and desolate. That is true of the Work of God in His rebellious Church, and also of America, the great superpower of Israel. They have no impact like they should because they have departed from God and sought after smooth things and deceptions that are anti-God.

“Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (verse 9). Spiritually, God leaves a very small remnant that does what God says and tells it like it is.

“Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah” (verse 10). HEAR WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY! Do you hear it? God says conditions will get so bad that you *are* going to hear, but for most people it will be too late physically. We need to hear the truth of God as never before, because it’s getting bad in many ways. We need to hear what God speaks—and He *does* speak to us if we will hear!

Here is what happens because of our sins: “And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, WHEN YE MAKE MANY PRAYERS, I WILL NOT HEAR: your hands are full of blood” (verse 15). God is addressing His own rebellious Church that isn’t delivering His message—the hands of those people are full of blood because of it. They’re largely responsible for the sin out there.

But He is also talking to the people in the nations of Israel who are praying to God for help and answers. He says, *If you're not hearing my message, I will not hear those prayers. Even if you pray many prayers and look so righteous, if you don't do what I tell you, I will NOT HEAR you.*

That is an “unsmooth” truth! This is a super-critical verse because it shows why the nations of Israel do not have God’s power. There was a time when this prophecy would strike fear in our minds, but not anymore. Most people respond with a scoffing attitude.

The number one need we have is God’s power, yet God says it is sadly lacking in our nations and most of His Church members. But God gives POWER to His very elect to do great things, to do heroic exploits (Daniel 11:32).

The Apostle Paul said, “I can do ALL things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Paul was a powerful man because God EMPOWERED him through His Spirit. That is the way it *should* be for our people today.

‘Come and Reason With Me’

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ...” (Isaiah 1:18). God says that if we will just listen to Him and *hear* what He has to say, our sins will become like white wool.

This verse correctly reads: “Come and reason with me.” How do you do that? You reason with God in His Bible. He says He will reveal truth to you through His little remnant. His faithful people have God’s truth and speak it, because they are empowered by God. And He reveals more and more to them, as long as they heed His warning.

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, YE SHALL BE DEVoured WITH THE SWORD: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” (verses 19-20). The rioters and violent protesters may think they will come out of this as the victors, but God says no. *Your enemies from without are going to exploit the division, violence and anarchy within your nation! There won't be ANY winners from within the nation!* That is what God is saying.

Bible prophecies make clear that even worse and more violent protests and riots are going to erupt in American cities. This will fatally weaken the nation and lead to curses of a far GREATER MAGNITUDE!

We must heed what God says in this book of Isaiah! GOD WARNS THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SUFFER UNTIL WE GET THIS MESSAGE! There is no other way out!

But you also must see the bigger picture. Those individuals who do respond and heed God’s warning, He will protect. He doesn’t want people to suffer through these things. And we must ALL see that these burning cities are prophesied to occur in the *very last days* of America’s existence as a strong world power—which is actually RIGHT BEFORE THE MESSIAH COMES TO THIS EARTH TO RULE IT!

Yes, America’s burning cities presage the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this Earth! This is all a *sign* that His return is imminent!

When He returns, He will *end* all racism and injustice permanently. He will rule this world with a rod of iron and with His love! ■

Worldwatch

YOU'RE NOT WELCOME Near Durban, a worker cleans up after an attack on Somali businesses.



Xenophobic violence hits South African cities

ANTIFOREIGNER PROTESTERS KILLED SEVEN PEOPLE IN Durban and Johannesburg in a wave of violence that swept South Africa in late April.

More than 5,000 others—most of whom were economic refugees—fled the country in buses back to their home countries. “It is better to be poor than be hunted like dogs because you are a foreigner,” Malawian national Agnes Salanje told Agence France-Presse. “I will not go back.”

The protesters also vandalized foreign-owned businesses, and the South African Army was compelled to deploy as a “last resort,” military officials said.

Analysts have typically attributed the cause of such attacks to a pervading sentiment that foreigners deprive South African citizens of jobs and even of spouses to marry.

The last time foreigners were attacked on such a scale was in 2012, when 120 people were killed and 7,500 were displaced.

The trigger for April’s xenophobic outburst has been attributed to remarks made by Zulu tribal king Goodwill Zwelithini. In a speech in March, he charged that “immigrants must take their bags and go where they come from.”

South African media assessed that the protesters interpreted Zwelithini’s comments as a call to violently remove foreigners, but the tribal leader claimed the media misconstrued his words. “[I]f the reports that I sparked the recent xenophobic attacks were true, this country would be reduced to ashes,” he commented, apparently alluding to South Africa’s volatility and his own level of influence.

“We will see more xenophobic violence,” said Dr. Roni Amit of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. “This violence did not start or end in 2008, it didn’t just start this year, nor is it a surprise.”

Twenty-one years after independence and the end of apartheid, South Africa is plagued with violence and a different kind of discrimination. It’s a testament to the nation’s leadership crisis and consequent degeneration. As Isaiah 59:8 prophesies, “The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.” ■



Deathblow to the Dollar

The world is entering a new economic era—one that won't be defined by America. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

THIS PAST MARCH MARKED A radical turning point for the global economy, particularly the United States' economic dominance.

China proposed the launch of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)—a new, Chinese-run international bank specifically designed to challenge U.S. global

economic leadership. America tried to convince other nations not to agree to join. But it failed—even with its closest allies.

For the U.S., it was an unmitigated disaster.

It should be a “wake-up call,” to a “new economic era,” wrote former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers.

The world essentially closed ranks and turned its back on America.

“The battle of wills between Beijing and Washington over a China-sponsored development bank for Asia is turning into a rout,” wrote the *Washington Times*. “[T]he Obama administration has found itself isolated and embarrassed as its top allies lined up this week to join the proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank” (March 18).

And sadly, it was America's most important ally that led the defection.

The World Turns

The story begins with a 2013 speech by newly crowned Chinese leader Xi Jinping. He outlined the creation of a new international investment bank where nations could pool money to invest in the developing world. China would provide \$50 billion in seed money and retain up to 50 percent ownership.

This was not a simple public relations effort aimed at helping China's Asian neighbors. In fact, Xi Jinping was up front about the bank's purpose: It would compete with the U.S.-dominated World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The *New York Times* later called it a “direct threat”



Washington had not been notified. A White House spokesman mumbled something about the United Kingdom being a sovereign nation and as such was free to make its own decisions.

Then the dam burst. Five days later, Germany, France and Italy said they too would join China's bank. They represent the world's fourth-, sixth- and eighth-largest economies. Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark filed for membership as well.

Even South Korea and Taiwan—two nations very dependent on America for geopolitical and military support—said they would join China's bank.

Australia recanted its recantation and said it would join the AIB after all.

The saga "is turning into a diplomatic debacle for the U.S.," wrote *Financial Times* columnist Gideon Rachman. "By setting up and then losing a power struggle with China, Washington has sent an unintended signal about the drift of power and influence in the 21st century" (March 16).

"This past month may be remembered as the moment the United States lost its role as the underwriter of the global economic system." —LARRY SUMMERS

Why has the world so dramatically spurned America?

According to the *Australian*, President Obama turned the World Bank into a tool to push his climate-change agenda. The bank was curtailing loans to developing nations to build coal-fired power plants and pushing them to buy more expensive types of power generation they could not afford. Into the resulting climate of resentment stepped China.

According to this narrative, Europe and the rest of the world just rushed through the gates to get a piece of the \$50 billion pie, which has since increased to \$100 billion, and which, due to the power of fractional reserve lending, will ultimately equate to more than \$1 trillion worth of activity. China says it envisions

\$6 trillion worth of projects over the next few years.

But the World Bank has always been a political tool. Europe's and America's other allies have resisted joining Chinese initiatives before.

So what happened?

The Writing Was on the Wall

It has become impossible to ignore China's rise. In 2010, China overtook the U.S. to become the world's biggest energy consumer. It doubled its energy usage in just 10 years. And in the past, being the world's biggest consumer of fossil fuels was synonymous with being its dominant economy. Now it is the world's largest energy producer too. That same year, China passed America to become the world's largest market for motor vehicles. Last year it became the world's largest importer of agricultural products. It consumed more cement in the past three years than America did in the entire 20th century. From its insatiable appetite for iron and copper to its unrivaled imports of gold bullion, China consumes more resources than anyone else. And no wonder: China produces 54 percent of the world's textiles. It produces 95 percent of the world's rare earth ele-

to the post-World War II financial system dominated by the U.S.

But few in Washington paid it much heed—at first. *Policymakers refused to believe that America's allies would even consider joining such an obviously anti-American effort.*

Then, last year, a strange thing happened. Australia announced it would join China to become a *founding member* of the bank.

America was shocked. Australia is one of America's closest allies.

The move flabbergasted the State Department. President Barack Obama made a personal call to Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot to voice his concern. American lobbyists went door to door to make sure other nations understood America's opposition.

The message was clear: *Don't join China's bank!*

Australia recanted—and it appeared the crisis was averted.

Then the United Kingdom dropped an economic bomb.

In a move that the *Financial Times* said *shocked even the Chinese*, British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said his nation would apply to join the AIB as a founding member.

The announcement caught Washington completely off guard. It was clear

ments. Twenty-six nuclear power plants are under construction—almost half as many as currently exist in the U.S. The list goes on.

But here is what the world is finally recognizing. On a per-capita basis, Chinese consumption is still just a fraction of the typical American's or European's. China is going to get bigger and more powerful. A lot bigger. A lot more powerful.

In October, the International Monetary Fund released the latest numbers for global gross domestic products. It estimated that when you adjust the national economic output to account for purchasing power within each nation, China produced \$17.6 trillion worth of "real" goods and services—compared to America's \$17.4 trillion.

CHINA

China is the world's biggest energy consumer. It passed the U.S. in 2010.

China doubled its energy consumption over the past 10 years.

In the past, the world's dominant energy consumer was or became the dominant economic power.

In 2013, China became the world biggest energy producer.

China has 26 nuclear power plants under construction. America has five.

In 2014, China became the world's biggest importer of agricultural products.

In 2010, China became the world's largest vehicle market.

For the first time since World War I, America was arguably *not* the leading economic power on the planet.

The world has changed—and almost nobody in America noticed.

But outside America, nations are scrambling to catch a ride on the rising Chinese juggernaut. Or at least get out of the way.

Payback

Yet for Britain there may have been an additional motive.

Starting from practically his first day in office, President Obama sought to diminish America's relationship with Britain. There are many examples: Sending the Churchill bust home; calling the Falklands the *Malvinas*; dismissing with royal protocol.

When then Prime Minister Gordon Brown came to America to show support for its new president, he was treated like a leader of an inconsequential banana republic.

British papers considered it a national humiliation and embarrassment. The *Daily Telegraph* boiled: "We get the point. ... We're just one of many allies and you want fancy new friends. Well, the *next time you need something doing, something which impinges on your national security, then try calling the French, or the Japanese, or best of all the Germans*" (March 4, 2009; emphasis added throughout).

Well, "next time" arrived.

But while the pushback from Britain might have been personal, it was strictly business for most of America's other allies.

Alternative System

The United States dominates the global financial system. And the dollar is the world's reserve currency.

Whether you are trading oil, purchasing a boatload of wheat, financing the construction of a mine in Burkina Faso, or buying an Airbus 380, you most likely

need dollars—and you need to use the U.S. interbank payment system (SWIFT).

Geopolitically, the dollar's dominance means it can force nations to comply with its will, or as countries like Iran and North Korea have experienced, revert back to bartering to buy and sell products internationally.

Yet great power, particularly the real or perceived abuse of great power, leads to insurrection.

In June 2014, the U.S. Justice Department fined French bank BNP Paribas \$8.9 billion for using dollars to facilitate trade with Cuba and Iran, even though the bank was not breaking any French law. America didn't like that it was helping these nations, so the bank was forced to pay up or be locked out of the U.S. money system—a financial death sentence.

The bank paid. As did Britain's Standard Chartered Bank, Germany's Commerzbank and Switzerland's UBS, among others.

Arnaud Montebourg, France's finance minister, told the *Financial Times* that the U.S. policy is "economic warfare."

You might agree that it was appropriate for America to target foreign banks doing business in countries America is sanctioning. It is ironic that America is now eliminating sanctions on Iran and Cuba, just months after collecting record fines and pushing foreign banks to leave Cuba. But the undeniable result of this and similar actions is a world looking for a new system that avoids the dollar—and U.S. control.

"[A]fter years of endless wars, spying, debt, money printing, bailouts and insane regulations, the rest of the world has had enough," writes the popular Sovereign Man economic blog. "And they're looking for an alternative" (March 13).

Enter China.

The global embrace of the AIIB is a massive coup for China. It is a huge step toward making the yuan a reserve

currency that could potentially compete with the dollar.

A week after the British announced they would join the AIIB, the Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency jubilantly opined: "Welcome Germany! Welcome France! Welcome Italy!" You can envision the grins.

America wasn't smiling though. Pushback hurts.

According to Summers, China's introduction of the AIIB is the most important financial event since the United States led the world off the gold standard in 1971.

"This past month may be remembered as THE MOMENT THE UNITED STATES LOST ITS ROLE AS THE UNDERWRITER OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM," he wrote. "True, there have been any number of periods of frustration for the U.S. before ... such as the 1971 Nixon shock, ending the convertibility of the dollar into gold. But I can think of no event since Bretton Woods comparable to the combination of China's effort to establish a major new institution and the failure of the U.S. to persuade dozens of its traditional allies, starting with Britain, to stay out of it" (April 5).

The global embrace of China's AIIB has been a major embarrassment to America. It dramatically highlights the loss of U.S. power, prestige and political pull.

But in terms of immediate threats to America's ability to project its economic power, a bigger blow is just months away.

The SWIFT Road to Destruction

China is on the cusp of launching its long-awaited international payment system. Chinese officials say it could go live in September or October. The system will allow foreign banks to conduct transactions in yuan instead of dollars and transfer funds across international borders without using America's SWIFT payment system.

If successful, the newly created China International Payment System (CIPS) will remove the biggest hurdles

China consumed more cement in the past three years than America did during the entire 20th century.

In 2014, China became the world's largest gold market.

In 2007, China became the world's largest gold producer.

50 percent of all metals produced are consumed in China.

China has more English speakers than the United States has.

In 10 years, China will add an additional 35 million to its population.

By 2025, China will have ten New York-sized Cities.

to internationalizing the yuan. It will cut costs, reduce processing times, and simplify the transactions associated with obtaining and using yuan. Reportedly, 13 Chinese banks and seven foreign banks are now testing the system.

Purchasing international goods in yuan will soon be as simple and inexpensive as using the dollar. Reuters compared the creation of CIPS to a “worldwide payments superhighway” for the yuan.

More importantly for some nations, the new payment system will allow nations and companies to conduct transactions outside America's control.

When Russia invaded Ukraine and took over Crimea, some U.S. politicians and analysts argued that America should ban Russia from the SWIFT system. They said it would cripple Russia's economy.

Russia retorted that if it was kicked out, it would launch its own payment system.

America did not make good on its threat. But in just a few months, Russia may be able to use China's alternative system anyway.

The SWIFT system—America's most powerful financial weapon—may become obsolete. Not immediately. But soon.

Already, the yuan is one of the world's top five payment currencies. In November, it surpassed the Canadian and Australian dollars in global usage, according to SWIFT.

It's true that global yuan usage is still a fraction of the dollar's, but China's move to create its own competitive version of America's SWIFT system is a huge piece of infrastructure going into place to allow the yuan to grab global market share from the dollar.

And that could mean that life in America may be about to radically change.

A New World

Reserve currency status is golden. It gives America special privileges and enormous power. It lets Americans borrow money at lower rates than their

Asian and European counterparts. It subsidizes their standard of living. It allows politicians to hand out generous social welfare packages, and it gives American corporations an important leg up on their foreign competitors.

When economic trouble strikes, America is able to crank up the printing presses and flood the economy with dollars—and the world has little choice but to keep accepting them and using them. This lets America boost its econ-

The dollar is a “terribly flawed currency People are looking for alternatives.” —JIM ROGERS

omy without experiencing many of the negative consequences normally associated with “quantitative easing.” The rest of the world bears the burden.

This has been called America's “exorbitant privilege.” Or as U.S. Treasury Secretary John Bowden Connally Jr. famously told a group of European finance ministers, the dollar “is our currency, but it's your problem.”

But the world is finally taking action to *fix* this problem.

As well-known investor Jim Rogers said in January in a video posted on his personal website, the dollar is a “terribly flawed currency People are looking for alternatives.” He explained: “The U.S. is the largest debtor nation in the history of the world. Never has a nation ever got into this much debt, and it's getting higher and higher every day.

“Washington is spending and borrowing even more and not doing anything about it. No nation would be able to get out of this without a crisis. ...

“What will need to happen for the U.S. dollar to lose reserve status? More of what is already happening

“Even our friends are starting to say it is out of control. The [South] Koreans do not have too much choice but are saying it is not going to work. ... The Chinese and the Russians ... are looking for something to use besides the U.S. dollar in their trades and in their reserves.”

Now, China is openly challenging America. And many of America's closest

allies—Britain, Germany, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, France, Taiwan—are voting their approval.

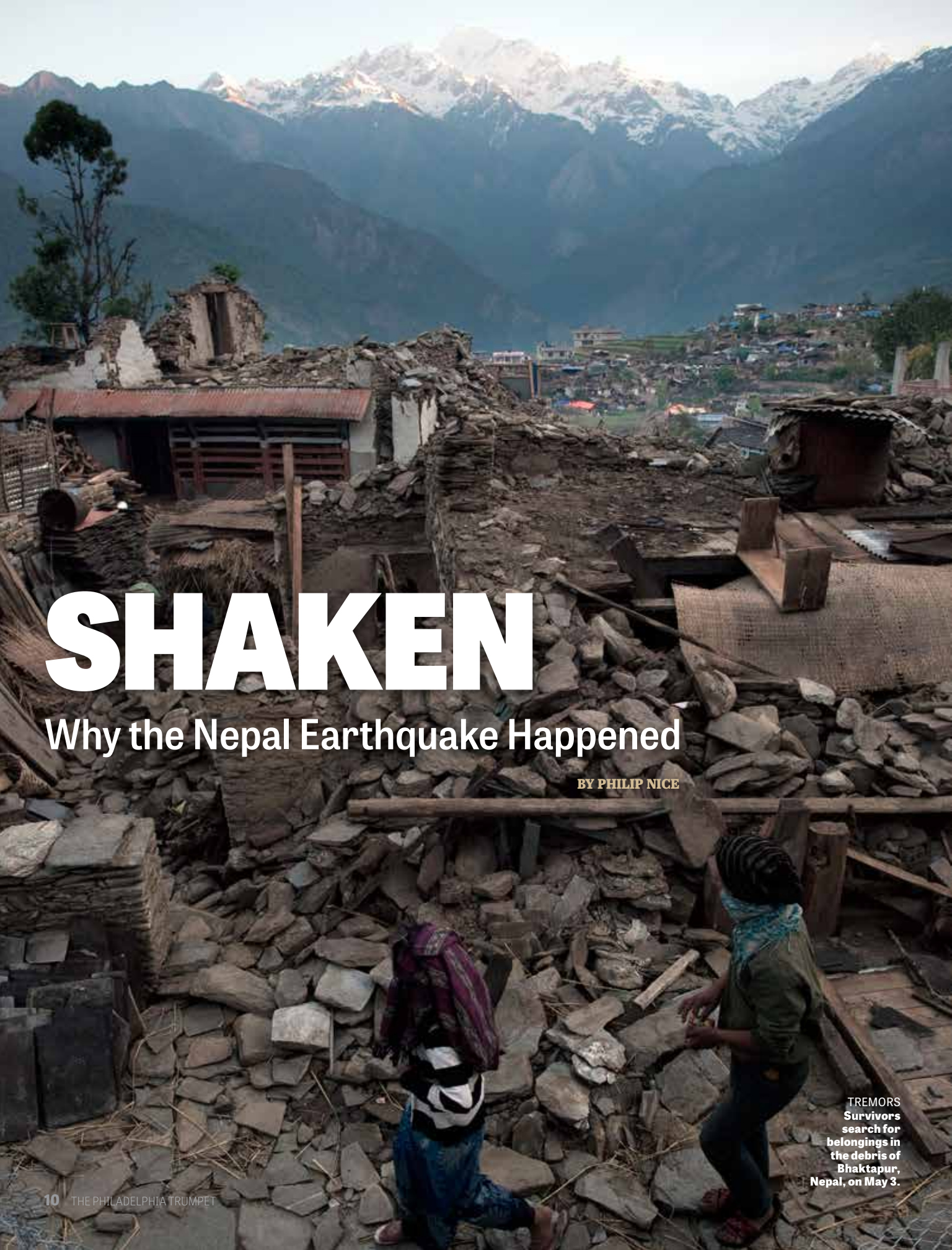
The infrastructure is being built for a world without the United States.

It is a sign that although the U.S. dollar may appear strong right now, its long-term fundamentals are *swiftly* eroding. And with it, American power and prosperity.

Biblical prophecy is explicit in forecasting America's decline. Beyond that, it foretells exactly which power will replace the U.S. as the world's preeminent economy—and includes a chilling description of the frenzy of participation it will arouse from greedy and unprincipled investors and merchants all over the planet. It is truly a horrifying picture of the post-American world.

The groundwork for that world is being laid today. The blows to America's economic might are descending rapidly and forcibly. Brace yourself: A new economic age is about to begin. ■

To learn more about the economic superpower that will replace America, read “The World's Next Superpower” from our January 2014 edition, at theTrumpet.com/go/11139.



SHAKEN

Why the Nepal Earthquake Happened

BY PHILIP NICE

TREMORS
Survivors
search for
belongings in
the debris of
Bhaktapur,
Nepal, on May 3.

THE WORLD BEGAN SHAKING. The furniture, the lights, the plates on the table, the glasses on the shelf—the whole room, the whole building, the whole *city*.

Windows shattered, foundations crumbled, buildings disintegrated. For those who were in Nepal on April 25, the Earth itself might as well have shaken off its axis.

For thousands of Nepalese, April 25, 11:56 a.m., was the end. The last sight of home, the last breath of air, the last heartbeat. By the time the last grim worker trudged through the debris at the last house in the last village and dug out the last corpse, the mountain of recorded fatalities exceeded 8,000 lives. About 19,000 more were injured, lacerated by flying glass, struck by plummeting concrete, half-crushed by collapsing walls.

All because there are two tectonic plates 9 miles down and about 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu—and on April 25, they shifted a bit.

“Me and my mom were at terrace washing clothes, and suddenly the house started shaking,” Manisha Dahal told the *Trumpet* from Kathmandu two days later. “We could not run as it was shaking tremendously. We sat on the terrace hugging each other. After few seconds, we saw a building fall down right in front of us. Then we saw a cloud of dust in the sky. We then saw a few building collapse at a distance.

“My vision became blur, and I thought we would not survive. ... Birds and dust filled up the sky, and we could see other houses swing. Then, after a while the shaking stopped, and we went downstairs on the open road. As soon as we were on the road, we felt the second quake. Everybody were holding each other and praying for it to be over. ...

“Till now, I have experienced 28 shakes, and we are terrified to go inside. We spent the night in the open grassland, which was OK, despite of cold. Then, in the middle of night, it rained. We tried to go inside thinking the shaking would not be repeated; there was a shock again.”

Manisha and those around her would have to endure more than 100 terrifying aftershocks. They would have to grieve for thousands of their fathers, their grandmothers, their infant sons, lost to a 7.8-magnitude monster. Tens of

thousands like her would huddle in makeshift shelters, shell-shocked, petrified, at risk of disease, and unable to return to their pulverized neighborhoods.

Then, when the shocks had finally died down and the Nepalese were sifting through the pieces—it happened *again*. A magnitude 7.3 and a 6.3 hit on May 12. Eighty-three more people perished, and 2,000 were hurt.

Why did this happen? Why are husbands now without wives, mothers without daughters, grandfathers without grandsons? Why did they die?

Because a piece of Earth clicked? Is that it?

News about the quake was everywhere. Facts and statistics, updated hourly, beamed around the world. But did you hear any adequate—any true—answer to the most important, basic and burning question: *Why did these people die?*

Most of us do not even ask, because we know we cannot answer. The rest of us just incorporate this shock wave of suffering into whatever our worldview already is: *It's because of time and chance. It's because there is no God. It's because God can't be bothered. It's because God works in mysterious ways.*

No. This earthquake meant something. These people died for a reason. That cost is too high for us to shrug this off. We need to face this thing.

Let's start here: Each of us is roughly a 17-billionth of a cubic mile big. We live on a 260-billion-cubic-mile particle named Earth. Earth has a hot core, a semisolid rock mantle and a thin crust. The crust consists of slim plates with tiny folds and grooves on its surface. On the surface, in some places, if you get really, really close, you can see a delicate dusting of man-made structures. And inside those structures are minuscule human beings.

What happens if there's a tiny twitch in the crust? Or if the gaseous layer above it swirls a bit? Or if part of it gets damp? Thousands of those particulates called humans perish.

We continue only because we have been given a place among the stars

under a warm sun, because a vast network of tailor-made natural systems work together to nurture us fragile little beings. This existence came from somewhere. This compassionate design came from someone.

Because creation came from a Creator, it follows that environmental disasters have a spiritual dimension. Thankfully, the someone who created our planet and created us reveals Himself to human beings. He is God.

But a God who lovingly made creation would never allow humans to suffer. That is a false argument, based not on God's actual nature, but on our own ideas.

God punishes. We can see that in the Bible, and we can see that in the news. Why? Because we sin. We sin so much that if God doesn't intervene, we will drown in it. We are on our way to violently deleting ourselves from this planet, no environmental disasters needed.

So God uses something no human being can control to *communicate* with us: our environment. We just need to get the message: *If your entire world is shaking, something is wrong.*

When earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, mudslides, tornadoes and fires strike, does that mean God is lashing out at us in retaliation? No. It is God's loving correction for those who will recognize it. Does it mean that those who die as buildings collapse on them are extra-sinful people? Jesus Christ Himself answered this exact question. He said that victims in such disasters are a *warning* to the rest of us that unless we *repent*, we will likewise perish (Luke 13:4-5).

Jesus also taught this decisive revelation: Death is temporary. Christ is the resurrection, and He says that those who died when He was on Earth under the Tower of Siloam and in our day in Nepal will eventually be resurrected. Then they will have the opportunity to be shaken from a sinful way of life, to be jolted out of a wicked and doomed existence.

The same opportunity that we have, right now. ■



Why does God allow suffering?

Get the Bible-based answer. Request our free booklet *Why 'Natural' Disasters?*

WHEN JADAV PAYENG WAS 16 years old, he confronted a problem quite unlike those most teenagers devote their attention to. He lived in remote northeast India on Majuli Island, the largest river island in the world. Abnormal monsoon flooding was bombarding the island's eastern side. It was rapidly eroding the landmass and stripping all vegetation from the remaining land. Jadav looked at the wasteland where lush forest had once stood, and made up his mind to reverse the trend.

So he planted a tree.

That was in 1979, and Jadav has continued planting trees, spreading seeds and nurturing the forest almost every day since then. To date, he has planted more than 100,000 trees on one of Majuli's islets.

Singlehandedly, he has transformed almost 1,400 acres of wasteland into a bustling forest ecosystem. That's an area almost twice the size of Central Park.

In an e-mail interview with the *Trumpet*, Jadav said his planting has been successful mainly because it collaborates with the land's natural healing ability. "The major contributor in making this forest is the nature itself," he said. "I only catalyze the process."

During the first few years of his labor, finding enough seeds and saplings was very difficult. Jadav typically had to canoe to the mainland to collect plants, and then carefully transport them back to the islet. But as the years passed, his trees matured. They began providing the seeds and saplings he needed to keep expanding the forest.

Another difficult task is watering plants over such a large area. To accomplish this, Jadav devised a drip irrigation system that is as inexpensive as it is effective. He pokes small holes in clay pots and hangs them above the saplings on bamboo poles. Over a period of days or weeks, the pots empty onto the plants. Jadav refills the pots with river water again and again until the trees grow large enough to obtain the water they need with their roots. "It is not just about planting saplings, but protecting them for the initial years till the sapling becomes self-sufficient," he said. "Later the nature will take care of itself."

Jadav said he derives great pleasure from the difficult work: "I am doing my duty with all

happiness," he said. "When I see the young sapling bearing fresh new sets of leaves, all the little pain I might have undergone is disappeared."

As a result of Jadav's tireless efforts, his forest is now home to over 100 species of trees and plants. There are arjun and cotton trees, tall elephant grass, mango and banana trees, goldmohur, jamun, jackfruit, and acres of bamboo.

A diverse array of animals has also returned to the region. Deer, Bengal tigers, apes, buffalo, wild boars, monkeys and many kinds of birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects have made Jadav's forest their home. A herd of more than 100 elephants has also recently started living in the forest for six months of each year. Since the visits began, the elephants have given birth to 10 calves in the forest.

The animal reappearance that delighted Jadav the most was that of

100,000+
trees planted

35
years of
planting

The Man Who Grew His Own Forest

A beautiful project in India that illuminates the future
BY JEREMIAH JACQUES



the threatened one-horned rhinoceros. “When I saw that even rhinos liked this habitat and visit every year, I feel great and it surely excites me!” he said.

Jadav said the most challenging part of his work has been “working as one man with little resources.” If more people had been working with him over the years, he says they could have “covered the nation” with a restored and healthy environment.

Earlier this year, the Indian government awarded Jadav the Padma Shri, one of the country’s highest civilian honors. India also named the forest that Jadav grew after him, and conferred upon him the title “Forest Man of India.”

In recent months, he has set his sights on greening another of Majuli Island’s barren islets. “This should keep me busy for another 30 years,” Jadav said.

The most fascinating aspect of Jadav’s

labor is that it can serve as a preview for the massive projects that will be undertaken all over the world in the near future. Many of the Bible’s most inspiring passages describe how Earth will look after the return of Jesus Christ. Deserts will blossom with vegetation. Burning sands will become fertile forests.

Depleted ecosystems will bustle with plant and animal life. Agricultural abundance will be universal (Isaiah 27:6; 32:15; 35:1, 6-7).

Jadav’s work evokes those prophecies about the Millennium. His projects

can help us picture the global restoration that will soon take place. And if his one-man crew has accomplished so much, imagine the amount of land that will be healed, restored and beautified when all men are working together! ■

1,400
acres of
wasteland
transformed
into forest

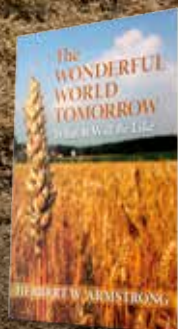


ONE-MAN TASK FORCE
Jadav Payeng tills the
nursery where he
grows saplings until
they are healthy
enough to transplant.



Talking to Jadav from the United States is not easy. His home on Majuli Island doesn’t have Internet access,

so communicating with him was possible only through an intermediary named Anil Gade. Gade lives in India’s Telangana State, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in sustainable tourism. He visits Majuli Island periodically to check on Jadav’s progress. During his last visit, Gade asked Jadav questions on behalf of the *Trumpet* and then relayed his answers back to us. Gade is part of an initiative educating people across the globe about plantation programs. For more information, visit www.JadavPayeng.org.



To learn how the Bible’s awe-inspiring prophecies will soon become reality, order a free copy of Herbert Armstrong’s booklet ***The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like***.

Enemies at the Back Door

The Obama administration is applauding itself for killing the Monroe Doctrine. But in truth, this foreign-policy pillar has helped America survive—and its death puts the nation itself at risk. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

THE MONROE DOCTRINE IS OFFICIALLY dead. This was the famous promise that America would allow no European power to gain a foothold in North or South America. The Obama administration has repeatedly repudiated it. As part of the same trend, Cuba—long shut out by America due to its communism and flirtations with Russia—is being welcomed back into the community of nations.

It's a radical shift in American foreign policy. But more than that, it displays a dangerous worldview held by America's leaders. To understand why, it is important to understand why the Monroe Doctrine was established in the first place.

The policy was first established in 1823 by United States President James Monroe in response to the concerns that Spain and France were trying to reassert rule in independent parts of Latin America. "The American continents ... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers," Monroe said. In 1984, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger brought the spirit of the doctrine up to date, saying "there should be no interference, no sponsorship of any kind of military activity in this hemisphere by countries in other hemispheres."

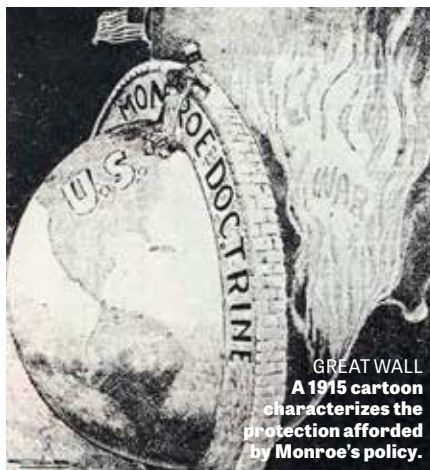
Since shortly after the founding of the United States, it has been arguably the most important pillar of American foreign policy.

In 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry officially proclaimed, "The era of the Monroe Doctrine is over." This statement to the Organization of American States was a historic proclamation—but what he said next was perhaps more surprising: "That's worth applauding," he said. "That's not a bad thing."

More recently, U.S. President Barack Obama confirmed its death. Note the way

he expressed it, in a meeting with civil society leaders from across Latin America in Panama on April 10: "The days in which our agenda in this hemisphere so often presumed that the United States could meddle with impunity, those days are past." He too was applauded.

These men speak as though the Monroe Doctrine was evil—an excuse for an imperialist (and probably racist) America to "meddle" in the affairs of other nations just to get its own way. Is that



the truth? What are the real fruits of the Monroe Doctrine?

For starters, without this doctrine, the U.S. as we know it would not exist today.

Europe has been engulfed in huge and destructive wars throughout America's history. Yet these wars have not spread to mainland America. Why? It's not for a lack of desire. It is because it is incredibly difficult to fight a war over 3,000 miles of ocean—as the British discovered in the late 1770s.

But during that time, there have been repeated schemes to attack the U.S. And they all revolve around getting a foothold in the Americas. Here is a brief history of some attempts to attack America.

Napoleon

"Napoleon's ambition was to build a great colonial empire," wrote historian Ralph Korngold. "The keystone of that empire was of course to be the incomparable colony of St. Domingue, from which France is said to have derived more profit than all other nations derived from their combined colonies in Asia, Africa and America."

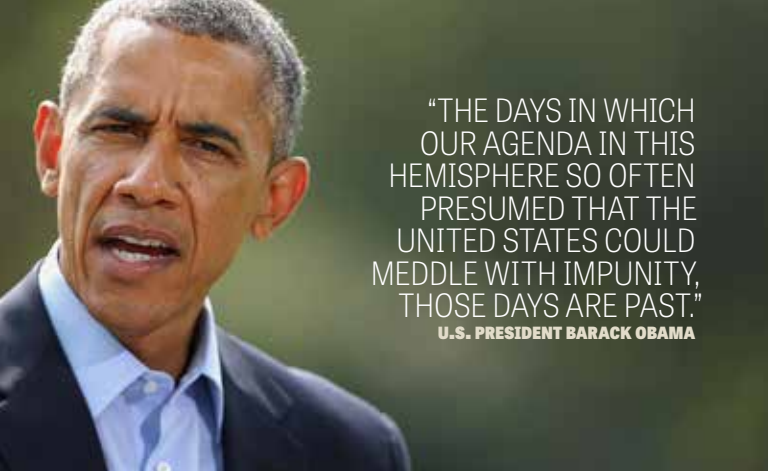
To that end, Napoleon reacquired the vast French colony of Louisiana from Spain. Then he sent his brother-in-law, Gen. Charles Leclerc, with what Korngold called "the most powerful army that had ever crossed the Atlantic" to retake St. Domingue, on the island of Hispaniola, after the French authorities had been defeated by a slave rebellion. (Today, the island is split between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.)

Napoleon believed Leclerc would reconquer St. Domingue in six weeks. He gave Leclerc secret orders to take most of his force to New Orleans once the victory in St. Domingue was complete.

There was no Monroe Doctrine in those days. Instead, it was stubborn resistance, disease and British naval power that defeated Leclerc in St. Domingue. Deprived of the "keystone" to his American empire, Napoleon realized he could not succeed. He cut his losses and sold Louisiana to America.

We cannot know now how much America would have occupied Napoleon's attention had he been successful in Haiti. But James Leyburn wrote in his book *Haitian People*, "Certain historians are of the opinion that if Napoleon had been successful in the reconquest of St. Domingue, he would have turned his attention to America rather than to Europe, for he had great colonial schemes."

We can only speculate about what-ifs. But without Leclerc's defeat, it is easy



“THE DAYS IN WHICH OUR AGENDA IN THIS HEMISPHERE SO OFTEN PRESUMED THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD MEDDLER WITH IMPUNITY, THOSE DAYS ARE PAST.”
U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



“THE ERA OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE IS OVER.”
SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY

to imagine a world in which the United States does not exist, and is instead a French-speaking nation in the south and an English-speaking one in the north. It would be immeasurably weaker than the America we see today, and it may have spent the last 200 years riven by bloody conflicts, just like Europe.

Kaiser Wilhelm

Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany was obsessed by empire. By the end of the 19th century, all the other European powers had an empire, and he wanted one for Germany too.

One of his top plans was almost identical to Napoleon’s: establish a commercial empire in Latin America. Like Napoleon, Kaiser and the German war planners felt the key to accomplish this was a major Caribbean base—either Cuba or Puerto Rico.

The expansion of American naval power under President Theodore Roosevelt, as well as Roosevelt’s determination to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, prevented this German empire from materializing in the Western Hemisphere.

The United States came within hours of war with Germany in the winter of 1902 after Germany attacked Venezuela—ostensibly to recover unpaid debts, but with plans to establish a military base there.

President Roosevelt ordered America’s most distinguished—and anti-German—military leader, Adm. George Dewey, to exercise his fleet in the region and to prepare to sail to war at an hour’s notice.

Germany backed down. Although the German Navy almost certainly could have beaten America’s Atlantic fleet, it was dispersed and unprepared for war.

Germany didn’t invade Venezuela, and instead allowed America to mediate the disagreement.

Was Roosevelt right to be so belligerent? In 2002, historians discovered that as the Venezuelan crisis was unfolding, German strategists had drawn up several plans for a surprise attack on the American Atlantic Coast.

One iteration of the plan used Puerto Rico as a staging post.

Ultimately, German strategists concluded that they would not win a war against America under Roosevelt, so they never put their plans into action.

What would have happened in 1902 without the Monroe Doctrine? Quite probably the gradual expansion of German colonies across South and Central America, with a major German naval presence in the Caribbean.

Once World War I broke out a few years later, America would have been drawn much more deeply into the maelstrom that engulfed Europe.

Kaiser Wilhelm Again

Later, the Kaiser schemed not to invade America, but to tie America’s military down in its own neighborhood. This would have prevented the United States from intervening in Europe.

Before and during World War I, Germany funded and trained Mexican soldiers. It tried several times to incite a war between Mexico and the U.S. It operated several spies and agents out of Mexico.

The most famous attempt came in January 1917. After hacking German Embassy diplomatic cables, British intelligence officers discovered that Germany was trying to persuade Mexico to attack America that year. Germany promised Mexico “generous financial support”

for conquering Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The infamous Zimmerman Telegram, as it became known, helped convince America to join World War I.

Mexico was in the midst of a civil war at the time, so it was in no position to attack the United States.

Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis proves that even in the modern world of missiles and airplanes, a base in the Caribbean is still viewed as a huge strategic asset for any American adversary. In fact, in the age of missiles, a Caribbean base in enemy hands is *far more* dangerous for the United States.

Had Kaiser Wilhelm been able to launch an attack on the U.S. from Puerto Rico, his plan was merely to conquer a city or naval base on the West Coast and compel Washington to negotiate from a position of weakness. He wanted to force America to allow Germany a permanent Latin American presence. But today a nuclear missile launched from the Caribbean could wipe out a city in an instant.

Here’s how *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry described what was at stake in the Cuban Missile Crisis in his March 2015 article: “The Soviets wanted to deploy and activate their missiles in Cuba without America finding out. With supersonic nuclear missiles only minutes away from America’s cities, THE SOVIETS COULD EVADE AMERICA’S MISSILE WARNING SYSTEM AND LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK. I BELIEVE THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET LEADER NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV WOULD HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY AMERICA AT THAT TIME. What if Khrushchev had achieved his secret plan to surprise



How to Get Healthier by Doing Less

An activity that delivers so many benefits with so little effort

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HERE IS A PIECE OF HEALTH ADVICE that is simple and well within everyone's capability. It has incredible benefits: It makes you mentally sharper; increases your ability to concentrate; has a huge effect on your performance in physical exertion like sports or hard work; makes you a more focused worker. On top of all that, it is very likely an underestimated key to character development.

I'm talking about *your bedtime*.

Forty-three percent of Americans between ages 13 and 64 say they rarely or never get a good night's sleep on weeknights. In related news, Americans drink, on average, three 12-ounce caffeinated beverages every weekday.

Why is it so hard for so many of us to get to bed at a reasonable hour? There are a lot of things pressuring you to go to bed late, or to distract you from turning out the light when you should. Most of them have an on-off switch.

The advice: *Go to bed when you know you should*. For different people, that will be somewhat different. But the costs of staying up late are higher than you think.

The Trouble With Sleep Deprivation

Are you sleep deprived? You might be if you: need an alarm clock in order to wake up on time; rely on the snooze button; have a hard time getting out of bed in the morning; fall asleep while reading;

feel sluggish in the afternoon; get sleepy in meetings, lectures or warm rooms; get drowsy after heavy meals or when driving; need to nap to get through the day; fall asleep while watching TV or relaxing in the evening; feel the need to sleep in on weekends; fall asleep within five minutes of going to bed.

Researchers have found links between sleep deprivation and an inability to focus on tasks; reduced ability to read other people's facial expressions of anger or happiness; a decrease in the brain's ability to concentrate, resulting in more mistakes; poor grades; an increased likelihood of weight gain; reduced ability to fight infections. Over time, forcing the body to stay awake also affects blood pressure and levels of inflammation, resulting in an increased susceptibility to heart disease and cancer. Even minimal sleep loss takes a toll on your mood, energy and ability to handle stress.

Sleep deprivation is linked to increased sadness and depression. Susan Redline, professor of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston, found links between sleep deprivation and the onset of brain disorders such as anxiety and bipolar depression. University of Delaware psychologist Brad Wolgast said, "When you find depression, even when you find anxiety, when you scratch the surface, 80 to 90 percent of the time you find a sleep problem as well."

Micro-Naps

Some people pride themselves on performing well on less sleep. Research shows that in many cases, they're probably right—*sometimes*. A 2008 study by the Society for Neuroscience found that a sleep-deprived person can often deliver the same results as a well-rested person, but—here's the interesting part—that he can't sustain it because he can't *maintain focus*.

Sleep deprived or not, we all lose focus at times. Get enough sleep, and your brain can compensate for that fuzzy moment and increase its attention. When we are sleep deprived, though, our brain has trouble refocusing. "The main finding is that the brain of the sleep-deprived individual is working normally sometimes, but intermittently suffers from something akin to power failure," Dr. Clifford Saper of Harvard University explained. This study said, "[I]ndividuals who are sleep deprived experience periods of near-normal brain function ... interspersed with severe drops in attention and visual processing. ... [D]uring attentional lapses, the sleep-deprived brain enters a sleep-like state." It's like your body compensates for the lack of sleep by taking micro-naps.

These micro-naps likely account for this recent discovery: that for every lost hour of uninterrupted sleep, workers engage in 12 more minutes per hour of cyberloafing—using company time to check personal e-mails and visit non-work-related websites. In other words, when sleepy, we're far more easily distracted.

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 30 percent of the civilian workforce—40.6 million Americans—were not getting enough sleep. Harvard scientists estimated in 2011 that sleep deprivation costs U.S. companies \$63.2 billion in lost productivity each year, mainly because of "presenteeism" (as opposed to absenteeism)—people showing up but turning in subpar work.

'I'm Doing Just Fine'

What makes this effect even worse is that sleep-deprived people *don't notice* their decrease in performance. As the 2008 study found, "The periods of

Catch those zzzs

Having a hard time falling asleep?
Try these quick tips:

Practice relaxation techniques before bed.

Avoid doing work immediately before or in bed.

Avoid tv and computer use before bed.

Cut off late-night Internet access.

Adjust your evening exposure to light. F.lux offers a free computer-screen app that gradually dims the most stimulating light wavelengths to help you wind down while finishing up on your computer.

If it's easier than changing your bedtime, adjust your wake-up time.

Force yourself to wake earlier, and then you'll be likelier to go to bed earlier.

Take a nap. If you don't get a full night's sleep, a nap can help make up the difference. Research shows that napping 10–45 minutes (before entering REM sleep) can increase performance.

Avoid caffeine, especially later in the afternoon and at night.

Get some exercise. Teens who played football three times a week slept far better than peers who didn't, says a 2010 study in the *World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*.

apparently normal functioning could give a false sense of competency and security”—when actually our brain's inconsistency could really hurt us.

This effect links with another. Research at Harvard and Berkeley has revealed an amazing side effect of pulling an all-nighter: short-term euphoria. A sleepless night increases your body's dopamine levels, which might actually boost your motivation and positivity. The down side is that the dopamine boost is brief, and this chemical surge encourages addiction and impulsive behavior. When you are deprived of sleep, the regions of the brain responsible for planning and evaluating decisions simply shut down. This means you're more inclined to be overly optimistic and happy to take risks.

The pathway where dopamine travels is called the *mesolimbic pathway*. Some research indicates that frequent overstimulation of that pathway by sleep deprivation can cause permanent brain damage. The brain's neural plasticity—its ability to adapt to new situations—fades. When forced to operate in a different state regularly, it *permanently alters itself*: “Frequent sleep deprivation over four years can have drastic long-term consequences, unleashing a neurological cycle of degeneration” (Guardian Unlimited, May 3, 2014).

If you're a student tempted to pull an all-nighter before an exam, consider: Researchers have found last-minute cramming does more harm than good. Deep sleep is when you consolidate memories. During sleep, the brain crunches information, processing what you have learned over the previous week. If you don't get enough, your brain doesn't get that important learning time. And all-nighters actually weaken the mental circuits responsible for memory. Plan ahead so you won't have to resort to the all-nighter.

You Must Get Sleep

This brings up a rather remarkable point. God made us to need sleep—a certain amount of sleep. Have you ever thought about why? God pulls all-nighters all the time—He never sleeps! (Isaiah 40:28). But He created us so that we have to take this break of several hours, every day.

There were likely several reasons, but perhaps the biggest was to help *keep us humble*: to help us realize how limited we

are as human beings. It truly can be frustrating when you have a lot to accomplish but know that if you push yourself too hard, you will get sick and break down.

Amazingly, though, while you sleep, your brain is very busy! In fact, it is performing a host of biological maintenance jobs that keep your body running in top condition, preparing you for the day ahead. As John Steinbeck once said, “It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it.”

Research shows that the average 12-to-18-year-old needs 8.5 to 10 hours of sleep each night. The average adult over age 18 needs 7 to 9 hours. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco,

discovered that some few people possess a gene that enables them to do well on six hours of sleep a night. Sadly, this gene only shows up in less than 3 percent of the population. For the other 97 percent of us, six hours doesn't come close to cutting it!

Some believe they can catch up on lost sleep over the weekend. It simply isn't true. In fact, sleeping late on Saturdays only lets your sleep clock drift later, making it even harder to wake up on Monday, according to the book *Chronotherapy* by Dr. Michael Terman and Ian McMahan.

Studies have also shown that women need a tad bit more sleep than men. The average is 20 minutes more, but some women may need slightly more or less than this. Why? In his book *Sleepfaring: A Journey Through the Science of Sleep*, Jim Horne explains that it is because women's brains are wired differently from men's and are more complex, so their sleep needs are slightly greater.

So what do you do? Few of us have the option of sleeping in indefinitely. Our *real* choice comes several hours before that—AT BEDTIME. *We must go to bed on time*. In so many respects, our quality of life depends on it!

It's Not Too Late!

According to biblical reckoning, the day starts *at night* (e.g. Genesis 1:5). The evening is the beginning of the day. So take care about what you do at night: You are setting yourself up for what you will do for the next day.

If you stay up late, how are you spending that time? It is easy to waste it chatting with friends, surfing the Internet, or watching tv. By contrast, when you wake early in the morning, what do you do? Perhaps work out, shower, pray, study the Bible, and eat a relaxed breakfast. Getting up earlier can truly bring a number of benefits. The early riser is generally on his way to a more successful life (Proverbs 20:13).

The facts prove how essential a good night's sleep is. No matter your age, it's not too late to get on a routine and get proper sleep by going to bed early enough. Don't let sleep deprivation and lack of mental focus weigh you down. Get enough sleep so you can stay focused, be more productive, think sharper, and live life with vitality. Don't stay up late! Remember the benefits, make the right choice, and GO TO BED!

1970

1980

TRUMPET INFOGRAPHIC

The Rise of the Redefined Family

History shows that the strength of any nation depends on the strength of its families. That history is confirmed by study after study. When people are building strong, traditional families—a man marrying a woman, staying married and having children within the marriage—they are more stable and more successful. And this stability and success spills out into society. But in the United States, everything traditional about families is quickly becoming less common. The strength of families is unraveling, and with it, the strength of the nation.

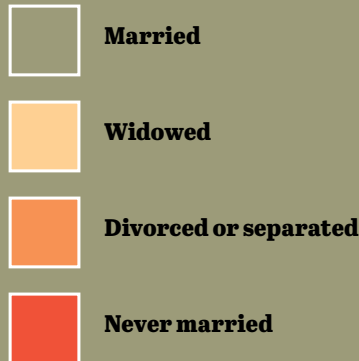
Mothers

Percentage of with youngest

Age 6-17:
1955 38.4%

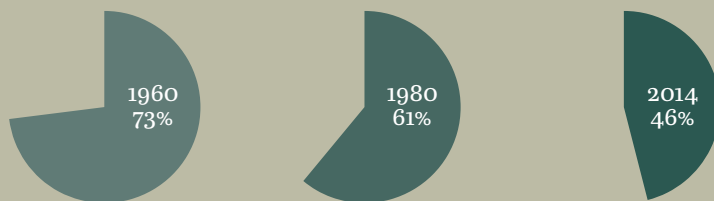
Under 6:
1955 18.2%

Percentage of adults 18 and older who are:



Traditional families

Percent of American children living in a home with two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage



1960

72%

9%

5%

15%

Opinion

Percent of the population in favor of same-sex "marriage"



Support for homosexual couples to adopt children

1992: 29%

2014: 61%

Percent who agree that homosexuals "can be as good parents as straight people"

1996: 57%

2014: 78%

Percents do not total 100% due to rounding.

1970

1980

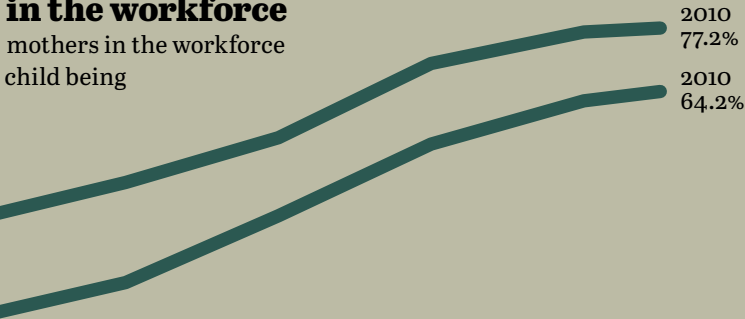
1990

2000

2010

in the workforce

mothers in the workforce
child being



Stay-at-home fathers

In the last 25 years, the
number of stay-at-home
fathers has almost doubled.

1989: 1.1 million

2014: 2 million

Out of wedlock

Percent of American children
born outside of marriage

1960: 5%

2014: 41%

2014

50%

7%

11%

24%

Homosexual parenting

Children living with homosexual couples

2000: 65,000

2012: 110,000

2015: 220,000

1990

2000

2010



The REAL Star Wars

It is far more astounding than any science-fiction fantasy—and it is absolute reality! **BY GERALD FLURRY**

MOST OF YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT the science-fiction fantasy *Star Wars* movie series. But did you know that the Bible talks about a REAL star wars that is more astounding than any fiction? The real star wars have been going on for thousands of years, and whether you realize it or not, they are affecting your life.

The very *last* of these star wars is building now on Earth, and it will be a *thousand* times deadlier than any other. Yet it's going to be the *last one*, forever.

This is not *fantasy*. This is *REALITY*. It is happening behind the scenes—but it is clearly depicted in your Bible if we do a little digging to see—and its *end* is imminent.

Stars in the Bible

The Bible uses *stars* as symbols for angels. Notice, for example, Revelation 1:20: “The mystery of the *seven stars* which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. THE

SEVEN STARS ARE THE ANGELS of the seven churches” These seven stars represent seven righteous angels.

There are also *fallen* stars. “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the STARS of heaven, and did cast them to the earth ...” (Revelation 12:3-4).

The Bible shows who this great red dragon is. God created him as an archangel and named him Lucifer (“light-bringer”). But he *rebelled* against his Creator and led a large faction of angels to actually WAR against God and literally attempt to overthrow Him (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28).

What was the result? Long after this war, God sent His Son to Earth, and Christ Himself actually tells us about the decisive moment: “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18). Lucifer became Satan, and his angels became demons.

Notice the rest of Revelation 12:4: “[A]nd the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” Almost immediately after Christ was born, Satan inspired King Herod to kill *all* children 2 years old and younger in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:13-18).

This is important to understand: These star wars among spirit beings affect physical human beings on Earth! If we misunderstand or disbelieve that fact, we will be deceived, and will end up being victims.

Let's go back in history to the beginning—the most destructive war among the stars ever, the war that *started* all of these wars.

The First Star Wars

God originally appointed Lucifer and one third of the angels to *rule* over Earth. It was God's testing ground to prepare them to rule the universe. When Lucifer ruled Earth with God's government, those angels under him were full of joy. It was a wonderful and happy place.

But then he and his angels rebelled. He became God's bitter adversary. Satan and the demons *failed* dreadfully and disastrously. They disqualified themselves from ruling over the Earth and the universe.

After Satan led one third of the angels to rebel, what did they do to the Earth? “And the earth was [became] without form, and void” The Hebrew for “without form and void,” *tohu and bohu*, conveys chaos, confusion, waste and emptiness. “[A]nd darkness was upon the face of the deep [the destroyed surface of the Earth]. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2).

Lucifer became bitter, and he filled the Earth with VIOLENCE! That is what he's all about: VIOLENCE and BITTERNESS. God changed Lucifer's name from “light-bringer” to “the adversary,” or enemy of God—and that's what he is to this day!

God created the universe. It was structured and beautiful. But what do you see today if you look out at the universe? Destruction, decay and bondage. Why? What happened between the time God created it, perfect, and now? It was destroyed in that same war!

That great star war between the fallen angels and the righteous angels of God devastated not only the face of the Earth

but the planets, the galaxies, the entire universe! That is the destructive power of Satan. There was a great war out there, and even though the beings fighting in that war are invisible, you can see how destructive they were to physical things! They can destroy physical things, including physical human beings. They have great power, and the only way to combat that power and overcome it is to have GOD's power.

The state of the universe shows you how real and how destructive the true star wars are. We are talking about the *real* war happening between the stars: the righteous stars and the fallen stars. This is the REAL STAR WARS!

God recorded this war in *many* scriptures in your Bible, yet we hear very little about it. People don't understand and don't believe in these wars—and their effect on what is happening on Earth right now.

Sons of God Will Rule the Universe

“Because the [creation] itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation *groaneth and travaileth in pain* together until now” (Romans 8:21-22). The whole universe is in “the bondage of corruption.” How did that happen? Why is the universe pictured here as *groaning* in travail and pain? Because of the decay and great devastation in the universe! All those desolate planets have been greatly damaged. God never creates anything unless it is very good (e.g. Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, etc.). That means something went terribly wrong with all these planets; we can see how much damage has been done to them. That is the result of Lucifer and the angels' rebellion. They have *awesome* destructive power! Yet few people understand it.

At one time, Lucifer was a covering cherub for God. This powerful being was trained at the headquarters of the universe. But his rebellion led God to eliminate the potential that angels would rule the universe.

When God saw the destruction of the universe, He realized that He could not trust the angels to rule over it. The only one who can rule the universe is God. Only a God being could be trusted with such power. So He set in motion a plan

even greater than the angelic plan. He decided to *re-create Himself*. He renewed the face of the Earth, and then created a new type of being: mankind.

Believe it or not, the truth of your Bible is that God's *magnificent purpose* for human beings on Earth is to be fashioned after His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26)—and to actually enter His Family as God beings! That is what God is doing with mankind! That is His magnificent plan! I urge you to request from us a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential*, which explains this wonderful truth in detail straight from your Bible.

Romans 8 says “children of God” will be the ones to bring *liberty* and *free-*

That great star war between the fallen angels and the righteous angels of God devastated not only the face of the Earth but the planets, the galaxies, the entire universe!

dom—not just to their personal lives or their families, but to the Earth and the rest of the *universe!*

Romans 8 plainly tells us that God is preparing human beings to rule over the Earth and the universe. The children of God are going to bring liberty to the entire universe. Why don't people talk about this more?

Now, if you look at human beings, it is obvious that we are not ready to rule the universe. We have become rebellious, sinful and destructive just like Satan. In fact, Satan and the demons *still* rule the Earth (2 Corinthians 4:4) and have massive influence over human beings (Ephesians 2:2).

Satan's Power

If you want to really understand Satan's power, look at Isaiah 14. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ...” (Isaiah 14:12-13). “Above the stars” means above all the angels—but he has even greater ambition than that.

Notice: “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (verses 13-14). Here God records Lucifer's thoughts as he prepared an attempt to depose God and steal His throne! That was Lucifer's ambition! It was an insane attempt against the all-powerful Creator, but Satan was so full of self-will, vanity and bitterness, he actually tried it.

“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell [the grave], to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the [one] that MADE THE EARTH TO TREMBLE, THAT DID SHAKE KINGDOMS” (verses 15-16). *This power actually shakes*

kingdoms and makes the Earth tremble! A lot of people on Earth tremble today because of this evil being and his fallen angels. These “stars” exert tremendous influence over men, because men absorb that same rebellious spirit.

The Emphasized Bible refers to Satan in verse 12 as “O, crusher of nations.” The American Standard Version says: “He didst LAY LOW the nations!” The Jerusalem Bible uses the phrase “ENSLAVED the nations.”

Your Bible says Satan and his demonic fallen stars have *POWER* over nations and human beings! That is why they cause so many problems and get involved in such wars. They have nothing but *bitterness* and *wrath* in their minds because of their rebellion against God. That's the way it is when angels or humans rebel against God. We enter into a bitterness that's almost like being addicted to heroin. You just can't *shake* it, if you're not very careful. It is extremely dangerous.

Daniel recorded how Satan even fought to prevent his prophetic book from being recorded in the first place. God had given the prophecy to Gabriel to deliver to Daniel. Gabriel is one of the three archangels mentioned in the Bible.

The only others of this highest angelic rank are Michael—and, formerly, Lucifer. As Gabriel was delivering the book to Daniel, Satan the devil attacked.

In Daniel's prophecy Gabriel is recorded as saying, "But *the prince of the kingdom of Persia* withstood me one and twenty days" (Daniel 10:13). That is Satan the devil; he is mentioned this way because he actually RULED over the world-girdling empire of Persia. *Satan* is the one that ruled it! Can you believe that? This is what happens in these great world-ruling empires; that's why they are so evil and why they do such deadly, evil things.

Continuing in verse 13: "[A]nd behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia" (New King James Version). This prince of Persia was fighting against Gabriel, God's archangel, so it is obviously referring to Satan the devil and his fallen angels. This was a great battle in the star wars of the Bible.

Are all the problems and disasters you see in our world what God wanted for mankind? No, but we have it because people rebel against God.

Satan is called the prince of the kingdom of Persia because he gets control of these great world-ruling empires. 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls him "the *god of this world*." People WORSHIP him and they *don't* worship God. Revelation 12:9 says Satan has *deceived the whole world!*

This is the REAL STAR WARS! Satan has forceful rule and power over the rulers of the world. He empowers them to cause destruction. And very soon, according to the prophecies of the Bible, he is going to cause the greatest crisis ever on Earth. *He is fighting against God*. He knows that his time is SHORT! (Revelation 12:12). Why is it short? Because Christ is about to return and kick him off his throne, *forever*, and bring this world peace, joy and happiness that it should have had from the very beginning.

Spiritual Terrorism

Ezekiel 28 also talks about these star wars. "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him,

Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (verse 12). Here, God talks about the king of Tyrus and Satan the devil almost as one and the same, because Satan RULES over kings!

He was "the anointed cherub" (verse 14) who *helped* God in His Work. But then he started a WAR! "[T]hou shalt be a TERROR, and never shalt thou be any more" (verse 19). God will put a stop to it, but Satan is a TERROR to this world! He is a TERRORIST—the supreme terrorist on Earth—and he rules over *all* terrorists! How many people understand that? Do you know why our nations can never win the war against terror? Because Satan empowers it. The only way we can overcome or conquer them is to have GOD'S power, which is FAR greater than any power Satan has. But we turn away from God today, so we have no spiritual power.

Daniel 8:10-12 talk about these stars: "some of the host and of the stars" were cast to the ground. That is, the very

work of the angels of God was cast to the ground because 95 percent of God's own people rebelled, and they transgressed. They left themselves without God's *power*, and Satan just took over God's Church. He not only takes over nations, he takes over God's own Church if the people don't obey Him. That is the kind of power Satan has. Yes, these star wars go on even inside God's Church! These invisible beings—evil beings *and* God's angels—are *battling* against or with God's people. How effective those righteous angels are depends on how obedient the people are.

Join the Fight!

Though so few people believe it, this world NEEDS this message. They need the message of God to understand *why* they are here, what is happening on Earth, and what it all means! People are in confusion and into all kinds of destructive things. But there is a great future ahead of us. We need to understand the real star

wars—and what God and those righteous stars are fighting for! It's about nothing less than our *purpose for existing!*

Romans 8 says God is preparing "children of God"—human beings—to rule the Earth and the universe. But to reach that stage in His master plan, God is taking several successive steps. Right now, God is *not yet* trying to make ALL human beings—or even all who consider themselves Christians—into "children of God"! He has actually chosen only a *little flock* today to come out of this world.

That tiny Church that Jesus Christ founded is preparing to marry Him and help Him bring liberty and freedom, joy and happiness to the Earth, and then to the universe.

Those who respond to this calling now, before Christ returns, are merely the firstfruits. God is going to use them as His Bride to rule with Him in the World Tomorrow from His headquarters—and open up salvation to *all of mankind*. They will have a *remarkable, amazing reward* for what they do today to get this message out to the world. They will help Christ lead His entire Family to rule over the Earth and then all the universe!

We get to bring LIBERTY, real FREEDOM, to the entire UNIVERSE! No more suffering! No more star wars! No more pain! What could be more wonderful and exciting than that? The REAL STAR WARS God has revealed are a campaign to eliminate *all wars, all unhappiness, all pain, all suffering, all misery* on Earth.

Look around! Are all the problems and disasters you see in our world what God wanted for mankind? No, but we have it because people rebel against God. People need to be TAUGHT to obey God and have all of the wonderful blessings He has for *all of us!*

Now, if you respond today, you get *directly* involved in those star wars, and you have God and His righteous angels *helping* you fight the destructive power of Satan and the fallen angels. That is how we *prepare* to rule with God.

I hope this *real star wars* becomes *vivid* in your mind so you can see what it is all about and see God's master plan. The people of God are fighting in this evil world today, FIGHTING FEROCIOUSLY, to WIN this battle for God. And WE ABSOLUTELY WILL WIN! WE CANNOT LOSE if we are loyal to God! ■



Churchill on MOSES

Why history's great lawgiver should matter to all people

BY DENNIS LEAP

WINSTON CHURCHILL WAS ONE OF the greatest statesmen of the 20th century. His piercing insight into the Nazi mind saved the Western world from becoming subservient to goose-stepping goons. Even when top leaders in Britain and America refused to hear his early warnings about Hitler's Third Reich and his maniacal plans for world domination, Churchill stood against the tide of opposition, won support and snuffed out a sure-to-come global nightmare of suffering and human slavery. This is historical fact.

When I watched Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu give his short but impassioned speech before the United States Congress on March 3, I could not help but think of Churchill. Others thought the same way. Steve Forbes called Prime Minister Netanyahu "the Churchill of our time." Charles Krauthammer called the speech "Netanyahu's Churchillian warning." Can we see that Mr. Netanyahu is walking in Churchill's shoes? He is facing a mind-bending crisis: the nuclear destruction of his nation and people at the hands of Iranian thugs who will *never* recant their plans to erase Israel off the map.

Like Churchill with the Nazi threat in the 1930s, Netanyahu can see that

once Iran gets the bomb, it is sure not only to destroy Israel, but also to ignite World War III. The survival of every man, woman and child on this planet is under dire threat. The tragic history of the 1930s is repeating itself. Top leaders in America and Britain are balking, scoffing and stopping their ears to Mr. Netanyahu's pleas for a better Iranian deal. And with nuclear bombs on the table, this world may never have the opportunity to repeat the history of the early 1940s.

History's Horrors

At the end of his speech, Mr. Netanyahu said with passionate hope, "You stand with Israel, because you know the story

of Israel is not only the story of the Jewish people but of the human spirit that refuses again and again to succumb to history's horrors.

"Facing me right up there in the gallery, overlooking all of us in this august chamber is the image of Moses. Moses led our people from slavery to the gates of the Promised Land. And before the people of Israel entered the land of Israel, Moses gave us a message that has steeled our resolve for thousands of years. I leave you with his message today [speaking in Hebrew]: 'Be strong and resolute, neither fear nor dread them.'"

At the same time Mr. Netanyahu was completing his final thoughts—including those on Moses—the camera focused on a relief of Moses on the wall of the House Chamber in the U.S. Capitol. Having never toured that room when in Washington, D.C., I was surprised to learn of the portrait's existence. And because I had just begun work on a series of articles on Moses's life for our *Royal Vision* magazine, seeing the portrait added a dramatic moment to the address. Yet I wondered, why is there a portrait of Moses in the U.S. Capitol building? I found out that there is a good reason.

Some time after this speech, I was told by one of my sons-in-law that Winston Churchill wrote an essay on Moses titled, "Moses: The Leader of a People." This essay was first published in the *Sunday Chronicle* on Nov. 8, 1931, under the superhead, "Great Bible Stories Retold by the World's Best Writers."

It is interesting to note that Churchill wrote this essay near the start of the wretched period of his life that his biographer Martin Gilbert coined "the wilderness years." In the decade from 1929 to 1939, Mr. Churchill was banished from political power and was out of favor with his countrymen even as he tried to rouse them to face the Nazi threat. Of course, he was eventually brought back into power and favor and led the West from certain slavery to glorious victory in World War II.

Could Churchill's knowledge of Moses have provided him the inspiration and motivation to get back in the fight to save his country and people? Certainly, Benjamin Netanyahu's speech proves that he is drawing strength from Moses's history.

What about you and me? Is there an important educational thread that we can stitch between Churchill, Netanyahu and Moses? This world needs more rational, outspoken men like them. Without a Churchill, a Netanyahu or a Moses, we will succumb to history's horrors currently standing on our doorstep.

Churchill on Moses

Those who know well the life of Winston Churchill recognize that he was a student of history—a true believer. "We reject, however, with scorn all those learned and labored myths that Moses was but a legendary figure upon whom the priesthood and the people hung their essential social, moral and religious ordinances," wrote Churchill. Hypocritical Bible scholars and insincere intellectuals could not dupe him into believing that Moses was some mythical figure.

"We believe that the most scientific view, the most up-to-date and rationalistic conception, will find its fullest satisfaction in taking the Bible story literally, and in identifying one of the greatest human beings with the most decisive leap forward ever discernable in the human story," Churchill continued. The West's greatest statesman believed, without doubt, that Moses lived and accomplished exactly what the Bible states he did.

Churchill viewed the Bible as *accurate* history. "We may be sure that all these things happened just as they are set out according to Holy Writ," he affirmed. "We may believe that they happened to people not so very different from ourselves, and that the impressions those people received were faithfully recorded and have been transmitted across the centuries with far more accuracy than many of the telegraphed accounts we read of the goings-on of today."

Churchill's faith in Bible history made the history and work of Moses relevant to his own experience. For Churchill, Moses's life was that of a statesman grappling with the same problems common to mankind in every age. Ancient history came alive for him and pointed the way out of crisis.

Winston Churchill believed the Bible to be more accurate than the news reports, political speeches and government written communications of his day. Here is the deep insight of

an experienced government leader. Many government leaders and even the news media know that the American public is being misled about many things—including the Iran deal. To use Churchill's words, there are some abominable "goings-on" happening in our government and nation. Yet few will stand up and say anything about it.

Churchill's thinking on the Bible and Moses is inspiring and refreshing. While many today scoff at his kind of thinking, imagine what our world would be like if today's leaders thought more like Churchill. What if world leaders studied Moses's life and let him speak to their situation? What would happen if more leaders imitated Moses and Churchill? Benjamin Netanyahu would not be alone in attempting to stop World War III.

Moses: The Great Liberator

Churchill looked at Moses as a *people's leader* dealing with "grim times." Churchill had his share of black times. Netanyahu and the tiny state of Israel—descended from biblical Judah—are having theirs. Grim times require great leadership.

"[The] closing words of the book of Deuteronomy are an apt expression of the esteem in which the great leader and liberator of the Hebrew people was held by the generations that succeeded him," Churchill wrote, himself sharing the same esteem for Moses that the Hebrews had (Deuteronomy 34:10-12). "He was the greatest of the prophets, who spoke in person to the God of Israel; he was the national hero who led the chosen people out of the land of bondage, through the perils of the wilderness, and brought them to the very threshold of the Promised Land ..."

Many know the Exodus account of Moses's history—even young children can rehearse it. It opens with the knowledge that the days were passed when Joseph, the firstborn son of Jacob and Rachel, ruled Egypt. A new king, with the title *pharaoh*, came to power. This despotic leader no longer considered the Israelites and their continually expanding families to be the guests of Egypt. He took violent control of the Hebrews. He oppressively exploited their inherent talent for maximizing agricultural productivity, constructing and designing

awe-inspiring artistic architecture and establishing high culture in dance and music. Pharaoh enslaved them to his own selfish, self-centered will.

Pharaoh worked the children of Jacob to skin and bones. Yet the harder he worked them, the more their numbers increased. He perceived a major problem: The Israelites came to outnumber the native Egyptian population. A wave of anti-Israelite sentiment spread within the Egyptian population and its government. Pharaoh instituted government policy forcing a sadistic type of birth control on Israelite families: He required midwives to murder newborn boys (Exodus 1:16). When that plan didn't work, he went to the next heinous step by legally demanding rank execution of Israelite boys—drowning them in the river.

When Moses was born, his hapless, oppressed and work-weary parents saw that he was a special child. They ignored Pharaoh's law and hid him for three months. When they could no longer safely protect him from execution, they devised a plan. They floated the baby in a little boat past Pharaoh's childless daughter. The Egyptian princess took him in and gained a legal exception for this Hebrew baby boy. Moses was brought into the government mansions and raised as a prince of Egypt.

The Bible history opens again when Moses had grown to a mature man of 40. He knew he was not Egyptian, but Hebrew. His heart and conscience were turned toward the plight of his people. Seeing one of his countrymen being beaten to death, he defended and avenged the slave by killing the Egyptian taskmaster. Once Moses's deed was discovered among the Israelites and the Egyptians, he fled Egypt to escape execution. Moses lived the life of a simple shepherd. Another 40 years passed. All those Egyptians who lusted to take Moses's life died.

Then the God of Israel sent Moses back to Egypt to rescue Abraham's descendants from the slave pits of Egypt. Through a series of God-sponsored miraculous plagues, God decimated the economy and agriculture of Egypt, ensuring that Pharaoh would finally "let the people go." Yet, when Pharaoh realized that he had just released one of the greatest labor forces in the world, he decided to fight to get them back. At that

point, with one final bombshell of a miracle at the Red Sea, God decimated Pharaoh and his army, and Moses and the Israelites were set free. For the next 40 years, God used Moses to weld the often unruly Israelites into His own nation.

That is the short version. The long version of Moses's history—located in the last four books of the Pentateuch (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)—is the premier textbook of statesmen.

Moses: The Lawgiver

Most scholars and many people think that Moses was a Jew and that he was their leader only. But Moses was not Jewish. A Jew is a member of the tribe of Judah. Judah was the fourth son of Jacob and Leah. Moses was a descendant

Moses's long life. Discussing Israel's encampment at Mount Sinai, he stated: "Here Moses received from [God] the tables of those fundamental laws which were henceforth to be followed, with occasional lapses, by the highest forms of human society." Referring specifically to the Ten Commandments, Churchill wanted his readers to view Moses as leader for all Earth's peoples. Even more, Mr. Churchill also wanted the citizens of the world to recognize that the law God gave to Moses was intended to be a law to be obeyed by all people. Do we see the timeless wisdom given us by Winston Churchill? This world needs such wisdom—desperately!

After Benjamin Netanyahu's speech, I did some research on why a portrait of Moses hangs on the wall of the House

Imagine what our world would be like if today's leaders thought more like Churchill. What if world leaders studied Moses's life and let him speak to their situation?

of Levi, the third son of Jacob and Leah. Moses should be known as a Levite. As a descendant of Levi, he was actually a member of Israel's priestly tribe.

Reading Churchill's essay on Moses, it is clear that he had the *big picture* view of this great man. "[Moses] was the supreme lawgiver, who received from God that remarkable code upon which the religious, moral and social life of the nation was so securely founded," stated Mr. Churchill. For Churchill, Moses's life was not the stuff of cartoons or poorly directed and badly scripted movies. He fully understood that God used Moses to establish a code of law and form of government that allowed the Hebrew nation to thrive and become great. From Moses's life, Churchill learned that *no* nation could live *securely* without high standards of morality based on a spiritual law, a benevolent social life, and a civil government that serves its people.

Later in his essay, Churchill clearly explained the universal lessons of

chamber. I discovered that the artist Jean de Marco designed the plaque. It was mounted to the wall in 1950. Why?

"The 23 marble relief portraits over the gallery doors of the House chamber in the U.S. Capitol depict historical figures noted for their work in *establishing the principles that underlie American law*," states the website Architect of the Capitol (aoc.gov; emphasis added). The plaque's overview states: "Moses (c. 1350-1250 B.C.) Hebrew prophet and lawgiver; transformed a wandering people into a nation; received the Ten Commandments." I found this information to be truly awesome but equally chilling.

Restoring Security to Nations

Sixty-five years ago, government leaders in America believed that American law—the Constitution—was based on the work of Moses. Apparently this fact has become controversial in recent years, but America's Founding Fathers

Vanity vs. Reality

Biblical wisdom about making sure your self-esteem is accurate

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHOSE SELF-ESTEEM just does not match *reality*? Someone with an inflated sense of his own abilities? Such people can be difficult to be around.

Have you ever searched your *own* mind for this same attitude?

We ALL have a natural tendency to think more of ourselves than we should. It manifests itself differently in different people. Many of us think we are smarter, righter, *better* than we really are. On the other hand, many are absorbed with *negative* thoughts about themselves. That is actually a different form of the same problem: being self-absorbed and not seeing reality.

The Bible goes right to the core of this universal human malady. It proves the nature of these mental traps and reveals how to build a healthy, balanced, positive and *realistic* perspective on yourself.

Pride Leads to ...

1. What will happen to the person full of pride and pomposity, puffed up about his or her own accomplishments? Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 29:23.

God repeatedly warns that such attitudes create negative kickbacks. People who have unrealistic ideas about themselves will smack headfirst into reality sooner or later—and the more out-of-whack their opinions of themselves are, the more painful reality will be. 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns, “[L]et him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

2. Some may say, “But I actually, objectively am the best. I DO deserve praise. Isn’t it ‘false humility’ to pretend otherwise?” How does the Bible answer? Proverbs 27:2.

That is excellent advice. Praising your own accomplishments is unbecoming, no matter who you are. Let your accomplishments speak for themselves. If someone else thinks your deeds are praiseworthy, that is their opinion. Accept the compliment and leave it at that.

3. Did the Apostle Paul also warn against self-importance? Romans 12:3.

4. Jesus Christ spoke a parable about this subject. What did He say would happen to the person who believes he is worthy of the greatest honor and goes ahead and takes it? Luke 14:7-11.

5. What did Jesus tell His disciples when they were arguing among themselves about who

should have the highest office in God’s Kingdom? Matthew 18:1-4.

It is common for human beings, for philosophies, for religions to teach that praise and honor are good and that obtaining them is an end unto itself. The God of the Old Testament, who became Jesus Christ, brought a *revolutionary* way of thinking. Jesus said human beings must have a humble, childlike attitude. We will see *why* as we continue this study.

Now let’s understand the real basis for true humility.

A True Basis of Comparison

Long ago, there was a rich man. He was a great builder, a successful businessman. He commanded thousands of workers and owned thousands of livestock on a great plot of land. He was a family man, with 10 children! He was also a righteous man. His name was Job.

The problem was, Job had a terrible flaw. He had too high an opinion of himself—of his awesome building projects, his large and happy family, his own good deeds. He had great accomplishments—and he was impressed by them, as almost any of us would be if we had such achievements. But his perspective was wrong.

1. What happened to Job? Job 1:6-22; 2:1-7.

God allowed Satan to severely attack Job. So the devil destroyed everything this man had built up: his cattle, his servants—even his family and his very own health. This was a trial more terrible than any of us have had to endure, yet God specifically allowed it. It was serving an important purpose.

After all these tragedies, Job’s friends came to grieve with him. Then they turned on him, reasoning that he must have committed a great sin for God to be cursing him so badly. Much of the book of Job is devoted to Job’s response to their accusations, justifying himself and maintaining his high opinion of himself.

2. Did one of Job’s friends pinpoint his weakness? Job 35:1-3.

Elihu saw the situation much more accurately. He tried to get Job to compare himself to the great God. But Job still didn’t quite see himself truthfully.

3. Did God finally speak to Job *personally*—and firmly—before he got the message? Job 38:1-3; 40:3-5.

God had a high opinion of Job too (Job 1:8). But Job was not nearly as great as he thought he was.

It took God's words to move him to see his human insignificance compared to God's greatness!

4. How did God illustrate His point? Job 38-39.

No human can match God's accomplishments. The greatest architectural projects in the world are child's play compared to the enormous Earth we live on and the vast universe around us. No matter how large a man's family, that achievement is nothing compared to the God who created that man, his children and the entire human race—along with the angels and every other living thing!

After reading Job 38 and 39, compare yourself to God's greatness, His power, His wisdom. God created us mortal, weak human beings out of dirt (Genesis 2:7). He wants us to have an appropriate opinion of ourselves, and to realize how much we need Him. He wants us to learn how weak we are without Him, so that we will RELY on Him. Man needs His Creator.

Seek God's Help

The way to get the right perspective on yourself is to *get to know God*. Your perspective becomes skewed when you forget the One who created you and absorb yourself in yourself.

1. Did Job finally get the picture? Job 42:1-6. Once he realized this, how did God respond? Verses 10, 12.

2. How much do we actually need God? Can human beings not simply reason out all the answers we need in life? Proverbs 3:5-8.

No one is smart enough to figure out all the answers. In fact, the biggest problems in this world are created by people who are too confident in their own opinions and ways of doing things.

Let's look at another biblical example of someone who really approached God with this understanding.

3. At the end of his life, Israel's greatest king, David, passed the rulership of the nation on to his son Solomon. How did Solomon regard his abilities? 1 Kings 3:5-9. What was the result of Solomon's attitude? Verses 10-13.

Solomon's prayer is a beautiful example of the kind of mindset we should have every day with whatever our jobs may be. God wants us to rely on Him for all our needs. He wants us to make daily contact with Him through prayer about those needs. Having that contact helps you maintain a humble perspective on yourself. Scripture shows that if we have this humility, God will bless us as He blessed Solomon!

4. Does God really want us to "bother Him" with the everyday issues and problems we face in life? 1 Peter 5:7.

The Blessings of Humility

1. 1 Peter 5:7 says that God wants us to cast all our cares upon Him. But, according to that same passage, what must we do FIRST? Verse 6.

If we are humble before God, not only will He take care of all our needs, He will *exalt us!* If we



We all have a natural tendency to think more of ourselves than we should. It manifests itself differently in different people.

draw upon Him for help, and have the humility to make Him a part of our decision-making, our life will begin to amount to something special.

2. Does becoming humble mean going around like a sad sack all the time? Or will God inject a new kind of confidence into you? Isaiah 57:15.

Having a *proper* opinion of yourself doesn't mean having a LOW opinion of yourself. It doesn't mean beating yourself up emotionally. It means having a clear, balanced perspective. It means conquering negative feelings about yourself—a self-absorption that is actually a type of vanity! God wants you to be balanced, happy and confident! He can fill you with that *right kind of godly confidence*—confidence that is GROUNDED in the right perspective.

3. What other promises does God make to those who humble themselves before Him? Proverbs 22:4; James 4:10.

Life will be much smoother and more successful if you can learn this lesson now. God doesn't want us to have to experience what Job went through. Such examples are in the Bible so we can *learn* from them by reading them.

If you develop a humble attitude, God will respond mightily in your life! If you can develop a close relationship with Him, you will have the right opinion of yourself. You will be confident, strong, energetic—yes! But you will also learn to receive your power from God. You will understand how you stack up with God. You will learn that *you don't know it all*.

But with God dwelling in your life, you can develop true wisdom. You can receive answers and understanding. You can use this temporary life for lasting achievements—to develop character that will lead to your incredible human potential: eternal life in God's Family. This is the way to real success—success in this life and the NEXT! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 100,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

You can read previous articles in this series online at trmpt.co/bibleiq.



HUMAN WAVE
A boat carrying rescued migrants arrives at an Italian port.

The real effect of the EU's migrant dilemma

FROM JANUARY TO APRIL last year, 56 immigrants died crossing the Mediterranean. In the same period this year, the number was 1,750. On April 20, over 800 died when their boat capsized. That tragedy got Europe's attention. Germany's *Spiegel* said, "We have become accomplices to one of the biggest crimes to take place in European post-war history" (April 20).

But Europe will not open its doors to tens of thousands more African immigrants, making any debate over the morality of such a policy irrelevant. Just about all of Europe's major leaders know that in the coming months, after this crisis has blown over and been forgotten, they will face serious challenges from anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim parties. Opening the doors to impoverished Muslims from North Africa will only cost them votes.

Amid the platitudes are important developments. This migrant dilemma is leading the European Union to grow its military presence in the Mediterranean, gradually drawing it deeper into Africa.

After an emergency meeting on April 23 in response to the growing death toll, EU leaders announced they would triple the funding for their Mediterranean surveillance operation, Triton, to about \$9.7 million a month. Several EU members have pledged to contribute military assets, including Britain's flagship, the HMS *Bulwark*, 11 ships from Germany, and French planes.

More dramatically, EU leaders also promised a mission "to identify, capture and destroy" ships used to ferry the immigrants over, "before they are used by traffickers."

Such a military mission would require either an invitation from Libya (which lacks a functioning government) or a United Nations mandate. Russia may block any mission, but the public promise shows that European leaders favor military involvement in Africa over loosening immigration restrictions.

At the European Council summit, EU leaders promised to "increase support to Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan,

Mali and Niger among others, to monitor and control the land borders and routes." This would include building on current military operations in the region. They also promised to "deploy European migration liaison officers in key countries to gather information on migratory flows, coordinate with national liaison officers, and cooperate directly with the local authorities."

These are small steps, but bigger ones will follow. Last year, 170,000 people crossed from Libya into Italy or Turkey. That wave alone poses political and economic problems for southern Europe, and the trend also poses a national security threat. Over the last few months, leaders of the Islamic State terrorist group have threatened to send terrorists to Europe in the migrants' boats.

One prominent Islamic State supporter wrote in an online essay that Libya "has a long coastline and looks upon the southern Crusader states, which can be reached with ease by even a rudimentary boat, and note that the number of 'illegal immigration' trips from this coast is massive ..."

"If this was even partially exploited and developed strategically, pandemonium could be wrought in southern Europe," he continued.

Libyan Gen. Khalifa Haftar gave a similar warning, telling the Associated Press that Islamist militants "will head with the illegal migrants to Europe" (March 20).

This has probably already happened. There are certainly extremists among the migrants. Sicilian police reported in April that a group of Muslims had thrown 12 of their fellow migrants overboard, drowning them

because of religion: The victims were Christian.

Islamic State supporters have also posted photos taken in Rome, showing that they are in the city and planning to attack. Islamists have also discussed using Libya as a base to attack Mediterranean shipping.

Europe's response has revolved around securing the Continent. A real possibility now exists of European military strikes in Libyan waters, even on Libyan territory. Functioning only within 30 miles of its coast, Europe's surveillance operation is not aimed at rescuing immigrants, but at protecting Europe.

Odds are that this won't be enough to defeat the Islamists—Europe rarely takes action strong enough to solve any problem unless it is forced to. But an increased Islamist presence in Libya would force Europe to act.

"All you need to do is get a good map of the Middle East, with the emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Then you can see why ... radical Islam is so interested in an alliance with or control over" Libya and Ethiopia "as well as Egypt and Tunisia," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in April 2011. "They are on the two seas that comprise the most important trade route in the world!"

In April 2013, he wrote, "Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications."

Immigration and the threat Islamic militants pose are drawing Europe deeper into this battleground. To learn more on where this is leading, read Mr. Flurry's article "Libya and Ethiopia Reveal Iran's Military Strategy" (theTrumpet.com/go/8017). ■

China gaining ground, literally and littorally

SATELLITE PHOTOS SHOW that China is gaining ground in the South China Sea. The images show Chinese workers dredging huge amounts of sand from the seafloor, pumping it onto submerged coral reefs, and paving over the sand to create an artificial island.

Were this project happening in Chinese waters, it would be uncontroversial. But the site of the project is Mischief Reef, 800 miles from China and only 150 miles from the Philippines. China claims Mischief, but the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea says it belongs to the Philippines. The reef falls well within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.

"It's a major or critical concern," said Philippine Defense Ministry spokesman Peter Galvez on April 9. "They have to dismantle it. It's a concern not only for our country and region, but for the whole international community."

Mischief Reef isn't the only place where China is creating artificial land. China claims ownership of about 90 percent of the vast



South China Sea and is also reclaiming land on six other disputed reefs. So far, Beijing has created more than 1.5 square miles of landmass on the reefs, and the operations are increasing in both pace and scale.

On the new islands, China is building fuel storage facilities, ports, surveillance posts and airstrips. Experts say China is militarizing the islands, enhancing its ability to project power in the region.

Vasily Kashin, senior research fellow at Moscow's Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, told the *Trumpet* the economic potential of these artificial islands is also important. "[T]hey can establish not just

military presence, but some symbolic economic activity as well," he said.

China's illegal operations present a difficulty for the United States. The Philippines is a U.S. treaty ally, and Beijing is building the islands rapidly. At its current pace, Beijing's claim to the South China Sea could become reality before anything can be done to challenge it.

U.S. President Barack Obama seems unwilling to confront the Chinese activity with anything beyond gentle rhetoric. Beijing appears to believe that under the current administration, the U.S. is unlikely to back its treaty ally and challenge Chinese expansionism. ■

Gibraltar: If Britain leaves EU, we will stay

DESPITE ONGOING SPANISH efforts to retake control of Gibraltar, each time the people of the peninsula vote on the issue, they vote overwhelmingly to remain part of the United Kingdom. But on April 14, Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, discussed an event that could lead Gibraltar to sever ties.

"I know that there are many in the UK who advocate the UK moving out of the EU who consider themselves to be very good friends of Gibraltar, but they need to understand the economics of this," Mr. Picardo told the *Financial Times*.

"The only existential threat to our economy is one where we are pulled out of the European Union against our will and denied access to the single market," he added.

Picardo says that if Britain votes to exit the EU—which could be the outcome of an in/out referendum planned for 2017—then Gibraltar would opt to stay in it.

Such an event would not totally sever Gibraltar's links to Britain, but it would represent a significant split between the two. Such a split could be exploited by Spain and the EU to assert more control over the Rock.

The *Trumpet* forecasts that Britain will eventually lose control of Gibraltar. To learn why, read "Changing of the Guard" in our free booklet *He Was Right* (theTrumpet.com/go/hwr). ■



Cyberattack could start nuclear war

RETIRED U.S. GEN. JAMES Cartwright warned that a cyberattack could start nuclear war, according to an April 29 Associated Press article.

Cartwright said cyberthreats to command-and-control systems have "increased exponentially" over the past decade. Lone wolves are no longer the main threat—it is hostile nation states.

America needs to assume its systems are compromised, he said.

Cartwright, who headed Strategic Command from 2004 to 2007, says the best solution is to "de-alert" nuclear arsenals. This would reduce the chance of firing a weapon in response to a false warning of attack. He says a 24-to-72-hour lead time for missiles to be fired is needed.

These suggestions are unlikely to be implemented. The world's two largest nuclear powers, Russia and America, are at odds over the invasion of Ukraine. Meanwhile, the West is set to let Iran build a nuclear weapon. Saudi Arabia and Egypt have said they will pursue a bomb if Iran is allowed to have one.

Nuclear deterrents will be on higher alert than ever. ■

Falklands in danger?

RUSSIA IS PREPARING TO release 12 long-range, supersonic bomber jets to Argentina. Reports in late Argentina to take over the Falkland Islands.

Argentina has long argued that the Falklands—which it calls the Malvinas—are Argentine territory and should be controlled by Buenos Aires instead of London. Argentina invaded the islands in 1982, but the 74-day conflict ended with British forces overwhelming the Argentines.

But British defense cuts in recent years leave the Falklands more vulnerable to attack, particularly if Russia beefs up Argentina's armaments. "It is a very live threat," British Defense Minister Michael Fallon said March 23 concerning Moscow's plan to equip Argentina with attack planes. "We have to respond to it."

Former Defense Minister Sir Gerald Howarth said Russia's plan "is very serious indeed. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has many problems at home, and yet he is ramping up tension in the Falklands."

Russian politicians and pro-Kremlin journalists typically side with Argentina over the Falklands and criticize British sovereignty there as "colonial occupation." Russians sometimes refer to the Falklands as the "Crimea of the Atlantic."

After Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine last year, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said, "The Malvinas have always belonged to Argentina, the same way that Crimea

March show that some in Britain fear the move could be designed to prepare also belonged to the Soviet Union until it was given to Ukraine." Kirchner strongly supported Russia's annexation of Crimea, and now Moscow is backing her claim to the Falklands with the use of a dozen bombers.

Japan revises defense guidelines

JAPAN TOOK ANOTHER STEP away from pacifism on April 27 when it unveiled new defense guidelines that expand the global reach of the Japanese military.

Under previous restrictions, Japanese forces were only allowed to assist United States forces if the U.S. was directly engaged in defending Japan and its vicinity. Those guidelines kept Japanese troops out of overseas conflicts for decades. Under the new guidelines, Japanese forces can deploy anywhere on Earth to help any friendly nation under attack.

Before and during World War II, the Japanese military committed some of the worst brutality in history. In the immediate aftermath of that history, the United States occupied Japan and drafted its constitution to

discourage military fanaticism. The new constitution banned war as a means for Japan to settle international disputes. Shortly after, the U.S. and Japan signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. This codified Japanese dependence on the



REVISIONISTS
Prime Minister Abe (left)
with President Obama at
the White House in April

U.S. for defense and authorized stationing U.S. troops near potential regional conflict zones in the region.

The historic new guidelines unravel the constitutional ban as well as the security agreement.

"The guidelines make it look as if the constitutional

restrictions on Japan's military operations and the legal framework of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty have been consigned to oblivion," wrote the *Asia and Japan Watch* on April 28. "This policy shift will eventually start influencing Japanese society and politics. This is a change of course that will cause Japan to veer off the path it has been following since the end of World War II."

Washington has given Japan's new guidelines its full support, since U.S. leaders want Tokyo to shoulder some of the burden of stabilizing global conflicts—especially aggression from China and North

Korea. But Japan's recent wartime past, the reason Japan was forced into pacifism in the first place, makes this change potentially deadly.

To understand more, read "Why the Trumpet Monitors Japan's March Away From Pacifism Toward Militarism" (theTrumpet.com/go/12570). ■



On March 22, Alexei Pushkov, the head of the Russian Duma's committee of international affairs, tweeted:

seriously, Fallon said Britain will invest \$265 million to bolster the Falklands' defenses over the next 10 years. ■

"Information for London: In the Crimea, immeasurably more reason to be a part of Russia than in the Falkland Islands to be part of the UK." Putin himself has also made his support for Argentina's claims clear.

In a sign that the United Kingdom takes the Russo-Argentine cooperation



BROKEN STATE
Cracked earth near a threatened almond orchard in California

Dry, dry California

WHEN CALIFORNIA GOV. Jerry Brown declared a water emergency in January 2014, he and other state authorities debated the imposition of water restrictions. One water district general manager said, “We want to save the big hammer for when we know it’s really bad.”

That big hammer came down on April 1. Governor

Brown issued a mandatory 25 percent reduction in water use. These statewide, compulsory water usage restrictions are unprecedented in California’s history. From industries to homes, golf courses to cemeteries, college campuses to highway medians—all aspects of California life will be affected by the impositions. Infractions will be

punished by fines and other punitive measures. Prohibitive water rates will be introduced to discourage wastage.

Last year, Brown only asked for a voluntary 20 percent reduction in water use. Now, the governor says, “It’s a different world.”

According to the United States Drought Monitor, 93.9 percent of California is facing “severe drought,” and 99.9 percent of the Golden State is “abnormally dry.”

When President Barack Obama visited California to assess the severity of the drought in February last year, he warned: “California is our biggest economy [and] our biggest agricultural producer, so what happens here matters to every working American, right down to the cost of food that you put on your table.”

Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to understand the real cause of California’s curses and how they are soon to end—permanently. ■

Addicted to ICE

“I KNOW THAT IF we don’t adequately address this problem, it’s not an overstatement to say that [ICE] could bring us to our knees as a nation,” Australian Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione wrote for Australia’s *Daily Telegraph* on March 31. “This monster could steal everything we as Australians cherish so very much, and it could be taken from right under our noses.”

Australia’s latest addiction is crystal methamphetamine—known as “ICE.” Reports estimate that



LOSING BATTLE
Australian Federal Police have captured tons of meth only a fraction of the flow.

methamphetamine has been used by 1.3 million Australians—more than one out of every 20 people. An estimated 400,000 people have used the drug in the last 12 months. Usage more than doubled between 2010 and 2013, replacing its close cousin “speed”—powder methamphetamine—as the preferred drug.

With prices among the highest in the world, Australia is a lucrative market.

Law enforcement acknowledges that it can’t handle the epidemic on its own. Discussing

the problem “must go right across our nation, across education, across industry, and in particular, across our kitchen tables from parents to children,” Australian Crime Commission Chief Executive Chris Dawson said.

Australia’s drug usage is a symptom of a deeper society-wide sickness: broken families and broken lives. ■



NUMBERS
A Mexican immigrant calls about her boyfriend, who was detained by immigration agents.

One in 10 U.S. births is to illegal immigrants

UP TO 400,000 CHILDREN are born to illegal immigrants in the U.S. each year. And it is radically changing America’s demographics.

“To put this in perspective, this means that one out of 10 births in the U.S. is to an illegal immigrant mother,” Center for Immigration Studies legal policy analyst Jon Feere said. Speaking at a House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security hearing titled “Birthright Citizenship: Is It the Right Policy for America?” Feere noted that due to current policy, all of these children automatically become U.S. citizens.

This means these children automatically receive the benefits of U.S. citizenship, including a Social Security Number and U.S. passport.

This has led to a booming birth-tourism industry, in which pregnant foreigners enter America for the purpose of having a baby there.

“It is unlikely that Congress intended such a broad application of the 14th Amendment’s Citizenship Clause, and the Supreme Court has only held that children born to citizens or permanently domiciled immigrants must be considered U.S. citizens at birth,” Feere said. ■

America? He would probably never have had a better opportunity to conquer America—and he knew it! After all, he did say that the Soviets would ‘bury’ us. At the very least, the Soviet Union would have had the U.S. at nuclear gunpoint. America’s foreign policy would have been neutralized.

“However, something happened in Cuba. The Americans began hearing reports that missiles were coming in. But they needed confirmation. It was difficult to fly over Cuba, a hostile nation, without getting shot down. But **SOMEHOW, THE SOVIET PLAN GOT OUT OF PHASE. THE MISSILES ARRIVED AND WERE OUT IN THE OPEN BEFORE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES WERE FULLY OPERATIONAL.** American spy planes spotted the missiles and brought home photographic proof of Cuba’s nuclear buildup.

“The Cuban Missile Crisis turned out to be a victory for America, a victory that could have easily been a crushing defeat. But it proved how strategic the Cuban islands are for anyone who wants to harm the U.S. With modern weapons, how easily and quickly an enemy force can strike America’s military and its cities.”

Rejecting the Facts of History

From the time of conquistadors and pirates, a major base in the Caribbean has been the key to controlling the trade all around North America. Caribbean bases enabled Britain to siphon off huge amounts of wealth from the Spanish Empire. It’s no coincidence that the region became the target of both the French and the Germans when they were looking to kick-start their empires too.

Yet now the region seems set to be neglected—at least by America.

The Obama administration talks as if the Monroe Doctrine was a waste of time or an act of imperialistic hubris. It hates the meager mechanisms America had in place to try to bring about a friendly regime in Cuba.

America’s leaders today behave as though major wars are a thing of the past. They presume that no one would ever seek to attack the U.S., and therefore, defending America by keeping potential enemies out of its neighborhood isn’t important.



That view rejects the facts of history. This is the real world. Nations are jealous of rich and powerful rivals; they look for weaknesses to bring them down. There are foreign powers that want to harm the United States. They will use Latin America to do so if they can.

The wishful thinking that sees the world full of happy friends goes far beyond America’s rulers. It is the attitude of America as a whole. How much press coverage have you seen on this matter? It isn’t just the leaders who are unconcerned—the media don’t even consider it news because their readers probably wouldn’t care.

The United States is living in a make-believe world. The Monroe Doctrine was designed to protect the United States from foreign powers. It has been rejected because Washington apparently no longer believes there is anything to be protected from.

History is full of examples where people thought major-power wars were over—that humanity had progressed into an age of relative peace. This thinking was prevalent before the Napoleonic wars. And World War I. And World War II.

Biblical prophecy warns that such fantasies will again prevail in the very end time (e.g. Amos 6:3-6; Luke 17:26-30).

Besieged

America’s geography—protected from the world’s major powers by thousands of miles of ocean—is a blessing from God. In rejecting the Monroe Doctrine, America is largely negating that blessing.

Dozens of biblical prophecies promise blessings to Israel for obedience to God’s laws, and warn of curses for

disobedience. These apply most of all to the *end-time* descendants of the ancient nation of Israel, of whom the United States is chief. (This truth is proven in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Request a copy and we will send it to you at no charge.)

Dozens of prophecies describe foreign attack and invasion on American soil! It is difficult for most Americans to imagine because of the extraordinary security the nation has enjoyed for generations, but this is coming!

Latin America is certain to be a staging ground for some of these attacks. The plans for such invasions that have been thwarted in the past will be carried out.

One specific prophecy to consider in this context can be found in Deuteronomy 28. Among the punishments upon modern-day America that this chapter lists for rebellion against God, verse 52 warns that foreign nations “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.”

These “gates” include the vital sea-lanes by which America trades with other nations and imports goods that its people rely on every day. This is a specific prophecy that these sea-lanes will be *cut off* by foreign powers!

That scenario simply couldn’t happen without Latin America: It will entail an enemy or alliance of enemies closing the Panama Canal to American traffic and gaining naval and aerial superiority in the Caribbean.

The rest of the world sees a still-rich America becoming weaker and more inward-looking. The temptation and opportunity to undermine the nation has never been stronger.

If America were concerned about its future, it wouldn’t reject the Monroe Doctrine, but would rather increase its vigilance all the more. The consequences for this error are going to prove tragic. ■

Just Eat the Mustard

Believe it or not, it's key to your happiness.

ON THE ROAD AND IN A HURRY, MY FAMILY FLEW THROUGH a drive-through burger joint for lunch. One minute down the highway, a voice piped up from the back of the van.

"I said no mustard. This has mustard. I don't like mustard."

(Sound of record scratching.)



JOEL HILLIKER

Maybe that seems like a perfectly reasonable statement to you. But to he who had purchased this sandwich and provided it to his offspring in order to sustain her life for a few more hours—on a trip he was making solely for her benefit—it sounded like royal griping from Princess Persnickety.

I recalled that incident, and how it got under my skin, recently when I was reading the book of Numbers. This is the biblical book about the Israelites' march from Mount Sinai, where they received God's law, toward the paradise of the Promised Land.

They had just started to move out from the mountain—just a mile or two down the highway, so to speak—when things went bad.

"And when the people complained," Numbers 11:1 says, "it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled"

It doesn't even say specifically what they complained about. It doesn't mention a single thing actually being wrong. The margin translates this verse, "And the people were as it were *complainers*." That's just what they were: COMPLAINERS.

This wasn't the first time since being miraculously set free from soul-crushing slavery that the Israelites had grumbled, murmured and moaned (e.g. Exodus 15:23-24; 16:2-3; 17:2-3). This was a *habit* with these picky people. They didn't like what the Almighty God was providing for them.

And what did God think? His reaction was at least somewhat similar to mine: He heard that voice from "the back of the van," it displeased Him, and He got angry!

Do you complain? Maybe you do without even realizing it. A man named Will Bowen, who wrote a book called *A Complaint Free World*, said this: "Complaining is like bad breath: You notice it when it comes out of somebody else's mouth, but not your own."

You might not notice—but guess what: *God does*. He hears when we complain—and it angers Him.

Why would our bellyaching upset God so much?

Because He wants us to be content with what we have. And He wants us to be grateful for what He gives us. He knows that if we don't know how to be content, we can never be happy.

Discontentment—whether it's over a trek through the wilderness or a mustardy burger—is really a lack of perspective.



Read Matthew 6:25-34. You could look at what Jesus Christ is saying in these terms: *Don't get worked up over picky things. If you are disgruntled about your food or your clothing, your perspective is off. Be thankful you have a LIFE to sustain with food and drink! Be thankful you have a BODY to clothe! And just KNOW that God will look after you.*

In the Western world, people feel entitled to so much. Americans 50 years ago had only *one third* the wealth of Americans today. Living standards in Britain have also tripled in the last half-century. The average American home is more than 2,400 square feet—whereas in 1950, it was about 960 square feet. Since 1950, Americans have consumed more resources than *everyone who ever lived before them combined!*

So why do so many of us feel like what we have isn't good enough?

God is so generous with us. In fact, every truly good thing in our lives ultimately comes from Him (James 1:17).

For the Israelites in the wilderness, He actually rained bread from the skies to sustain them! That is a spectacular miracle.

But what did the Israelites say? Go back to Numbers 11: "[A]nd the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: *there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes*" (verses 4-6).

Is that not crazy? *There's nothing to eat—except for this MIRACULOUS NOURISHMENT DESCENDING DIRECTLY OUT OF HEAVEN FROM THE OMNIPOTENT CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE. And I don't like manna!*

That perspective is terribly distorted. And don't think you or I could never be so stupid. We *all* can tend to be discontented and ungrateful—even to the point of forgetting the miracles of God.

When you lose sight of all that God provides, you become crabby and dissatisfied. Instead, remember God's blessings, and you'll be happy and content.

Rather than complaining, God wants you "Giving thanks *always for all things*" (Ephesians 5:20). "Keep your life free from love of money, and *be content with what you have*; for he has said, 'I will never fail you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5; Revised Standard Version).

Be like the Apostle Paul, who said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Even when there's mustard on the burger. ■



For May-June, the *Trumpet* keyed in on overlooked trends developing in European leadership. Editor in chief Gerald Flurry boldly predicted 'A Strong German Leader Is Imminent' (theTrumpet.com/go/12522). Your reactions:

“This article is chock-full of pertinent information, tying history in with modern-day events. It is time to hold onto our hats because the ride is going to get more than a little bumpy.”

Emma Morris AUSTRALIA

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theTrumpet.com/go/11780

**The Seven Seals of
Revelation Have
Been Opened!**
theTrumpet.com/go/10120

Trumpet Daily THE KEY OF DAVID THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**

Being eaten away

All of this makes my blood boil! (“America’s Chamberlain?” theTrumpet.com/go/12526). This administration leaves our citizens scratching their heads and our allies in total bewilderment. It’s absolute confusion and nobody can see through it but the *Trumpet*. The world has been set alight in the last half-dozen years and what lies ahead looks VERY ugly.

Andrew Hessong
CALIFORNIA

Thank you for your brilliant analysis of an extremely complex situation. But as the Bible says in the end-times Great Britain and the mighty United States will be eaten away from within by the foreigner and their power will be drained away from within. Precisely what has happened to once Great Britain and is happening now to the U.S.

John UNITED KINGDOM

Go read Hamlet

Thanks for your excellent, thought-provoking article (“Shakespeare Asks: Not to Be—What’s It Like?,” theTrumpet.com/go/12525). The deep questions Shakespeare poses about life and death makes me appreciate even more the truth about the incredible human potential for all mankind. What great peace of mind it brings!

Liesl Kallianis AUSTRALIA

Outstanding article! I want to learn all I can. I want to see all the “whys” and “what for’s,” and apply everything now to prepare for the “undiscovered country” so I can help others discover this too. This is very inspiring.

Robert Cutter
NORTH CAROLINA

Facts matter

Hundreds of years ago, artists and scientists were jailed or put to death just for not agreeing with the thoughts of the established Catholic Church (“Because I Said So,” theTrumpet.com/go/12528). A few years ago that sounded so impossible in today’s society of great scientific and technological advancement, but it seems human nature is the only non-changing element and they want to punish those who oppose them.

Linda

The increase in extreme weather events and natural disasters will be followed by extreme behavior by activists and politicians who seek to forcefully place their brand of ideology upon a nation whose citizens are continually losing more and more rights of liberty and property.

Heather Wilke
WASHINGTON

God’s true Church

Thank you so much for such an insightful message (“A Prophecy About God’s True Church,” theTrumpet.com/go/12530). Yes, we must anoint our eyes with ointment that we can see the truth in God’s warning and hopefully we won’t have to be that gold tried in the fires of the Tribulation.

Kimberly Fair
CONNECTICUT

Raising a real man

What a great article (“Raise a Man Like Roosevelt,” theTrumpet.com/go/12533). While many men did not have a father like that, we can all learn to be that kind of father to our own sons. Thank you for pointing out President Roosevelt’s example.

Jeffrey Miller TEXAS

Make Broad Strokes

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

LAST DECEMBER, THE HEIRS OF WINSTON CHURCHILL IN THE United Kingdom sold one of his paintings for £1.8 million (US\$2.8 million), nearly double the record for a Churchill painting. It was a simple landscape of the fishpond at his home. It was called “The Goldfish Pool at Chartwell.”

Winston Churchill took up painting when he was 41 years old. Because of his long life, he was able to paint for more than 45 years. In that time, he completed at least 539 paintings—an average of about one painting per month. Not bad for someone who also published more words than William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens combined, served in armed combat on four different continents, and occupied every great office of state in the United Kingdom, including prime minister on two occasions.

Churchill later commented on his first experience with painting. “So very gingerly I mixed a little blue paint in the palette with a very small brush, and then with infinite precaution made a mark about as big as a bean upon the affronted snow-white shield. It was a challenge, a deliberate challenge; but so subdued, so halting, indeed so cataleptic, that it deserved no response. At that moment the loud approaching sound of a motorcar was heard in the drive. From this chariot there stepped swiftly and lightly none other than the gifted wife of Sir John Lavery. ‘Painting! But what are you hesitating about? Let me have a brush, the big one.’ Splash into the turpentine, wallop into the blue and the white, frantic flourish on the palette, clean no longer, and then several large, fierce strokes and slashes of blue on the absolutely cowering canvas. Anyone could see that it could not hit back. No evil fate avenged the jaunty violence. The canvas grinned in helplessness before me. The spell was broken. The sickly inhibitions rolled away. I seized the largest brush and fell upon my victim with berserk fury. I have never felt any awe of a canvas since.”

Churchill had to learn to reject fear of failure and just dive into the task. He would never have been so prolific had he not been willing to make some errant strokes, a number of mistakes and even a few failures.

Churchill’s experience with painting highlights the truth of this proverb: “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (Proverbs 24:16).

All of us are going to make mistakes and fail at times. Every great individual of history has done so. The important thing is what happens *after* the fall.

The Bible itself is full of people who experienced failure: The great patriarch Abraham was led astray by his own carnal reasoning when he had a child with Hagar. This was an epic failure that started a bitter sibling rivalry that continues to this day. Moses was on the brink of wearing away before God sent his father-in-law, Jethro, to help save him from distress. Samson had all the tools to be a spectacular leader for God—but he couldn’t



rule his own spirit until he learned to faithfully trust God at the very end of his life. David committed adultery and murder! Peter betrayed Jesus Christ at His most difficult hour. Paul persecuted God’s people and was even complicit in killing them.

They all *failed*. But that did not make them failures!

“Nine in 10, at least once or twice in a lifetime, come to the place where they appear to be totally *defeated!*” wrote Herbert W. Armstrong in *The Seven Laws of Success*. “All is *lost!*—apparently, that is. They give up and quit, when just a little more determined hanging on, just a little more faith and *perseverance*—just a little more **STICK-TO-ITIVENESS** would have turned apparent certain failure into glorious success.”

God isn’t too concerned with our mistakes as long as we *learn* from those mistakes and develop the character necessary to make permanent changes. He wants us to push through those mistakes, boldly walking forward in faith.

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:38-39). God derives no pleasure from the timid. Instead, God rewards people who step forward and keep moving!

In 1939, the British produced a number of flyers and posters with positive messages to help prepare the people for the onset of war. One of those was, “Keep calm and carry on.” This is what Winston Churchill did against Hitler. This is what the British people did under the Nazi bombshells. This same theme is evident in Churchill’s unceasing dedication to painting.

“People feel drawn to [Churchill’s paintings] not because they are polished masterpieces, but precisely because they are not,” writes Boris Johnson in *The Churchill Factor*. “He was willing to try it out, to court ridicule, to make mistakes—but the crucial point is that he is at least willing to throw himself into it and to run that risk. Sometimes it doesn’t work; sometimes it comes off triumphantly. That was the spirit he took with him into that dark and tobacco-filled room in the early summer of 1940. Other hands dithered in front of the blank and terrifying canvas. Churchill took the plunge, loaded up his brush and applied his bright-hued and romantic version of events in broad and vigorous strokes. And that, amigos, is the final rejoinder to all his earnest doubters and critics.”

largely based the Constitution on the Ten Commandments. Our nation was greatly blessed to have such law—in that sense, similar to the days of Moses. But how many top leaders in America believe that or even care about that today?

“THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC. And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution,” writes Gerald Flurry in his booklet *No Freedom Without Law*. “Our forefathers believed that if we didn’t keep God’s Ten Commandments, OUR REPUBLIC WOULD COLLAPSE!” (This powerful booklet is free to you upon request.)

Many Americans are confused about how important law is today. Our top leaders want to change our laws, including our constitutional law. “The Constitution is being altered dramatically. AND IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC! We are experiencing a constitutional earthquake, and most of our people don’t even know it—yet. Your future is being changed for you, and often you have no input,” Mr. Flurry wrote. “This process is sure to lead to anarchy! That is why you and I should be deeply concerned.” Yet few seem to be able to make the connection between this world’s growing lawlessness and its growing chaos, violence and tyranny!

Is there any hope for this world? Yes! There is great good news—right from the mouth of Moses.

Deuteronomy 33:1-3 record the final words of this great man: “And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.” These words are a dramatic prophecy about the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

Even though this world’s immediate future looks bleak, in just a short time, Jesus Christ and His resurrected saints will usher in a new era of peace, security and freedom to the people of this world. Christ’s Kingdom, which is God’s loving government, will never end because that government will be based solely on God’s “fiery law.” What a time of individual and national success that will be. ■

What do Netanyahu and Churchill have in common?

Answer: They both warned the world with an unpopular message. These two leaders are like watchmen, warning of impending catastrophe. The world, however, hasn’t heeded.

To see how the world is repeating the same mistake of the 1930s, order our free booklet **Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman**.



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 keyofdavid.com.



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Nationwide Satellite

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

CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun

Dish Network

Discovery, Chan. 182, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 239, 8:00 ET, Sun

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Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WYPX 5:00, Fri;

WVUA 1:00 p.m., Sun
Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Mobile WFGX 7:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri;

KAZT 8:00, Sun

Yuma KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

El Centro KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

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

Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Monterey KION 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;

KRCR 9:00, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Diego TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT

9:30, Sun

Sun City-Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual,

7:30 Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Montrose KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Pensacola WFGX 7:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/

WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri

West Palm Beach WXPX 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri

Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB-DT 9:30, Sun

Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30,

Sun; 8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho’Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCUI 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri
Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Sioux City KTVI-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun
Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30, Sun
Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/KSND-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings 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 KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; 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 10:00, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun; WPKX 6:00, Fri
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WJZY 10:30, Sun
Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGXP 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 WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 8:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 8:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBWZ 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KAUT 8:30, Sun; 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 WXPQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBT-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City 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 WPKX 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPPX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-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; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odesa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, 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 WVMY 10:00, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPRR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WMDE 7:00, Mon-Fri; 8:00, Sun; WPKW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWXP 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun

Spokane KGXP 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA 6:30, Sun; 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
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDLH-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

BRITAIN AND EUROPE
Britain, Europe, the Middle East and Africa
 CBS Reality 8:00 B.S.T., Sun

CANADA
Nationwide satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21:11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
 WGN 8:00 ET, Sun
 Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, 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 WUHF 8:30, Sun; CILT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, 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 WUHF 8:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVMY 10:00, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN
Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun
 FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA
Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun; WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

AUSTRALASIA
Australia
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 10:00, Sat
Perth WTV, 11:30, Sun/Wed
New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

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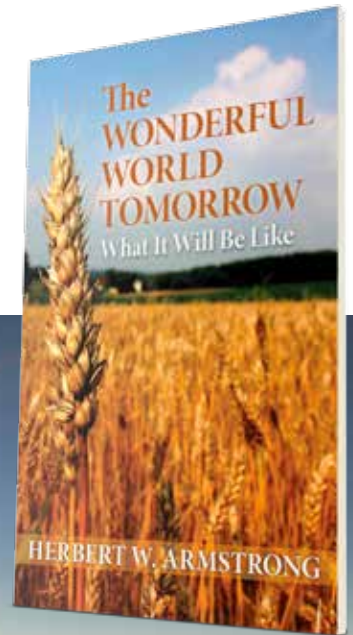
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