

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**German military surprises:
past, present and future**

**America's economic joyride
won't last forever**

Escape from communism

Was Charles Darwin rational?

Manage your arthritis



WHY GERMANY CONQUERED CYPRUS



STRATEGIC ASSET
Cyprus's location in the Mediterranean Sea
makes it an ideal location for a military base.

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Why Germany Conquered Cyprus

This critical Mediterranean island reveals Germany's methods—and its ambitions!

SET IN THE MIDST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, NEAR THE heart of the world, is strategic Cyprus. Look at a map, and you can see it is a stepping-stone between Europe and the Middle East. It is near Jerusalem, it is near Rome, and it is near Berlin. Understand its proximity to these important cities and to strategic areas, and you begin to understand why Cyprus has played such a crucial role in history.

In 1980, Herbert W. Armstrong visited Cyprus on the invitation of its acting president, Georgios Ladas. He gave Mr. Ladas an important forecast about Europe that would directly affect his nation. To the leader of Cyprus, this forecast was astounding.

He foretold of a modern-day resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This empire, Mr. Armstrong said, would be a superpower that would dominate Europe,

the West and other parts of the world. He said it would be ruled by Germany, and that it would come to dominate Cyprus.

Three decades later, this forecast has been largely fulfilled! The European Union is creating structures that are increasingly imperial. It is romanticizing its Holy Roman Empire past. It is dominated by Germany. And a German-led EU dominates Cyprus.

How did this happen? Why is Germany gaining control? How is it building an empire? And why does it want to control this small Mediterranean island?

If you use the same resource Mr. Armstrong used, you can understand.

A Strategic Asset

Cyprus has played a critical role in this region for centuries. During the Crusades, when European warriors descended on the coasts of Israel and Lebanon, at times they relied on Cyprus for a base. In the 19th century, when Britain wanted a naval base to guard its vital trade with India, it used Cyprus as a base. Even in modern times, in 2006 when Germany joined a United Nations naval mission off the coast of Lebanon, it used Cyprus as a base.

Cyprus hosts one of the West's most sophisticated listening posts and radar stations focused on the Middle East. "It has been joked that 'a mosquito can't take off in Tehran without the radar watchers in Cyprus knowing.'" *Trumpet* contributor James Leigh and Predrag Vukovic wrote in an article for the GLORIA Center. "Cyprus is also a listening post from which to monitor electronic communication media, very helpful for signals intelligence. With the surveillance technology installed in Cyprus, for decades, Britain has been able to share intelligence data with the United States and now, no doubt, with the EU, as a member state" (Dec. 22, 2011).

The tiny island nation is also significant as a military base. Fighter jets based in Cyprus can cover much of the region without needing to refuel.

This military infrastructure was built mainly by Britain and America. But whoever gains control of Cyprus today can use its assets to better monitor North Africa and the Middle East, including Iran. Cyprus is a tremendous resource to any power seeking to project power into the Middle East.

And Germany has a supreme desire to do just that!

Gaining Control of Cyprus

Germany is not the only nation with its eye on Cyprus. Russia has an acute interest in Syria, which would make Cyprus a useful base. Britain's bases in Cyprus have been invaluable to America as it has waged wars in the Middle East. Turkey invaded northern Cyprus in 1974; more recently, it has tried to leverage that presence to gain control of the oil and gas in sea surrounding the island.

But Germany has worked through the EU to ensure it dominates Cyprus.

Many European politicians wanted to exclude Cyprus from the European Union until the island was unified (Turkey maintains control over the northern 36 percent). They wanted to use the carrot of EU membership to draw the two sides together. But other leaders were more impatient. In 2004 Cyprus was allowed into the EU, and in 2008 it adopted the euro.

The trouble was, the euro was a trap. It was an unworkable mechanism deliberately designed to provoke a crisis that would enable European leaders to grab more power. Some astute analysts recognized this from the beginning. When the current European economic union was formalized, it became inevitable that countries like Greece and Cyprus would eventually face economic crises. By including Germany, the economic union could establish European-wide interest rates that were much lower in countries like Greece than would otherwise have been possible. Low interest rates encouraged massive borrowing and artificially stimulated a boom. But as with all bubbles, eventually it popped. Southern Europe is still dealing with the aftermath.

In 2013, largely due to fallout from the Greek financial crisis, Cyprus found itself in serious trouble. It needed a loan of €10 billion (US\$11 billion at current exchange rates). For a rich nation like the U.S., that may not sound like much. But that was more than *one third of the total annual output of Cyprus's economy*—a vast sum.

Cyprus needed help. Germany blocked Russia from getting involved, and stepped in to offer a bailout package—with tough conditions. Cyprus accepted.



GERALD FLURRY

THUS, THE EU BECAME THE DE FACTO RULER OF CYPRUS. It began telling Cypriots what they could and could not spend their money on. It dictated how to run their tax-collecting systems and demanded changes to Cypriot law. And since Germany is Europe's largest economy and put up the largest share of the money, GERMANY BECAME THE REAL POWER IN CYPRUS.

To understand the scope of Germany's power, consider one shocking condition it imposed: *Anyone who deposited money in one of Cyprus's biggest banks would lose any amount that exceeded €100,000.*

That may sound like a lot of money. But for a pensioner nearing retirement, that's a pretty small pension fund. For a business preparing to pay out salaries, having more than that in the bank would hardly be unusual.

The results were devastating. People lost their life's savings. Families lost houses. Businesses collapsed. This single draconian maneuver sparked a financial crisis—and to this day, Cyprus's economy is far smaller than it was before.

If America lost access to the British bases in Cyprus and the radar and signal intelligence, it “would pose a threat to our national security interest in the eastern Mediterranean.”

—AMERICA'S EMBASSY IN CYPRUS



Cyprus exited the bailout program in 2016, meaning it no longer needs loans from Germany to keep itself afloat. But it is still under German control. Like all the other bailed-out countries, it remains under “enhanced surveillance.” This means that every three months, it must submit a review of its spending plans and its economy to the European Central Bank and European Commission. If these EU entities don't like Cyprus's plans, they may impose new “measures”—forcing spending cuts or the sale of government-owned assets.

Under current law, Germany will maintain this authority until 75 percent of the money Cyprus borrowed is paid back. That is not forecast to happen until 2029.

Pushing Out Britain

Britain has two large bases on Cyprus, taking up about 3 percent of the country. Yet the nation really controlling this area has been the United States; those bases have been an invaluable asset in America's Mideast military campaigns.

Now, however, Britain is leaving the European Union. Why? Because many British recognize that the power rising in Europe is not free and democratic. They know it is a dictatorial, German-led power. Though few see it in these exact terms, the reality is that the old Holy Roman Empire is rising once again.

Justified as it might be, Brexit puts the future of those bases on Cyprus in doubt. I FORECAST THAT BRITAIN IS GOING TO LOSE CONTROL OF THOSE BASES.

This means it is only a matter of time before the United States is pushed out as well.

Losing those bases will decrease U.S. intelligence and power in the Middle East *enormously*. In secret diplomatic cables, America's embassy in Cyprus wrote that if America lost access to the British bases there and the radar and signal intelligence, it “would pose a threat to our national security interest in the eastern Mediterranean.” I believe this is inevitable.

In America's and Britain's absence, Germany and Italy will be able to greatly boost their power in the region.

Brexit gives Germany a chance to take over those British bases. The Brexit withdrawal agreement the EU tried to force on Britain (and which, to this point, Britain has rejected) would have gotten Germany's foot in the door. Those bases are classified as British Overseas Territory and therefore have never been part of the EU. However, the euro was used as currency on the bases, and they partially participated in the EU Customs Union. The withdrawal agreement would have made these bases part of the Customs Union—keeping them in the union even after Britain left it.

Though the treaty hasn't been signed, the direction is clear. And though much of Brexit is controversial, these bases are not. Few people in Britain even know about them, let alone care. It's easy to imagine the nation giving them up to Europe as it leaves.

About a million EU citizens live on Cyprus. Cyprus is a tiny island surrounded by the EU and full of EU citizens. The rising powers in the area are not led by Washington and London, but by Rome and Berlin.

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE IS GAINING CONTROL—JUST AS HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG PROPHESED TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS 30 YEARS AGO!

This is fulfilling a crucial Bible prophecy. When this power is fully formed—and it is very near that right now—this world will be shocked. But the *Trumpet* will not be shocked! Mr. Armstrong began teaching this more than 80 years ago, and we have consistently taught the same thing since his death in 1986. Over that period, the fulfillment of the Holy Roman Empire has drawn closer and closer.

A Religious Power

Herbert W. Armstrong based his forecasts about a Holy Roman Empire on Bible prophecy. Revelation 17 describes an empire that rises and falls seven times. Across the centuries, there have been six resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire. Each has filled Europe with blood. Those six empires have spanned nearly 1,500 years—and the Bible prophesies of one more resurrection.

Each resurrection has been led by a strongman, or series of strongmen. Germany already has a lot of power. But it hasn't reached its full potential because it lacks that strong leader. And now, European leaders are increasingly talking about Charlemagne—the medieval head of the Holy Roman Empire—as the model they should follow.

It happens that the Bible prophecies of a modern version of Charlemagne—a “king,” or strongman—ruling Europe. Daniel 8:23 says he will rise “in the latter time.” This king has a “fierce countenance” and understands “dark sentences,” which means an evil spirit is working there. He will perpetrate terrible violence: “his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [it is amplified by satanic power]; and he shall cause fearful destruction [Revised Standard Version] ... and by peace shall destroy many” (verses 24-25). Just as the modern Holy Roman Empire was prophesied, so also is this strong leader. This man is coming!

Today Germany has a very weak leader in Chancellor Angela Merkel—yet the Holy Roman Empire is rising even under her rulership! How rapidly will these terrifying events occur when a *strong* German leader comes to power?

Another critical characteristic of this empire is that is a religious power. Revelation 17 says it is led by a “great whore”—symbolizing a powerful false religion. It conquered to convert people to the empire’s religion, Catholicism. Charlemagne embodied that partnership. He was crowned emperor by the pope on Christmas Day, A.D. 800. He relied heavily on the Catholic Church to administer the empire. Later resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire led crusades to Jerusalem. One of the titles of the crown of Charlemagne is KING OF JERUSALEM—though Charlemagne never went there himself. This empire has always been religious, and has always yearned to conquer Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is one of the holiest sites in Islam. It is also probably the holiest site of the European Union. You will see that more and more as Europe completes its formation into a Holy Roman Empire. It currently has 28 member nations, but to play this part as a religious empire, Bible prophecy says the EU will pare down to a smaller number of core nations bound by religion and led by a single strong leader from Germany.

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

The Germans have been militaristic throughout their history and have started two world wars. More recently, in 1991 Germany defied the rest of the world and recognized an independent Croatia when it broke away from Yugoslavia. At the time, Croatia’s leader was a man who admitted he believed in the Nazi cause from World War II. This ought to have awakened the world to what was going on in Germany. *That move brought its control closer to the Mediterranean and closer to Jerusalem.* It also recognized another breakaway nation, Slovenia, which was a Nazi ally during the war. Germany’s recognition of Croatia and Slovenia sparked a civil war between them and Yugoslavia, which had been an enemy of Nazi Germany and an ally of the United States and Britain during World War II.

The whole Western world—including the U.S., Britain and the rest of Europe—opposed Germany’s decision. Yet Germany made it anyway and threatened other nations with financial



pressure and even with breaking up the European Union. So those nations, including the major powers, *CAVED IN*. Then Germany—America’s World War II enemy—persuaded the Americans to use their military power to conquer Yugoslavia, their own World War II ally. In that war, Yugoslavia had been a major help to America in fighting Nazi Germany. But now, it was destroyed and divided up.

As a result, Germany now controls the Balkans. It can access their warm-water ports that lead to the Mediterranean and lead right to Cyprus. (You can read all about this history in my free booklet *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*.) In the years since, close cooperation has developed between Cyprus and Germany in shipping; many German shipping companies and shipping-management businesses are based in Cyprus.

After about 70 million people died in World War II, America and Britain promised they would never allow Germany to rise up like that again. Yet a German-led European empire is doing just that.

The history of the Holy Roman Empire and the recent history of the Balkans is repeating itself in Cyprus. And it is all leading that power closer to Jerusalem.

The Future Revolves Around Jerusalem

But the Holy Roman Empire is not the only power with a strong focus on Jerusalem. Daniel 11 prophesies about a “king of the north” and a “king of the south.” Beginning in verse 40, there is clearly an end-time focus (“at the time of the end”)—and it says these two powers will clash spectacularly.

The modern “king of the north” is Germany and the Holy Roman Empire. The modern “king of the south” is Iran and radical Islam. When these two powers war, Germany and the Holy Roman Empire are going to win.

Then, after conquering radical Islam, this European empire will “enter also into the glorious land”—speaking of JERUSALEM (verse 41). Europe has had its sights on that city for centuries. It views Cyprus as an important waypoint in the path there.

Other prophecies show this empire seizing Jerusalem will provoke even greater and more terrible bloodshed. “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him” (verse 44). North and east of the Holy Roman Empire are

German Military Surprises: Past, Present and Future

For thousands of years, this warrior people has shocked the world. The pattern is clear. The future is certain. **BY JAMES BRADY**

RIGHT NOW, SOMEWHERE IN Germany, thousands of Leopard 2 heavy tanks sit quietly, forgotten in dusty sheds. Named after a large predator in the cat family, these tanks are an overt celebration of the fearsome German Tiger and Panther tanks of World War II.

But these mothballed Leopards don't exist—at least, according to media and government sources. They used to, but officially, since the 1990s, Germany's tank force has been gradually “reduced.” About 95 percent were downsized out of the Bundeswehr. But what exactly does “reduced” mean? Were they converted to scrap metal? Auctioned to West African nations fighting Boko Haram? Sold to Germany's Arab clients?

Actually, as reported in the *Local*, the vast majority were put in storage. Operationally, this means a 20-minute battery charge and they're essentially serviceable, according to one former M1 Abrams tank mechanic. For German officials, implying the Leopards have been discarded is beneficial, admitting they're only mothballed is grudgingly acceptable, but acknowledging they're all but immediately serviceable—well, that's right out.

This shrouding of massed, game-changing military hardware by the Germans chillingly echoes an episode that preceded World War II.

To be fair, few governments have an interest in advertising to the world, or to their enemies—even to their allies—their full military capabilities. But *Germany in particular* has a remarkably consistent historical penchant for hiding its capabilities, often while presenting a peaceful facade—then springing on the world a shocking, *devastating* military surprise.

Since 1991, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has been illuminating Germany's militarized history and present readiness to play a lead role in the end-time biblical prophecies of Revelation 17 and Daniel 11. He has picked up the mantle of Herbert W. Armstrong, who since 1945 warned how Germany's militarism remained poised to fulfill those prophecies (some of which we will specifically examine in this article). That militarism has quietly persisted all these decades since World War II and is plainly evident in the Bundeswehr today.

Revelation 17:8 says nations will literally marvel and wonder at the sudden rise to power of a political “beast” that will rise through *conquest*. We have proved for over 80 years the identity of this empire. Prophecy indicates the German military will help lead the way.

Perhaps these dreadful prophesied events seem unreal or several years off. You may even *scoff*, perhaps lulled by media silence on rising German

militarism. The Germans don't have the arms, the budget, the manpower or the transport capabilities, you say—not yet, and won't for years.

Then the Germans have a surprise for you. The reality is the German military—right now—is ready to stun the world. Its history is filled with hidden might suddenly unleashed. *All this makes time a factor*—an urgent factor in your life.

The Historical Pattern

From their ancient warrior culture and macabre barbarism stirring in the dark, trackless forests beyond the Rhine, lurking between the pages of Tacitus's accounts that so fascinated and horrified the Romans, through the machine age and the two world wars where German technology consistently caught its enemies off guard, up to the present-day gamesmanship with Leopard tanks—the Germans have repeatedly resorted to the “surprise” page of their military playbook.

In A.D. 9, German tribes managed to shock the most dominant military power the world had yet seen, the Roman Empire. (The Romans dubbed them “Germans,” meaning “war men.”) The German chieftain Arminius, a nominal Roman ally, had invited the Romans to join him fighting another German tribe equally troublesome to Rome. Secretly, however, Arminius had been negotiating



to unite *all* the German tribes in the area against the Romans. If Arminius could get the other German tribes to trust him and amass in secrecy, then three Roman legions—strung out on the march and hopelessly exposed—would be taken by surprise and completely destroyed. He did and they were. Today a towering statue of Arminius looms over the Tuetoburg Forest, commemorating the exploit.

After Rome fell in A.D. 476, warfare settled into predictable patterns, with static technology and methodical sieges. The Middle Ages left scant examples of military shock and surprise. But in the 13th century, thousands of Germans, led by the Teutonic Knights, colonized Prussia. After a decade of violent fighting crushing an insurrection, they laid the foundation for an especially potent, military-dominant society akin to ancient Sparta.

Their cultural adherence to militarism persisted over centuries, even amid the burgeoning liberalism and artistic flowering of the Renaissance and the Age of Reason. *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes 18th-century Prussia: “Frederick William I ... geared the whole organization of the state to the military machine.” Economic policy was in fact designed to satisfy the Army’s constantly expanding requirements.

But if militarism was now fixed national character, *surprise* became Prussia’s *military* character. In 1740, Prussia stunned Europe by invading part of Habsburg Austria. As Winston Churchill said, it pounced on its superpower neighbor with “extraordinary rapidity and suddenness.”

19th Century

In the ashes of crushing defeat in 1806 at the hand of Napoleon, Prussia instituted the General Staff. It would become infamous. Created to reorganize the Prussian military, it succeeded, performing admirably during the Waterloo campaign. But the staff soon began *planning wars in advance*. They invented war-gaming for that purpose—*Kriegsspiel*. Such planning became an institutional habit, which would profoundly impact the 20th century and beyond.

Between 1870 and 1871, the German peoples reunified—thanks to war and the systematized military prowess of Prussia. Meanwhile the Industrial Revolution had hit full stride and, like a Frankenstein monster, multiplied the killing power of weaponry. Germany began to harness science and technology as a terrifying force-multiplier. It sought to use these tools to win a two-front war against multiple powers and to establish a world empire—using its old surprise tactics.

In 1870, trains were by no means a *secret* weapon. However, the Franco-German War established a precedent where German strategists stunned a powerful enemy with new technology. Otto von Bismarck, before unifying all the German states, had goaded Napoleon III of France into war. Newspapers from Paris to London predicted an overwhelming French victory. Both sides had trains. France, free and pluralistic, floundered in a complex bog of rail-use permissions and conflicts of interests; troops arrived on the frontier piecemeal, with units broken up and often without officers. Prussian-dominated Germany, authoritarian and Sparta-like, enacted a *prewar plan* to transfer centralized rail control directly to the military. Strik-

Germany has a consistent historical penchant for hiding its capabilities, often while presenting a peaceful facade—then springing a shocking, devastating military surprise.

ingly intricate details were prearranged; vastly superior forces were brought forward, with units fully intact. This speed of concentration created *surprise* and psychological shock, a German hallmark.

The gallant French army was utterly embarrassed. It took just six weeks.

World War I

At the war’s outset, the noble-minded country gentlemen who had led Great

Britain into the 20th century blithely acted as if all wars would be governed by the Marquess of Queensberry rules. Seeing only the Germans’ truly wonderful cultural accomplishments, most British overlooked German history—their national character in war and empire. The reality would be tragically difficult to bear.

Germany launched war against France and Russia first. Straightaway the German General Staff unleashed something they had prepared for since 1905 called the Schlieffen Plan. The principal aim of this plan was to sweep through the neutral and all but defenseless Belgium, stunning the world and shocking Britain—traditional protector and “guarantor” of the Belgians—into declaring war. Within weeks, the Germans were shelling Paris and on the verge of victory.

The Allies held, but thereafter followed years of charnel-house slaughter—and military shocks from the Germans.

In the early hours of April 22, 1915, British soldiers and French-led Algerian troops awoke to yet another day in the trenches fighting the Germans. As usual, shells warbled overhead, but sounded oddly different, and stranger still, the explosions were blush-colored; they crept ominously toward them like surreal puffs of cotton candy. The normally hard-fighting French colonials sensed the supernatural, and broke and fled.

What they were seeing was about 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas being released for the first time in history. The Germans sought to punch a hole through the Allied front and take Paris, possibly winning the war in a single, stunning stroke. Allied soldiers choked to death in fits and agony. But while chaos reigned in the Allies’ lines, the Germans—perhaps wary of the gas—failed to hit the yawning gap with the speed and force they had planned, and their chance passed.

A brightening of prospects arrived with the Americans in the spring of 1918. Then came the next stunner. Earlier, Germany had sponsored the Communist Vladimir Lenin to enter Russia and foment revolution. It worked: Lenin managed to get control and, repaying his debt, took Russia out of the war. Estimates vary, but soon *at least 30* German divisions came west.

The British saw the buildup. What they

couldn't see were the new infiltration tactics the Germans were developing out of sight. The tactics involved highly trained, heavily armed "stormtroopers" bypassing strong points and finding blind spots in the Allies' fields of fire. In a war where big gains registered mere yards, a 40-mile-deep hole was blown, and the front nearly collapsed. American troops finally stabilized it, but the Germans nearly stole the war.

By November German leaders were forced to sue for peace. The Allies, noting several Prussian wars of aggression, used the Treaty of Versailles to greatly limit the strength of the German Army and Air Force, knowing the devastating effect German air power would have on the Royal Navy's ability to defend Britain.

Undaunted, the German General Staff, still somewhat dominant culturally and politically in Germany's Weimar Republic, established a *hidden* air base as early as 1922, unknown to the West. Where? In Soviet Russia, Germany's past and future enemy—far from Western eyes. Following the doctrine of secretly developing plans and capabilities, the German military sought to overturn the verdict of the last war.

Churchill's Warnings

Over the next decade, German military figures aided the rise of the Nazis during the brownshirt years. They helped bring Hitler to power in 1933, knowing he would ignore Versailles' military restraints.

Meanwhile Winston Churchill continued to study German history. Based on what he learned, he watched. He sought out intelligence reports. And he was alarmed. In 1936 he commented on the discovery of massive numbers of trained German pilots: "When we remember the fondness evinced by Germany in history for ... surprise and note the *large number of machines and pilots which seem to have vanished into thin air* and the hundred-odd aerodromes which have been constructed, THIS POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED" (emphasis added throughout). "Churchill," wrote Martin Gilbert, "was convinced about the possibilities of surprise in the German organizational framework." He knew surprise was their heritage, sewn into the fabric of their military thinking. (You can read this history in Gerald

Flurry's electrifying booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*.)

Clearly a parallel exists with the Leopard tanks of today. The world didn't know the Leopards still existed by the thousands in the Bundeswehr until disclosed in a public relations gaffe.

World War II

Churchill, virtually alone, bravely warned throughout the 1930s. Parliament did not heed, nor did the public. The Second World War commenced in September 1939 with Germany way ahead in war preparations. In Poland, the German High Command unleashed a tactical and operational system for mechanized warfare it had quietly war-gamed, theorized and refined. Soon journalists began calling it "blitzkrieg"—*lightning war*. *Britannica* describes the three basic features of Blitzkrieg warfare as "*surprise, speed and superiority in matériel or firepower*." Surprise, as achieved by the Germans in 1940, was "calculated to create a condition of *psychological shock* and resultant disorganization in enemy forces."

The degree of coordination between the German air and ground forces was never before seen in war. They also concentrated their tanks and, as if layering on shocks, chose the most counterintuitive point of attack. There they ruptured the enemy front, then *raced* out into open country dozens, even hundreds of miles, encircling reserves, cutting supplies, and threatening strategic objectives—destroying their enemies' confidence and will. The Western Allies in early May 1940 thought the fighting would be static, along the lines of World War I. Incredibly, only five weeks later, the Low Countries were overrun, France was suing for peace, and the British Army was fleeing the Continent for its life.

The British, after celebrating the truly miraculous evacuation of its army from Dunkirk in June 1940, woke up to face an alarming shortfall in military aircraft and trained pilots, as compared with the Germans, *essential* to stopping a seaborne invasion. Within days, Britain's survival would come down to a mere 600 Hurricane and Spitfire fighters, paying the price in the currency of heroism for the nation's failure to heed their watchman, Churchill. Civilians, meanwhile, faced months of aerial bombing.

The German High Command unleashed more surprises. A year later it was the Soviet Union's turn to be the target. This time, as with Arminius, it sprang from diplomacy and deceit. Hitler had signed a nonaggression pact with Stalin; they had divvied up Eastern Europe between them. Nevertheless,



SMALL BUT POWERFUL
A German pocket battleship, built to the size limit specified by the Versailles Treaty, traverses the English Channel in 1936.



PREPARE TO LAUNCH
V2 rockets at their launching site in Germany in 1939

in the morning light of June 22, 1941, German infantry stormed across the border to begin Operation Barbarossa. In just four months German forward units could see the spires of Moscow. It has been reported that, despite warnings from a variety of sources, Stalin was so taken by surprise, so *psychologically shaken*, that as the tanks rolled he remained in a state of catatonic shock, unable to act or speak for days.

The war turned against Germany, but the Germans continued dipping into the bag of the unexpected. One quiet day in June 1944, London residents heard the

sound of a single, low-flying plane. It was the V1—a pilotless plane. The second blitz was on. Worse, the Germans had virtually invented modern rocketry in hidden labs and air bases; soon the far deadlier V2s were raining down. To Londoners, it was a terrifying jolt.

Meanwhile, over the skies of Germany in late 1944, German pilots manned the world's first jets—Messerschmitt ME 262s—flabbergasting Allied pilots. Analysts have argued that these superior jets, had they arrived several months earlier in numbers, *could have changed the outcome of the war.*

With the Allies poised to end the war, one more stunner loomed in the snowy forests of Belgium. In December 1944, the Germans secretly massed several mechanized divisions no one

vowed to dismantle it for all time. However, there is plenty of evidence that they were not thorough enough.

Nuclear Ambitions

In 1996, the U.S. government released an intelligence document (reprinted by the *Trumpet* at theTrumpet.com/922) officially confirming a powerful truth: Nazi industrialists and military heads, fleeing the Allies and Nuremberg prosecutors, went underground, mainly in South America, and worked to create “a strong German empire.”

One of their goals was to *secretly develop new weapons systems.* Most of us have assumed German efforts at acquiring nuclear weapons ended in 1945. However, in their exposé *Unholy Trinity*, which documents the Vatican

U.S. stewardship. To assume this won't quickly change—amid a fracturing NATO, U.S. isolationism, a menacing Russia, a looming EU-U.S. trade war, Iran having missiles that can strike Europe and technology to build nuclear warheads, and the myriad of deepening crises within the EU—would be foolish at best.

Nobody officially deems Germany to possess nuclear weapons. Yet Bible prophecy indicates that the possession will be proved by the use. It will be a devastating shock to many—just one more German military shock in a long line of them.

In the past the shocks looked like slain legionnaires, roads choked with refugees, soldiers choking on chemicals, destroyed cities, concentration camps, and nations enslaved. This time it will be that bad and much, much worse. Scripture is famously, uncannily and troublingly accurate in describing end-time nuclear warfare and its effects. (To learn more, request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is At the Door.*)

Many Chariots and Ships

A prophecy in Daniel 11:40 shows that a German-led European empire will overrun an Iranian-led power bloc (explained in our booklet *The King of the South*). Daniel describes a “whirlwind” assault “with *chariots*, and with *horsemen*, and with *many ships*.”

In light of this prophecy, consider Germany's conventional (nonnuclear) military capabilities. In Churchill's time it was next to impossible to distinguish between German *civilian* and *military-use* transport aircraft. Are we today better able to assess German troop transport capabilities, both by air and by sea, that could be a game changer in the Middle East and the world? The fact is, such transport hardware can be dual-use or is quietly convertible.

Consider again the *thousands* of German Leopard tanks named after Nazi-era tanks and “reduced,” yet not really. German leaders might say, “We honor our military and believe in preparedness in a dangerous world—we've nothing to hide.” Churchill would respond, “The further back in history you look, the further ahead you see. Beware! Germany is a country fertile in military surprises.”



BUILT WITH PURPOSE
A German fighter aircraft lands at the Luftwaffe Büchel air base, which houses U.S. B61 nuclear bombs.

realized they had, and under cover of snowstorms abruptly sliced through the lightly defended Ardennes (once again) toward the Allies' supply hub at Antwerp, threatening a second Dunkirk. So overwhelming was the shock that one eyewitness saw a senior American officer, while evacuating a headquarters, attempting to *crank-start* a jeep. A crank-starting vehicle hadn't been manufactured in decades.

As the war progressed conventionally, Germany was secretly pursuing nuclear weapons. Albert Einstein's famous letter to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt conveyed this, touching off U.S. efforts to develop the bomb. The Germans had the talent and the means, but, miraculously, were poorly organized. The U.S. won the race, along with the war.

Churchill and Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference officially blamed the world wars on the German General Staff, and

ratlines that helped Nazis escape Europe, Mark Aarons and John Loftus describe a secret concordat made in 1968 between West Germany and Argentina, led by strongman Juan Perón, famously sympathetic to the Nazis. The agreement allowed West Germany to secretly develop nuclear weapons on Argentinian soil. Writes Loftus: “The American author, Paul Manning, has obtained startlingly direct confirmation of this from a German nuclear physicist who worked on the program”

The *Plain Truth* also cited scientists who blew the whistle on the Germans designing a clean-burning hydrogen bomb, a nuke that would leave behind no radiation—a *weapon you could start, win, and survive a nuclear war with.*

Currently, German air bases have hundreds of NATO nuclear bombs fitted to German aircraft, nominally under

Joyriding Toward Disaster

America's stretch of continuous economic growth is about to come to an abrupt end.

BY ANDREW MILLER



THE UNITED STATES IS CRUISING toward economic recession. Markets are up, unemployment is down, and production is growing at 3 percent per year—but warning signs loom.

Debt-based economies naturally experience cycles of boom and bust. On average, recessions occur every five years—and it has been 10 years since the last recession. Sooner or later, then, the current economic boom will go bust.

For a couple of hours on August 14, yields on two-year U.S. Treasury bonds spiked higher than yields on 10-year Treasury bonds. This “yield curve inversion” indicates that investors fear a recession. Economists say recession usually occurs 18 to 24 months after a yield curve inversion like this one.

Bible prophecy indicates that the next recession may be far worse than the Great Recession of 2008.

No Emergency Savings

With presidential elections coming up next year, President Donald Trump is eager to delay the next recession. On August 19, he criticized Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell for not taking radical action to grow the economy.

“Our economy is very strong, despite the horrendous lack of vision by Jay Powell and the Fed, but the Democrats are trying to ‘will’ the economy to be bad for purposes of the 2020 election,” President Trump posted to Twitter. “Very selfish! Our dollar is so strong that it is sadly hurting other parts of the world... The Fed rate, over a fairly short period of time, should be reduced by at least 100 basis points, with perhaps some quantitative easing as well. If that happened, our economy would be even better, and the world economy would be greatly and quickly enhanced—good for everyone!”

President Trump is right about some trying to “will” the economy into recession for political purposes. Liberal commentator Bill Maher told his television audience on August 10 that they should wish for a recession to cause President Trump to lose the next election. President Trump is also right that slashing interest rates and borrowing money would likely delay recession. But he is wrongly underestimating the threat of America's debt, and wrong to further add to that debt.

Slashing interest rates makes it easier for individuals to borrow money. Such borrowing adds to consumer debt, which at almost \$14 trillion is already

higher than it was before the 2008 financial crisis. The main debt-based economic theory teaches that people should borrow when times are bad and save when times are good. But this is not what Americans have done. They borrowed their way out of the 2008 financial crisis, and they have kept borrowing every year since.

The average American household is more than \$108,000 in debt. Assets like houses and cars secure much of this debt, but more than 16 percent of it is unsecured. Included in this debt is almost \$7,000 in credit card debt and almost \$12,000 in loan debt. And over 32 percent of Americans have no savings to use when their income drops. This means many businesses and individuals will go bankrupt during the next recession unless the government bails them out as it did back in 2008. And the government is in much worse financial shape today than it was a decade ago.

The national debt is over \$22 trillion—more than double what it was in 2008.

So despite the booming economy, when the next recession hits America will be in real economic danger.

Both the government and individual citizens should have spent the past 10 years paying down their debts. The Bible says a wise person saves during times of plenty so he has an emergency fund when he needs it. “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest” (Proverbs 6:6-8).

Summer is almost over for America, and the nation has not saved for the hard times!

Debt Death Spiral

It is impossible to know exactly when the next recession will hit. But when it does, two things will happen. One, people will lose their jobs, so tax revenue will fall. And two, more people will start claiming entitlements like welfare, which means the government will have to spend more money. Since these two trends are mathematically exclusionary, the government will likely resort to borrowing even more money, bloating the national debt even faster.

This happened during the last recession, and America is in an even worse predicament this time.

Have I mentioned that the federal government is over \$22 trillion in debt? It has borrowed almost \$6 trillion from its Social Security Trust Fund (intragovernmental debt) and over \$16 trillion from outside investors (public debt). Last year, it paid an astounding \$324.7 billion in interest payments on its debt—roughly half of what it spends on defense. Data from the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Debt Management shows that the government is only five years away from the point where every new dollar it borrows will have to be paid as interest on the debt.

This is called a debt death spiral.

The government will soon be borrowing money to pay the interest on the money it has already borrowed. If the government starts borrowing less money, or if the interest rate on the public debt falls lower than 2.5 percent, it may take more than five years for the nation to enter this spiral. But if the

nation enters a recession, or if the interest rate on the debt rises higher than 2.5 percent, it will enter it much sooner.

According to the *New York Times*, the government could squeeze another \$276 billion out of the American people each year by increasing tax rates on the super-wealthy by 45 percent. (The *Times* doesn’t account for the fact that taking money from these business owners would reduce their ability and willingness to engage in economic activity such as creating new products and hiring people.) But the nation is on track to spend \$554 billion per year in interest by 2024—even without a recession. Once the government hits the point where every new dollar borrowed goes toward paying interest, it will have to choose whether to 1) declare bankruptcy, 2) print its way into hyperinflation, or 3) drastically slash government spending.

If the government chooses to spend less, what do you suppose will be the first item to go? Hunter DeRensis wrote in the *American Conservative*, “What would transpire if Social Security checks stopped showing up in mailboxes and Medicare benefits got cut off? When presented with that choice, will the average American choose his social safety net or continued funding for far-flung bases in Stuttgart, Okinawa and Djibouti? Even the most militaristic congressperson will know which way to vote, lest they find a mob waiting outside their D.C. castles” (Nov. 20, 2018).

Facing bankruptcy, America will most likely close the military bases it uses to combat terrorism and safeguard vital trade routes like the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb, Gibraltar, the Turkish Straits, the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal.

Shuttering foreign bases may buy the U.S. several months of financial solvency, but it will also transform America from a superpower, projecting power around the world, into a vulnerable nation just trying to defend its borders.

End of America

The sobering fact is that the United States has been living beyond its means for decades, and it can no longer escape the debt death spiral. The onset of such a death spiral may not mean the immediate end of the U.S. as a nation, but it will mean the end of the U.S. as a superpower.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong taught for decades that the peoples who settled the United States and Britain largely descended from the ancient Israelites. And an end-time Bible prophecy says that God will suddenly break the power of Israel because of its sins, including materialism. The people worship the work of their hands more than they worship God.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds: And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands” (Micah 5:10-13).

How will this sudden collapse of U.S. power come about? Mr. Armstrong predicted that a financial crisis in America would likely prompt Europe to unite into a superpower even stronger than America. He warned in 1984 that a massive banking crisis in America “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984).

Such a financial crisis is closer than people think. The current economic boom cannot last forever, and America has not saved any money to help it weather its next financial storm. That means the next recession may force America to stop projecting power against China, Germany and Russia as it struggles to avoid bankruptcy! ■

Ignorance is not bliss.

Do your personal finances look like the average American's? If you need help in getting your books under control, request our free booklets ***Solve Your Money Troubles!*** and ***The Financial Law You Can't Afford to Ignore.***





Floating to Freedom

How much is freedom worth? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

GÜNTER WETZEL WAS 22 YEARS OLD WHEN HE DECIDED HE HAD TO RISK everything to try to free his family. It was 1978, and he lived with his wife, Petra, and their two small children in the German Democratic Republic, often called East Germany.

In West Germany, the influence of the United States, Britain and France helped create economic opportunity and personal and political freedom. But East Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union. It was neither democratic nor a republic. In reality, the Soviet government seized control of every important aspect of a person's daily life.

The result: a nation where incomes were paltry, foods and products were scarce and available only on occasion after waiting in lines for hours. Secret police surveilled and recorded people. Friends and neighbors were enticed to report anyone who voiced negative opinions of the government. Children were coaxed to betray their parents. Many were sent to prison, labor camps, or worse.

As East Germany plodded through the 1970s, the economy deteriorated, political tensions rose, and existence grew more and more bleak. "It started early in our childhood, with the dissatisfaction we sensed in our parents," Wetzel told the *Trumpet*. "Then our own experiences in adulthood only increased our dissatisfaction."

Someone under such oppression would naturally seek greener pastures elsewhere. But it was illegal for East Germans to leave, and the government built walls, fences and guard posts, stretching 860 miles from the Baltic Sea down to what was then Czechoslovakia, to lock them in. Some 50,000 guards manned the border around the clock. The Ministry for State Security, known as the Stasi, gave these guards simple orders regarding anyone attempting escape: shoot to kill. Many who somehow evaded the guards were then slain by land mines and other automatically triggered weapons. Hundreds died trying to cross.

"In the GDR," Wetzel said, "one was basically imprisoned."

An Idea Floats In

Since the birth of his first child in 1973, Wetzel had tried to think of a way to get past the border guards and the miles of razor wire-topped walls to bring his young family to freedom. One day in early 1978, he was looking at a magazine his sister-in-law had smuggled in from West Germany. There was an article about the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. His eyes widened at the photos. "That's when I thought: 'Building such a balloon can't be too terribly hard! We can do this!'"

Wetzel was handy and enjoyed puzzling out mechanical problems, but he had no technical knowledge about safe fuel mixtures, heavy-duty sewing,

airproofing fabric, the principles of convection, or building and safely operating burners.

Still, Wetzel was determined to learn and to at least attempt an escape into West Germany. Soon after arriving at this conclusion, he spoke with his friend Peter Strelzyk. The two men determined to escape, with all four Wetzels and all four Strelzyks.

Both men had full-time jobs. Directly after work each day, they would rush home to continue building the balloon. Designing, cutting, sewing and welding often lasted late into the night.

For the balloon's envelope, they used lining-fabric for leatherwear since it was readily available in their town of Pößneck. They stitched it together with Wetzel's mother-in-law's foot-powered Gritzner antique sewing machine.

"I took a section of stove pipe," Wetzel wrote on his blog, *BallonFlucht.de*, "connected it to a gas cylinder, turned it on and held a match to it." He was delighted to see the flame burn cleanly and that he could adjust its size—and the altitude of the balloon—with a cylinder valve.

Most hot air balloons use woven baskets because they are light and strong. But since Wetzel and Strelzyk didn't have access to such materials, they welded old pieces of angle steel together to make a basket 4½-feet square, in which they would need to cram both families.

Expensive Experience

Seven weeks after Wetzel had seen the hot air balloon article, it was time for a test. After midnight, they drove to a small forest clearing and got to work. But they discovered that the burner's warm air was escaping through the fabric of the balloon.

After spending days soaking the envelope with an air-proofing chemical, they realized that even if they successfully trapped air inside it, the balloon wasn't large or robust enough to transport the eight people. "The first one was too weak and small; everything was wrong with it," Wetzel said. "But that's how we gained experience."

They burned the failed balloon in Strelzyk's boiler to destroy all trace of it, and started building a second—this one larger and made of taffeta instead of lining-fabric. Wetzel bought a small motor

and built it onto the sewing machine to speed the stitching. Within six weeks, they had a new, larger balloon—about 70,000 cubic feet—ready to test. But another late-night test showed that they were unable to channel the warm air through the envelope's opening.

"Once again I had an idea," Wetzel wrote. "I attached the engine from my motorcycle, a 250cc MZ with an output of 14 horsepower."

He attached a car muffler to make the

The Stasi gave guards simple orders regarding escape: shoot to kill. Many who evaded the guards were slain by land mines. Hundreds died trying to cross.

engine quieter and, thanks to the blower, the next test was a success. "Words can hardly describe what we felt in this moment," Wetzel wrote. "We were simply overwhelmed by the spectacle before us. We walked around the balloon and were certain that this glowing ball of fire would bring us to the West."

Yet questions remained about the burner's reliability and the envelope's size. Günter and Petra began developing serious doubts about the balloon's safety, and became terrified of the possibility of getting caught. "They would have put us adults into prisons," Wetzel said. "And our children would have been placed into children's home."

With heavy hearts, the Wetzels withdrew from the escape plan.

More than a year later, July 3, 1979, the Strelzyks attempted to escape in the second balloon. They got aboard and lifted off. But they were forced to make an emergency landing—short of the border. They had to flee the crash site. The Stasi soon found the balloon and published notices seeking information on its makers.

The Wetzels, worried by balloon-related purchases they had made the year before, felt that staying in East Germany would mean surely being caught. So they worked with the Strelzyks once again on a third balloon—this one almost twice as large as the second. Feeling the Stasi on their trail filled them with unprecedented urgency.

"We were also acutely aware that it would not be as easy this time to acquire the materials," Wetzel wrote. "[W]e feared that the shops selling the material would need to report large purchases." So they purchased the fabric just a few dozen square feet at a time, from various shops all over East Germany. After buying more taffeta than they felt was safe, they switched to bed sheets and curtains.

Risking Everything

On a rainy day on Sept. 15, 1979, as the winds blew northward, Wetzel was on the home stretch of sewing the third balloon. As evening approached, the weather conditions began to change. "The winds shifted," he said, "and it stopped raining."

The conditions were suddenly perfect to attempt floating the families to freedom. "That motivated me to speed up my work with the sewing," Wetzel said, "and I was finished at around 10 o'clock in the evening."

Shortly after midnight, they stuffed the balloon into a small trailer behind the Strelzyk's car. The two families stood in the Wetzel's kitchen. The adults sipped coffee with shaking hands and looked at their children. If successful, all the material comforts they had worked their whole lives to accumulate would be left behind, and they may never again see their other family members and friends. If unsuccessful, they could be killed in a fiery crash—or imprisoned, with the children made wards of the corrupt state. The stakes were sky-high.

Around 1 a.m., they arrived at a clearing in the forest somewhere between Oberlemnitz and Heinersdorf. For half an hour they sat silently, making sure no one had followed them. Then they began, laying the balloon out flat and fastening the metal basket onto it with the ropes. They anchored the basket to the ground with four ropes, each tied to a large iron spike sunken into the earth.

Wetzel fired up the blower, the sound shattering the heavy forest silence. Strelzyk ignited the burner and shot the flame into the opening, rapidly heating the air. Minutes later, the balloon was fully inflated: 60 feet wide and 75 feet-high, made of taffeta, curtains and bedsheets of every color.

Petra grabbed their sleeping 2-year-old son from the car, and the eight people crammed into the basket.

At 2:32 a.m., Wetzel and Strelzyk cut the anchor ropes. They lifted into the silent darkness.

“We soon soared up to an altitude of about 6,500 feet,” Wetzel said. This height—more than a mile up—was later confirmed by an ornithological station that spotted the balloon on its radar.

The men expected to see the border wall beneath them, but there was no sign of it. Since the balloon had spun several times during its ascent, they flew entirely at the mercy of the wind, and unsure of which direction they were traveling.

After 23 minutes, the burner sputtered out its last fumes of fuel and the flame flickered out. The balloon began losing altitude—first slowly, and then at terrifying speeds.

Free at Last, or Captive Still?

They slammed onto the ground. “It was a hard landing,” Wetzel said, “but we landed on some shrubs, which might have softened it a little bit.”

They were jarred and bruised, but no one was badly injured. They looked around, unsure of their location. Had they made it? Or were they still in the GDR, where the Stasi might descend upon them at any second?

They began running, searching for a clue of their whereabouts. Finally Wetzel noticed a telling detail. “It was a clear night, and I recognized that the fields which we passed by were rather small,” Wetzel said. In East Germany, the farms were government-run, and the fields were huge. It was a promising sign.

But they kept running. “We came to a farm and saw a machine of the type

Fendt,” Wetzel said. “We didn’t have those in the GDR so we knew then that we were in the West!”

They had floated over the border wall, over the Stasi, over the armed guards, and over the minefields.

They were on West German soil. They were free.

A Bleak Microcosm

An almost entirely unknown truth is that, on a spiritual level, nearly everyone on Earth is in a situation similar to that of the Wetzels and Strelzyks.

In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “For



FREEDOM SEEKERS
(From left) Frank Riedman, Doris and Andreas Strelzyk stand in front of the balloon they built in 1979 to escape East Germany, now housed in the Wall Museum.

almost 6,000 years a civilization has developed, which we call the world. But it has been a world held captive.”

Mr. Armstrong’s understanding of this staggering truth came from the Bible. 2 Corinthians 4:4 states that the “god of this world” is not the Creator God, but Satan. John 12:31 designates “the prince” of the Earth as Satan. Revelation 12:9 reveals that Satan “deceiveth the whole world.” “It has become Satan’s world, though millions have been deceived into believing it is God’s world,” Mr. Armstrong continued. “To this day, Satan is still on that throne.”

The truth shall set you free.

What is truth? God’s Word is. But the overwhelming majority, including this world’s Christianity, don’t understand God’s Word. To get a basic understanding of the Bible and answers to life’s greatest mysteries, request Herbert W. Armstrong’s free book [*Mystery of the Ages*](#).

The Bible shows in such scriptures as John 6:44 that, at this early phase in His plan, God chooses to free some people from Satan’s captivity—but only a fraction of a percent of people. The overwhelming majority of the world today is not free. Even the democratic nations that profess to be free are being held spiritually captive.

And these scriptures show that the captor is a being far more oppressive than the Stasi or East German leaders. So how can a person be liberated?

The Truth Shall Make You Free

In John 8:28-29, Jesus Christ revealed an astounding truth: “... I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. ... I do always those things that please him.”

Christ makes clear here that He doesn’t do anything of His own volition. Instead He only follows His Father’s will and does what pleases His Father. Many would say such a mentality lacks freedom. *That’s the mindset of a slave! If you’re a free person, you will do what pleases you!*

But Christ disagrees with that reasoning: “... If ye continue in my word, then are ye

my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE” (verses 31-32).

To “continue in [Christ’s] word,” a person must understand the truth of God. Only understanding and living by this precious truth—which comes from God’s intervention in a person’s life—can float a person out of spiritual deception and to freedom. Anything else is not real liberty.

Christ concluded His discussion of true freedom in verse 36: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” ■



WE ALL LIVE WITH THE ANNOYANCE of occasional aches and pains, especially as we age. But when joint pain, inflammation or stiffness becomes persistent, then you could be suffering from one of about a hundred types of arthritis. This plight afflicts about 91 million Americans today.

It's a growing problem, a 10-fold increase from 70 years ago, and it costs the nation \$140 billion annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Combine medical expenses and lost wages, and the economic fallout reaches an estimated \$303 billion per year, equivalent to almost half of the annual budget for the United States military.

The condition is expected to affect an estimated 120 million people by 2040. And it is affecting people at earlier and earlier ages. Why is arthritis so common, and what can we do to prevent it and manage it?

What Is Arthritis?

Arthritis literally means "inflammation of a joint." Many types exist, but the Mayo Clinic says most arthritic conditions fall into one of two categories: osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Osteoarthritis is a degeneration of articular cartilage, most common in knees, hips and hands. Doctors say it is primarily caused by mechanical factors, with age, genetics and being overweight as secondary causes.

Rheumatoid arthritis is considered an autoimmune disease that primarily attacks the synovial tissues around the joints, causing chronic swelling, burning or throbbing pain, along with weakness and significant tiredness. It can cause significant joint damage, leading to about 30 percent of patients becoming unable to work after three years of the disease. Rheumatoid arthritis can also attack organs, such as the heart, the lungs, or other tissues like muscles, cartilage and ligaments.

What Are the Causes?

A possible cause of arthritis might be the myriad chemicals we are exposed to. Medicalinsider.com says the typical person's environment contains about 80,000 chemicals, with 1,700 new ones being added to the list annually. It's a



murderer's row of heavy metals, preservatives, trans-fats, pesticides, antibiotics and drugs. Many of these either stick to cell membranes and interfere with our natural biological processes, or they directly impede the endocrine system. It is nearly impossible for science to understand the comprehensive effects these toxins have on our bodies.

Diet also plays a key factor, with strong evidence pointing to unhealthy food choices inducing bacterial changes that damage the gut lining. This can lead to rheumatoid arthritis, states the *Journal of Translational Medicine*.

Although the origins of osteoarthritis largely baffle experts, they almost surely lie in the combination of movement abuse and faulty diet. Your body is wonderfully resilient, but if you move poorly for most of your life and eat foods that lack necessary nutrients, you will undoubtedly suffer the effects of weaker bones. Refined wheat, unhealthy oils, sugar, genetically modified organisms and high-gluten products impair digestion and absorption of food, resulting in inflammatory processes that affect nearly every system in the body. It is a cause-and-effect relationship. Rather than helping our bones to re-mineralize, unhealthy food choices weaken and deteriorate them.

Unfortunately, treatment for arthritis consists largely of a variety of medications, injections or surgery. While medicines

may reduce inflammation and pain, they also promote further development of the disorder through their side effects, including leaky gut. Surgery may improve joint mobility temporarily, but according to the National Institutes of Health, it does nothing to prevent further damage.

What Can We Do?

Despite what many say, there is much you can do to manage arthritis. Studies prove that people with arthritis fare better with improved eating and beneficial joint movement.

Our bodies are built for movement, and movement helps joints stay healthy. Strength training is beneficial for those suffering from arthritis. According to a Tufts University study, it can reduce pain by about 40 percent. It also helps to preserve, support and improve range of motion, while increasing synovial fluid production around knee cartilage.

If you suffer from severe rheumatoid arthritis, you'll do better with low-impact exercises such as walking, elliptical machines, water aerobics or somatic exercises, performed slowly and gently (*Journal of Clinical Rheumatology*, 2005).

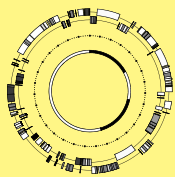
And while fast food and junk food can be tempting, think of these foods as the enemies of your bones. You might not feel it immediately, but every bite of unhealthy food leads to an overall weakening of the body and eventual pain.

Unprocessed foods, on the other hand, fight inflammation and pain caused by rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. Powerful examples include healthy oils, fruits and vegetables, fermented foods, organic vegetable juices and herbal teas. Sulfur-based onions, garlic, seaweed and Spirulina (a blue-green algae supplement) are also anti-inflammatory, as are healthy meat sources, wild fish, eggs and bone broth. While not an exhaustive list, the key is to look for foods from reputable sources that do not destroy their original, natural nutritional value.

There is strong evidence that timely, natural treatment of proper exercise and nutrient-dense food will help you manage achy bones and joint damage of arthritis. But even more exciting, you can prevent it in the first place by observing God's immutable laws of health. ■

Jorg Mardian is a certified holistic nutritionist and personal trainer.

WAS CHARLES DARWIN RATIONAL?



EVOLUTIONISTS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THE REAL REASON THE FATHER OF EVOLUTION ABANDONED THE BIBLE. BY BRIAN DAVIS AND ANDREW MILLER

MOST COLLEGE-EDUCATED people think the theory of evolution is a *rational, scientific* explanation for creation. They think the Bible's account of creation is *irrational, faith-based religion*. They consider Charles Darwin to be the unbiased scientist who liberated people from religious superstition by allowing evidence and logic to guide his thinking.

In 2009, Harvard Professor Janet Browne urged her listeners to use the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth to reaffirm their faith in Darwin as a "figurehead of rational science."

Every high school and college student learns Darwin's ideas concerning evolution. But few study the life of Darwin himself.

Who was Charles Darwin? What motivated him?

What you are about to read is unknown by most people, even students of biology. Evolutionists want this information kept secret!

Rejecting Genesis

Charles Darwin was born in England on Feb. 12, 1809. His father was not religious, and his grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, believed the theory of transmutation, which holds that one species transforms into another over many generations. Charles's mother was a Unitarian Christian. His parents had him baptized into the Anglican Church as a baby, and Charles's mother taught him to pray and to read the Bible. Charles accepted his mother's Unitarian beliefs as he grew up and went off to medical school.

While at the University of Edinburgh, Charles read his grandfather's theories about transmutation. He wasn't so sure about them. Erasmus Darwin had written that plants and animals could pass on features they developed during their lifetime to the next generation. He condemned religion as a psychological disease. He especially condemned the idea that unbelievers burn forever in hell.

Charles was not a good student and eventually dropped out of medical school.

His father then sent him to Cambridge University to become an Anglican priest. Here, Charles studied William Paley's *Natural Theology* and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion by the Anglican Church. Paley directly

criticized Erasmus Darwin's idea that organisms could pass on acquired characteristics to their offspring by noting that Jewish children are not born circumcised just because their fathers are circumcised. He also offered rational proof of God's existence by arguing that a creation requires a Creator, the same as a watch requires a watchmaker. Paley's book deeply impressed Charles. He later wrote, "I do not think I hardly ever admired a book more than Paley's *Natural Theology*: I could almost formerly have said it by heart." But he was not sure about the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion.

The Thirty-nine Articles stated that Jesus Christ "went down into hell" after His crucifixion. Like his grandfather, Charles hated the idea that God eternally tortures people. He thought that his grandfather might be wrong about how one kind of animal transmutes into another, but he was beginning to have doubts about a God who would eternally torture people like his grandfather in hell. (To understand what the Bible actually teaches about hell, read our free article "What Is Hell?" at theTrumpet.com/8021.)

Upon graduating in 1831, one of Charles's botany professors arranged for him to work as an unpaid naturalist on the HMS Beagle. Before the ship departed, the ship's captain gave Darwin a copy of Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology*. This is when his religious beliefs really began to change.

Charles Lyell was a Scottish geologist who would later become friends with Darwin. He hated the Bible and, in his own words, wanted to free science "from the old dispensation of Moses." Lyell's book argued that rocks and geological formations were formed gradually by natural force over millions of years. He mocked the prevailing



idea that such formations were formed in great catastrophes like Noah's Flood.

Darwin's mind was still grappling with doubts about what the Anglican Church taught about hell. So he began to accept some of Lyell's arguments and reconsidered his grandfather's ideas on transmutation.

"During these two years, I was led to think much about religion," Darwin wrote in his autobiography. "Whilst on board the Beagle I was quite orthodox, and I remember being heartily laughed at by several of the officers (though themselves orthodox) for quoting the Bible as an unanswerable authority on some point of morality. ... But I had gradually come by this time [i.e. 1836 to 1839] to see that the Old Testament from its manifestly false history of the world, with the tower of Babel, the rainbow as a sign, etc., etc., and from its attributing to God the feelings of a revengeful tyrant, was no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindoos, or the beliefs of any barbarian."

The Bible's first chapter, Genesis 1, states that God re-created Earth after it had become "without form and void." This means God could have created the planet millions of years ago. Yet Darwin still used the vastness of geological time as an excuse to reject the Old Testament!

Rejecting Christianity

Even after rejecting Genesis, Darwin still believed that God created all forms of life in separate acts of creation. But as he studied finches in the Galapagos Islands, he noticed that there were different varieties of these songbirds, with each variety having a special beak enabling it to eat different types of food. As a naturalist, Darwin faced a choice. He could interpret what he saw as evidence that God created different shapes of finch beaks. Or he could interpret what he saw as evidence that finch beaks evolved over many generations to match their environment by some accidental, unguided force.

By the time he returned home, Darwin's notebooks were filled with speculations on transmutation and musings on how the Bible was unreliable and contradictory. He decided to pursue a career in science.

He began considering marriage to his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, and his father recommended that he conceal his doubts about the Bible from his future wife. Charles ignored his father's advice and told Emma that he believed in Christian morality, but doubted that God had a plan for mankind. He did not believe in the Old Testament, and he noted that since the New Testament cites Old Testament prophecy, it must not be true either.

More than any scientific theory about the age of rocks or the shape of bird beaks, questions about the existence of suffering, cruelty and pain fueled Darwin's ideas.

Charles and Emma had 10 children—three died by age 10 and another three ended up unable to have children themselves. The death of his favorite

daughter, Annie, had a profound effect on Charles. He attributed her sickness to inbreeding, since he and Emma were first cousins. As he began to muse on why weak organisms die, he further developed his ideas on *transmutation*—the weak die, the strong survive, and children perish because nature is cruel and God has abandoned the world.

Decades later, Charles Darwin's great-great-grandson, Randal Keynes, would recount how profoundly Annie's death affected Charles's thinking about the natural world and the struggle for life.

"After Annie's death, Charles set the Christian faith firmly behind him," Keynes wrote in *Annie's Box*. "He did not attend church services with the family; he walked with them to the church door,

THE EVOLUTIONIST YOU PROBABLY **HAVEN'T** HEARD ABOUT

Ask almost anyone who is most responsible for the mainstreaming of evolutionary thought, and they will likely answer Charles Darwin. Yet a naturalist named Alfred Russel Wallace proposed almost exactly the same theory around the same time. His paper was presented to the Linnaean Society on July 1, 1858, the same day Darwin's paper was presented.

Why don't you hear more about Alfred Wallace?

Wallace was once considered a leading "expert" on the geographical distribution of animals. Unlike Darwin, who spent most of his life at home, Wallace did extensive fieldwork in the Amazon rain forest and Malay Archipelago. He had read about "transmutation" and hoped to discover proof of the idea in the jungle.

After seven years of study, he still could not think of a way one kind of animal could evolve into another. Then in February 1858, Wallace suffered a severe attack of tropical fever in the village of Dodinga on a remote Indonesian island. The fever caused him to experience visions and hallucinations about evolution. When he recovered, he believed that animals evolve "perpetually" by adapting to their environment. He wrote a paper that month and mailed it to Charles Darwin with a note asking him to show it to Charles Lyell.

Darwin had intended on waiting longer before publishing *Origin of Species*. But when he found out that Wallace had independently come to the same ideas as he had, he quickly wrote a journal article on evolution that could be presented to the Linnaean Society along with Wallace's paper that summer.

These two papers shook the scientific world, but Wallace's name faded into obscurity shortly after his paper's publication. He had experimented with hypnotism in his youth, and his vivid hallucinations about evolution left him curious about spiritualism. After returning to England he started attending séances. He visited a photographer who took a "spirit photograph" of him and with the "spirit" of his long-dead mother. And he publicly defended spiritualist mediums against allegations of fraud.

Wallace's public advocacy of spiritualism strained his relationship with Darwin and other scientists, who were afraid that Wallace was going to discredit the whole theory of evolution. You do not hear much about Wallace today because he attributed his hallucinations to spiritual intervention, while Charles Darwin attributed his own hallucinations to some undiagnosed physical ailment. Despite the differences between Darwin's and Wallace's hallucinations, it is particularly worth noting that *both* of these "leading experts" promoting the evolutionary concept were, in fact, hallucinating!

but left them to enter on their own and stood talking with the village constable or walked along the lanes around the parish. He did, though, still firmly believe in a divine Creator. But while others had faith in God's infinite goodness, Charles found Him a shadowy, inscrutable and ruthless figure. ... Charles continued to work on the 'laws of life,' but was now sharply aware of the elimination of the weak as the fit survived."

Darwin's disillusionment with traditional Christianity had been growing for years—even before Annie died. Additionally, his father had died an "unbeliever" three years previous, leading Charles to again ponder eternal punishment. He would later write in his autobiography: "I can indeed hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so, the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe, and this would include my father, brother and almost all my best friends, will be everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine."

Charles Darwin, a troubled and pained individual, did indeed turn his back on the Bible. This was not because of any scientific discovery, but because he could not understand why a loving God would allow people to suffer and eventually die, only to be eternally tortured in fire!

Rejecting God

After Annie died, Darwin finally began converting his "transmutation" notebooks into a book called *Origin of Species*. He changed "transmutation" to "evolution" since that term sounded more scientific. He claimed that one species gradually changes into another over multiple generations as the weak die and the strong survive. He called this the theory of "natural selection." His friend Herbert Spencer called it "survival of the fittest." This theory offered no explanation as to how new traits are created, but Darwin desperately hoped some future scientist would discover an explanation.

He did not want to believe in God.

Seven years after Darwin published *Origin of Species*, a lady wrote him to ask whether or not she could believe in both God and evolution. Charles replied: "It has always appeared to me more satisfactory to look at the immense amount of pain and suffering in this world as the inevitable result of the natural sequence of events, i.e. general laws, rather than from the direct intervention of God."

This is why Darwin rejected the Bible. His book, *Origin of Species*, was never based on rational science. It was a stab-in-the-dark hypothesis about why pain and suffering exist.

At the end of his life, Charles said he was agnostic, someone who thinks the existence of God is unknowable. He struggled to explain how life could arise from nonliving matter. "I hardly know what to say," he wrote to a schoolteacher in Liverpool who had asked about his views on God's existence. "Though no evidence worth anything has yet, in my opinion, been advanced in favor of a living being being developed from inorganic matter, yet I cannot avoid believing the possibility of this will be proved some day in accordance with the law of continuity ... If it is ever found that life can originate on this world, the vital phenomena will come under some general law of nature. Whether the existence of a conscious God can be proved from the existence of the so-called laws of nature ... is a perplexing subject, on which I have often thought, but cannot see my way clearly."

Almost 140 years later, no scientist has produced "evidence worth anything" showing how a living organism can develop from inorganic matter. Living things come only from other living things.

Darwin never discovered proof that one kind of animal could evolve into another. All his theories were the confused musings of a tortured man mourning the loss of his daughter and haunted by the thought that his grandfather,

THE DANGERS OF INTELLECTUAL VANITY

It should be no surprise that most scientists today reject the Creator. After all, those in Christ's day reviled and denied the Son of God in the flesh. "And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day" (Matthew 11:23). Those in Capernaum were "exalted unto heaven," filled with intellectual vanity. They wouldn't even be taught by Jesus Christ! That is the problem with scholars, scientists and man in general.

"But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee" (verse 24). Intellectual vanity is more dangerous than the sexual sins of Sodom!

Consider: Modern civilization has enormous amounts of knowledge, some of it good, some of it evil—and we find that our greatest problem today is whether or not the human race will even *survive!*

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (verse 25). God purposely keeps most scientists, intellectuals and the vast majority of mankind under a cloak of ignorance. Only the humble, teachable few can receive God's truth.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," God says (Hosea 4:6). This clearly isn't referring to physical knowledge: Human beings have that in abundance. People are sorely lacking in the *knowledge of God*.

Mankind simply is not equipped to solve world problems. *Physical knowledge—good mixed with evil—isn't enough!* We are missing the Spirit of God, which combines with the human spirit to give human beings *real* understanding, understanding that can actually begin to *solve* our evils. Without God's Spirit, the carnal mind is naturally hateful toward God (Romans 8:7) and *unable* to solve its evils.

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them" (Matthew 13:16-17). Those whom God blesses with this understanding possess the only true academic freedom.

Science has only scratched the surface of the tremendous wonder that fills the universe. But a superior wonder is about to return to Earth in the personage of Jesus Christ Himself! He will cut man's suffering short and establish God's Kingdom. That is the vision we all should be living for.

GERALD FLURRY



***Origin of Species* was never based on rational science. It was a stab-in-the-dark hypothesis about why pain and suffering exist.**

father, brother and friends were being everlastingly punished in hellfire!

Rejecting Rationality

Charles Darwin was a troubled and pained individual, misled by the religious leaders of his day about what the Bible says. For most of his adult life, he suffered from anxiety attacks. Heart palpitations accompanied these attacks, as did shortness of breath, vomiting, feelings of impending doom, and hysterical crying. He wrote his doctor in 1865, six years after completing *Origin of Species*, complaining that his vomiting bouts were often “preceded by ringing of ears, treading on air, and visions”

A medical debate about what was wrong with Darwin has raged for over a century. But a 1997 study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concludes that he might never have revolutionized modern science with his theory of evolution if he had not suffered from chronic mental illness.

“Had it not been for this illness, his theory of evolution might not have become the all-consuming passion that produced *On the Origin of Species*,” wrote Thomas Barloon and Russell Noyes in their study.

This is a startling admission! The theory of evolution by means of natural selection forms the foundation of modern science. Yet there is no scientific proof of this theory. It was devised by a depressed man looking for answers to some of life’s biggest questions. Pointing out that Darwin came to the wrong conclusions is not a personal attack against him. It is important to realize, however,

that intellectual atheists and promoters of evolutionary ideas claim Darwin’s beliefs are rational when they are not.

The outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins says, “Darwin gives courage to the rest of science that we shall end up understanding literally everything, springing from almost nothing—a thought extremely hard to comprehend and believe.” Yet Darwin understood almost nothing and died unsure of his own theory.

Even scientists acknowledge that Erasmus Darwin’s theory of inheritance of acquired characteristics is totally false. Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution by means of natural selection does not explain how new genetic information is created. Evolution utterly fails to explain the origin of life and the biodiversity of our world.

What evolutionists are promoting is not science. It is an *irrational* belief that life can spontaneously develop from dead matter, and that one kind of animal can change into a different kind of animal.

Without any proof or scientific knowledge whatsoever, promoters of evolutionary ideas believe what they want to believe, because they rebelliously refuse to believe the truth.

This is why the Bible proclaims, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

Rational science is based on the undeniable fact that a rational Creator designed the universe. When you reject this undeniable fact, you reject rationality itself and start embracing foolish beliefs. In the Bible that Darwin

rejected, the Apostle Paul explains how those who refused to acknowledge God become fools.

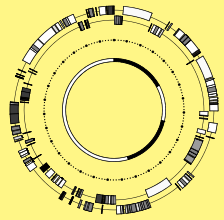
“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done” (Romans 1:18-22, 28; English Standard Version).

Darwin’s faith in the Bible was weakened by a religion that claimed to teach the Bible, yet taught pagan superstitions about hell and confusion over why God allows human suffering. But once he stopped acknowledging God, he became a fool.

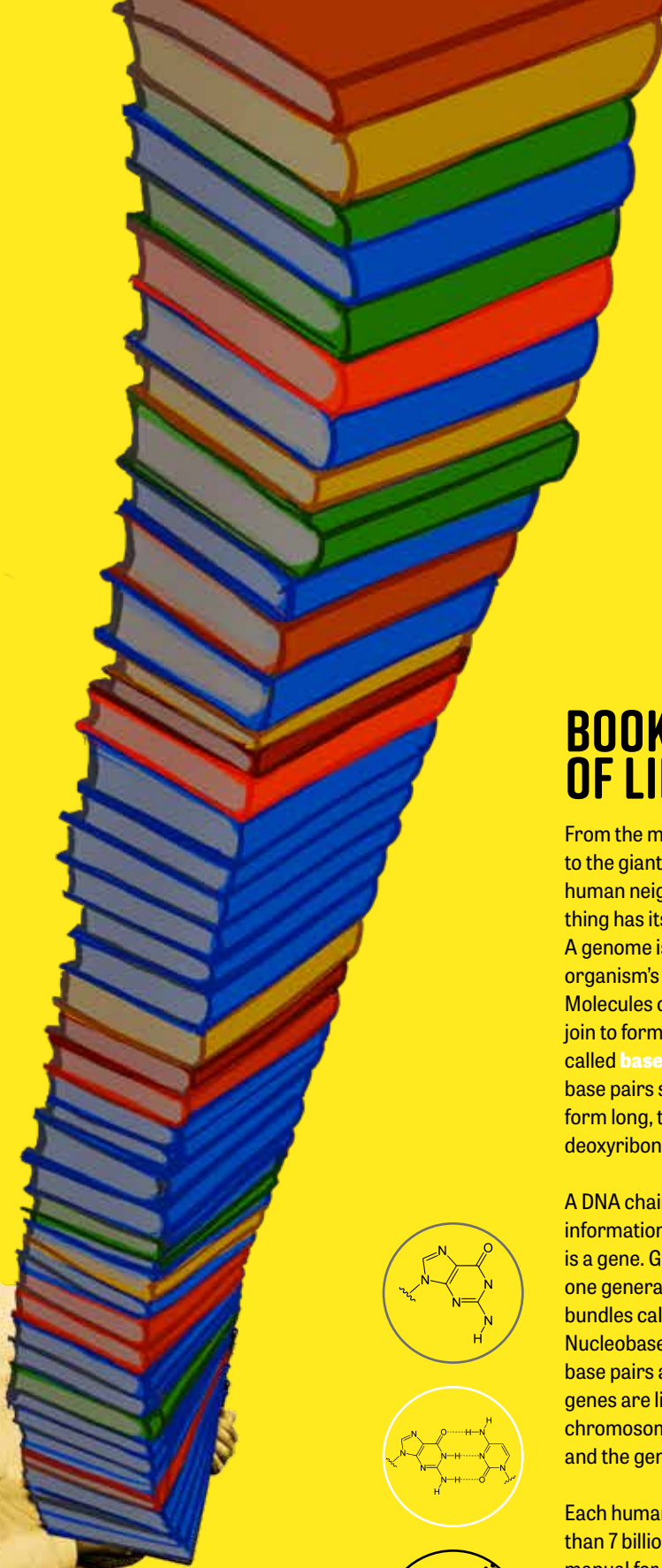
That is not a personal attack on Darwin or those who believe his theories. It is just a matter of fact.

Evolution is not science. It is a secular religion—a belief; a faith—based on the dogma that the strong rule the weak; only the fittest survive. By suppressing the truth, evolution has become the religion of fools! ■

THE MATHEMATICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION



EVOLUTION JUST DOESN'T ADD UP.

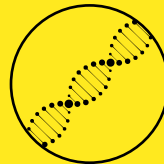
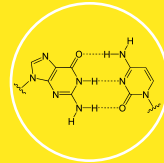
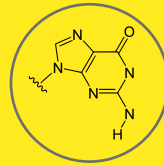


BOOKS OF LIFE

From the microscopic amoeba to the giant sequoia to your human neighbors, every living thing has its own genome. A genome is the sum of an organism's genetic material. Molecules called **nucleobases** join to form larger molecules called **base pairs**. These base pairs stack together to form long, twisting chains of deoxyribonucleic acid (**DNA**).

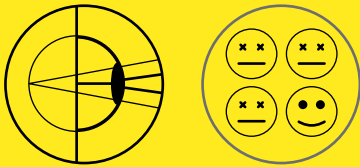
A DNA chain with enough information to build a protein is a gene. Genes pass from one generation to the next in bundles called chromosomes. Nucleobases are like letters, base pairs are like words, genes are like chapters, chromosomes are like books, and the genome is like a library.

Each human cell contains more than 7 billion nucleobases. A manual for human-building containing that many letters would be 33 times longer than the hardbound edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.



GENETIC TYPOS

A mutation is a “typo” in the DNA replication process. Modern evolutionists say that these genetic errors are what create new genes, and organisms with errors that happen to be beneficial are the ones that survive. But since a mutation occurs at the molecular level, it is like one extra word printed in an enormous 3.6-billion-word genetics manual. If you repeatedly reprint an encyclopedia, adding a random error each time, you will never get a new chapter on **eyesight**. You will get a jumble of letters that fails to tell you how to build anything at all.



The CRX gene contains instructions for making a protein that controls the activity of eyesight genes. It has 23,551 base pairs formed from two nucleobase arrangements. According to evolution, these had to arrange into a perfect sequence before “**survival of the fittest**” killed off all the humans without this gene.

The odds against this sequence of 23,551 base pair arrangements forming randomly are 1 in $2^{23,551}$ (a number so high that scientific calculators cannot compute it).

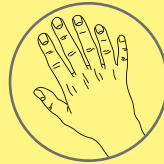
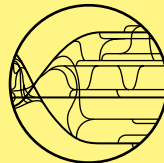


LIFE-AND-DEATH STAKES

The Human Genome Project has determined that a genetic mutation of 1 billionth of a genome is fatal. Out of the 3.6 billion human base pairs, a random change in just three is fatal, and zero offspring are produced.

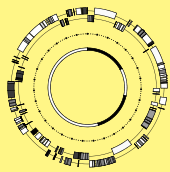
Evolutionists say chimpanzees and humans “evolved” from a **common ancestor**, but they know that at least 35 million base pairs are different. If all mutations were beneficial, and if they happened in the proper order, and if other changes or hazards did not kill off the hypothetical evolutionary progress, it would take **17 million generations for these genes to become similar** (assuming two beneficial mutations per generation).

And no **mutation** has ever been observed to be beneficial. The probability of one particular base pair being altered is 3.6 billion to 1. Multiplying that by the 35 million base pair difference between man and chimp yields a probability of 126 quadrillion (126,000,000,000,000,000) to 1. And this ratio doesn't take into account the mathematical impossibility of monkeys evolving from some other life form, or the mathematical impossibility of nucleobases evolving from some other non-living molecular compound.



WHAT IS MANKIND'S PURPOSE?

TO MOST PEOPLE, THIS IS A MYSTERY. BUT THE INSPIRING ANSWER IS PLAIN!
BY GERALD FLURRY



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY you are on Earth? How did humankind come about—and WHY? This is truly a mystery to this world—even to leaders, philosophers, intellectuals *and many religious people*.

Science has examined deeply into human physiology, psychology, anatomy and anthropology. Higher education studies every particle and atom of man. But they cannot explain what the human mind is. It is a mystery to them.

Human beings can reason and reflect, enjoy culture and art. Yet animals, whose brains are physically similar to human brains, cannot. What accounts for the colossal difference? The answer is key to understanding why we are here, who and what we are.

In today's world, virtually all education presupposes that evolution is true. This means that we and everything we see came about by blind, arbitrary material processes. That theory strips life of all possible meaning. It cannot explain the awesome accomplishments of man throughout history. Nor can it teach how to solve man's problems.

The broad gulf between animals and humans is materially inexplicable. Its cause is, in fact, *spiritual*. This cause is plainly revealed in a source that science and higher education contemptuously reject—that is, *the Bible*. But even if you disregard the Bible, the undeniable fact remains that human beings' immense intellectual, cultural and moral capacity compared to animals is ONE OF THE GREATEST PROOFS THAT

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TRUE. It is simply *impossible* for evolution to account for the faculty of the human mind. This is a crucial truth.

And beyond its being false, and thus powerless to truly explain our world, evolution supplies *no hope!* Anyone who believes it will *never* understand the mystery of man.

Humility

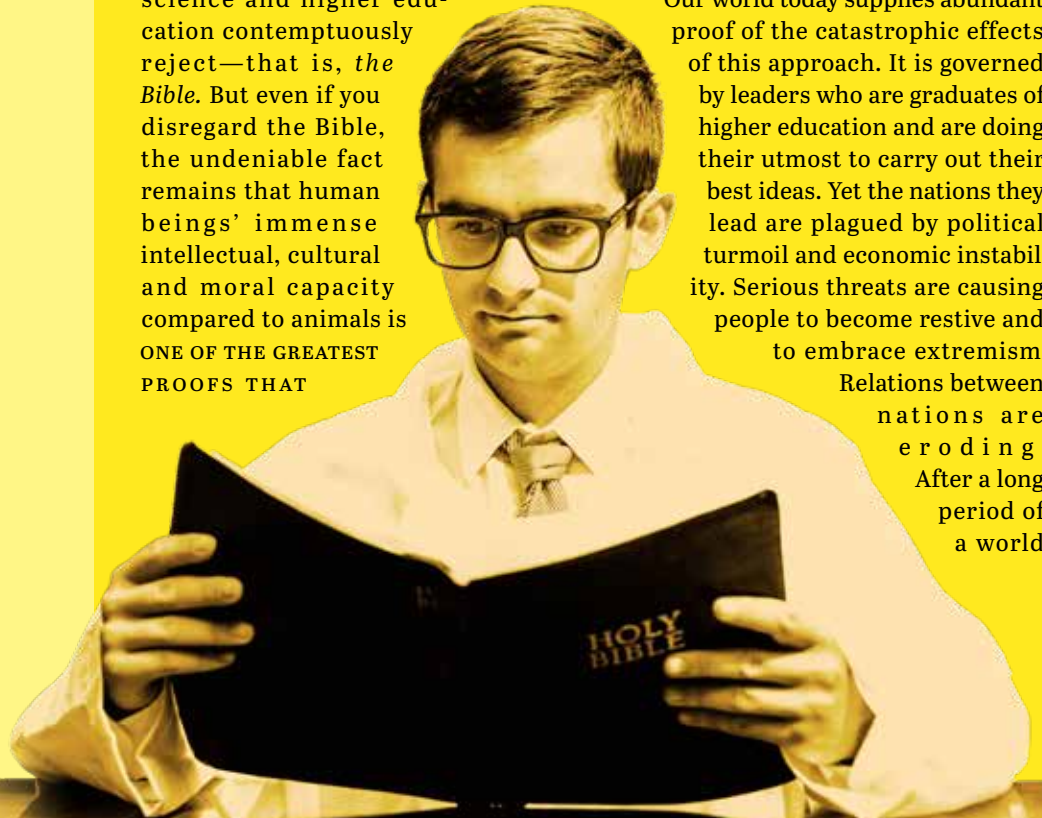
Do you realize that your own vanity can cut you off from understanding?

Think seriously about these words from Jesus Christ: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because *thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent*, and hast REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES" (Matthew 11:25). Not all truth is self-evident. Some truth must be *revealed by God*. And God *hides* certain truths from self-impressed intellectuals! He *reveals* them to those who are humble and childlike in spirit.

Of all the truths God can reveal, NOTHING is more important than for man to understand his purpose! But you will not find this truth in higher education. They do not have the answers because they lack humble, teachable attitudes. They have closed their minds, rejected God's teaching, and scrubbed God out of the picture. God cannot teach them.

Our world today supplies abundant proof of the catastrophic effects of this approach. It is governed by leaders who are graduates of higher education and are doing their utmost to carry out their best ideas. Yet the nations they lead are plagued by political turmoil and economic instability. Serious threats are causing people to become restive and to embrace extremism.

Relations between nations are eroding. After a long period of a world



led by Britain and America, a new, far less stable and predictable world is emerging.

Meanwhile, nuclear weapons are becoming more sophisticated and spreading to unstable nations. Any one of these weapons could vaporize thousands of people in a single blinding moment! One of the Bible's most chilling prophecies says that if Jesus Christ didn't return and prevent it, THERE WOULD BE NO FLESH SAVED ALIVE! (Matthew 24:21-22). We are on the verge of this nightmare being fulfilled! Just three generations ago, mankind lacked the capability to destroy human life. Today, the most pressing question mankind faces is human survival!

THIS IS AN INESCAPABLE REALITY THAT MAN IS POWERLESS TO SOLVE. We don't know what to do. The evolutionary theory certainly offers no guidance. The solution is a mystery to mankind. But if we fail to resolve it soon, there won't be anyone left!

IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE SHOULD LOOK TO GOD AND PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT HE PROPHESES, IT IS NOW! If we were thinking properly, our disastrous failures *would* be making us very humble and childlike! We should recognize our inadequacy and helplessness, and our urgent need for God's help.

This is what our educational institutions SHOULD be teaching us! Sadly, they are only embracing godless materialism and flawed human reasoning all the more.

Jesus Christ, however, has a plan. He promises to step in and prevent our self-annihilation (verse 22). Why? For the most inspiring reason you could ever imagine: a reason that tells you the transcendent PURPOSE of mankind—and reveals the mystery of man.

Whom Will He Teach?

The Prophet Isaiah wrote extensively about the problems mankind faces today. In one prophecy, he asked, "Whom shall [God] teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? ..." (Isaiah 28:9). *This is the most important question in education: WHOM WILL GOD TEACH?* The verse continues: "[T]hem that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." These are the ones who will listen to God. They don't follow human beings who can lead them astray. They're not like nursing infants who unquestioningly accept whatever

they are taught, whether from academia, science, religion or anywhere else!

But they *will* heed the Bible. They have a childlike spirit that listens to God, and are willing to learn "precept upon precept; line upon line ... here a little and there a little" (verse 10).

What if you lack this attitude? Then God will speak to you "with stammering lips and another tongue" so you won't understand! (verse 11). This is a coded message within a coded book, the Bible. The intellectuals of this world have closed their minds to it (Matthew 13:15). They don't want the Bible in their universities. They have contempt for that book! And they force their views on students and on society, demanding compliance and silencing dissent!

Will you let God teach you? Most people will not. But for those who are teachable, the truth of the Bible *is* being DECODED in this end time. God is in the final stages of preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and He is working through a small group of teachable people to do that. The best single volume that decodes the Bible is one that you can have free: Herbert W. Armstrong's *Mystery of the Ages*. This book puts the Bible together like a jigsaw puzzle. It is a unique book for our unique age. There is nothing on Earth like it.

If you are childlike, listening to God and allowing Him to teach you, then you will be astounded by the revelation He will give you! With the right attitude, you can understand and fulfill God's purpose for you!

The Spirit in Man

Let's examine what the Bible reveals about the difference between human mind and animal brain. As I said, this is one of the greatest proofs against evolution.

"The physical brain of the higher vertebrates in the animal kingdom is essentially the same in physical form, design, constituency, as human brain," Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. "The brains of whales, elephants, dolphins are larger—and chimp almost as large. Yet the output of the human brain is indescribably greater. Few indeed know WHY!" *Something* gives man the power of intellect—the ability to reason, make judgments and decisions—which animals cannot. What is it?

Here is the answer: "Many passages of Scripture show that there is a *spirit in man*," Mr. Armstrong continued (emphasis mine).

"Science and advanced education today almost universally assume nothing exists but matter," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "They deny the existence of spirit. Which is to say, whether admitted or not, they deny the existence of God." Leading intellectuals teach that man is completely physical. Evolution would have you believe that nothing exists beyond the physical. But that is wrong! The Bible makes clear that in reality, man has a *human spirit*—a spiritual component that animals do not have.

Take, for example, Romans 8:16: "The Spirit [God's Spirit] beareth witness with OUR SPIRIT, that we are the children of God." The Apostle Paul mentions *two different spirits* in this verse: God's Spirit, with a capital S, and "our spirit," referring to the spirit in man.

So this spirit is not the Holy Spirit of God. It is a *human* spirit, which imparts the power of intellect to the brain. "But *there is a SPIRIT IN MAN*: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8). "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the SPIRIT OF MAN which is in him?" (1 Corinthians 2:11). We understand so much because the human spirit gives the brain this understanding.

This spirit actually provides the capacity for godly reasoning! In fact, the human mind is a type of God's very own mind.

God gave us this spirit for a number of reasons that help fulfill His very purpose for man. It is by this spirit that God can work with us and build His character within us. This spirit combines with and interacts with the Holy Spirit to facilitate a family relationship with God, which no animal can have. The human spirit makes possible the incredible human potential—something God planned and wants to help each one of us fulfill, something that should be inspiring and stunning to mankind!

If you want to understand the human mind and why it is so superior to the animal brain, read our booklet *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*. We will send one to you free of charge.

But, necessary as it is, that spirit *alone* is not enough! Until we receive God's Holy Spirit, as a gift from God, we are

spiritually incomplete. It is only by that Spirit that we can understand the fullness of spiritual truth. “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath REVEALED them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (verses 9-10). It is by that Spirit that God REVEALS His truth to us.

This world lacks that Spirit. Most people, then, not only lack spiritual understanding, but they have a natural hostility toward the truth of God. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (verse 14). Even with the human spirit, man does not and CANNOT receive the things of God’s Spirit.

Mankind rejects God’s knowledge and tries to straighten out its problems without God. This is a fool’s task! You will never find solutions in the evolutionary theory or any other theory outside of the truth of God!

The Purpose for Man

The understanding of the spirit in man gives you a strong clue about God’s purpose for mankind. But to truly understand that purpose, you must study some important history recorded in the Bible.

Scripture shows that God’s first creation was the angelic realm. He then created the material universe and the Earth (Genesis 1:1). The angels were commissioned to establish God’s government and beautify the Earth. This was God’s means of developing the angels’ character through productive activity (e.g. Job 38:4-7).

Sadly, the great archangel Lucifer—the most impressive achievement of God’s creative powers—rebelled, and persuaded one third of the angels to follow him. They rose up and attempted to cast God off His throne! (Isaiah 14:12-14). In this rebellion, they wrecked the Earth that they were ruling over (as is described in the second verse of the Bible—after a great time lapse from verse 1), and damaged the universe in the process. (For more explanation and scriptural proof, please read my article in last month’s issue, “[The Mystery of the Spirit Realm](https://www.thetrumpet.com/21173),” [theTrumpet.com/21173](https://www.thetrumpet.com/21173).)

Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*: “And now, of all living beings in the universe, ONLY GOD could be certainly relied upon never to depart from the way of His law. No higher, more perfect being could be created than the cherub Lucifer, who rebelled.” The angels had proved untrustworthy. God knew that, to accomplish His great ambitions, He needed more God beings. He needed to reproduce Himself. And He devised a spectacular way to do so in a plan even greater than that of the angels.

“Character cannot be automatically created by fiat,” Mr. Armstrong continued. “Godly spiritual character is the habitual action and conduct of the person or created entity to come to a knowledge of the true ways of God, and to exercise the will to follow those ways even against opposition, temptation or self-desire to the contrary. Character must be developed with the assent, will and action of the separately created entity. It is imparted by God and must be willingly received by that entity. So God now determined, or had predetermined, to accomplish the SUPREME creative feat—by reproducing Himself! That was to be accomplished through MAN!”

With the universe in a state of decay and ruin, God had to begin by renewing the face of the Earth (Psalm 104:30). Genesis 1, beginning in verse 2, describes this re-creation—not the original creation, as many believe.

The first thing God did in the re-creation was turn darkness into light (Genesis 1:3). Lucifer was a “light-bringer”—that is what his name means, and that was his purpose. But with his

rebellion, he brought darkness. God turned the darkness back into the light He had originally made.

What God did on the sixth day of re-creation begins to reveal WHY MANKIND IS HERE: “And God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*: and let them have dominion ... over all the earth ...” (verse 26). There is a lot revealed in this verse!

God created man AFTER HIS OWN LIKENESS. Human beings look like God. (The angels do not.) This alone points to God’s plan to re-create Himself in man. We look like God because we have the potential to become God!

Man was to improve this physical Earth, making it beautiful with all the necessary finishing touches. The planet was like unfinished furniture, or a cake without icing—it needed to be dressed and made beautiful. It still has to be finished. And only individuals who become members of the God Family, as God beings, can be trusted to do that.

THAT IS WHY MAN! It’s all about finishing the creation of God. But that creation isn’t purely physical; it is about building God’s character as well. We look like God in our features, but we were also created in the “image” of God—which means the character and very mind of God! We can be in the very Family of God if we build His character. That is why we are here. God wants us to have a special family relationship with Him forever. That is our purpose.

This is truth about our purpose that this world’s education can never teach, and that you cannot understand without revelation from God. What an amazing, incredible PURPOSE for which God made man! What potential mankind has!

Ultimately, God will use us to beautify not only the Earth, but the entire universe that was damaged by Satan’s rebellion. Throughout the cosmos you see pockmarks and decay because of what Satan and his demons did. But that is about to change! The universe is mourning and waiting for the glorification of the sons of God (Romans 8:22-23). The universe is crying out for help, just as mankind is today. But we are already in the advance stages of God’s eternal plan—a plan for mankind to aid Him in rebuilding and populating the universe! ■

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW HUMAN SUFFERING?

Perhaps no question challenges a person’s faith in a Creator God than this one.

To get the full Bible-based answer, request Herbert W. Armstrong’s free book ***Mystery of the Ages***.

TESTING 1-2-3
Kim Jung-un watches
a missile test in July.



Why North Korea Is Testing Missiles

China and Russia are pulling levers from behind the scenes to accomplish a strategic goal.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

NORTH KOREA HAS TEST-FIRED AT LEAST 20 SHORT-RANGE missiles since May. And though this may appear to be provocative business as usual from the North, a closer look shows a trend underway that could fundamentally resulpt Asia's security landscape.

The United States has responded to these tests essentially with a shrug. U.S. President Donald Trump characterized the missiles as “smaller ones” and the tests “very standard.” He has emphasized that, unlike the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) North Korea tested early in his presidency, the current models being tested cannot reach the U.S. mainland or many overseas American assets.

President Trump's downplaying of the recent tests is motivated partly by a desire to preserve his effort to convince North Korean leader Kim Jung-un to denuclearize his military. This has consistently been among Mr. Trump's highest foreign-policy goals. Achieving it would be a major victory, and would increase his chances of winning a second presidential term.

Abandoned Allies

The trouble with this U.S. approach is that Japan and South Korea are treaty allies of America. Both depend largely on the U.S. for national security and for defending their interests. And both are within range of the highly maneuverable missiles the North is testing.

“This was the worst-case scenario for Tokyo,” Yuki Tatsumi, codirector of the Stimson Center's East Asia Program, told the *Japan Times* on August 28. “Trump deals with North Korea, only focusing on its nuclear program and ICBMs, leaving Japan still exposed to North Korea's short- and medium-range missiles.”

On August 25, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe met with President Trump. After the president once again shrugged off the test launches, Abe—normally a staunch Trump supporter—contradicted him. He called the tests “extremely regrettable” and stressed that they violate United Nations

resolutions. Many leaders in South Korea are similarly alarmed by the Trump administration's insouciance over the tests.

This issue could drive a wedge between the U.S. and its Asian allies. This may be precisely what North Korea and its primary allies—China and Russia—are aiming to accomplish.

It is no secret that China and Russia support the North Korean regime: They routinely use their UN veto power to protect it, and even when sanctions are passed against it, they violate them to help the North. This gives China and Russia heavy influence over North Korea's foreign policy.

It is also no secret that China and Russia share the goal of ousting U.S. power from East Asia, including the presence of some 28,000 U.S. troops in South Korea and some 54,000 in Japan.

North Korea's short-range missile tests could easily be a calculated effort by China and Russia to weaken America's alliances with Japan and South Korea. They know President Trump has strong motivation to downplay them, and they know how badly this will worry Japan and South Korea.

South Korea and Japan have been seriously considering expelling U.S. troops. Both have boosted their own military power, partly to make them less reliant on outside help. President Trump has also voiced his displeasure with how much America pays to safeguard Japan and South Korea. Strains were already present in these U.S.-Asian alliances, and each North Korean short-range missile test strikes not only its target, but those strained relationships.

'A Threat Many Times Greater'

In 2017, when North Korea's aggression was at a peak, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said the world should be more concerned about Russia and China than about North Korea.

This analysis, he explained, was based on Bible prophecy. “The Bible's prophecies show that, in a sense, the North Korea crisis is a massive distraction from the real threat posed by China and Russia,” he wrote. “These powerful Asian nations are the only reason North Korea is able to operate so freely. And Bible prophecy shows that they pose a threat many times greater than the one from North Korea!” (co-worker letter, Sept. 13, 2017).

The prophecies of which he spoke are recorded mainly in Ezekiel, Daniel and Revelation. They show that Russia will lead a mighty military confederacy, with China in a secondary leadership role. Less powerful Asian countries, such as the Koreas and Japan, will throw their power behind this Russian-led bloc.

When these prophecies are placed alongside prophecies about the soon-coming end of American power, it becomes clear that the days are numbered for America's alliances with Japan and South Korea.

In his booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia,'* Mr. Flurry shows that this Asian confederacy will play a key role in the most violent conflict in mankind's history. But he also shows that these developments are tied to unprecedentedly good news. At the end of this conflict, he writes, Jesus Christ will usher in “a peaceful and prosperous new age for the entire Earth!”

To understand more about both the perils and the hope in these prophecies, order your free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet ***The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'***



ADOLF HITLER WAS ONE OF history's most evil mass murders. Yet during his life, he was an individual of culture. For example, he claimed that only by understanding the music of Richard Wagner could you understand the Third Reich. On a larger scale, only by understanding its culture can you understand what Hitler was trying to revive: the Holy Roman Empire.

Hitler, Frederick the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, Maximilian I, Otto the Great, Charlemagne and many other European leaders have had two things in common: their love for culture and their love for conquest.

European culture includes not only its food and its arts but also centuries of heavy influence of the Catholic Church, headquartered in Rome. The church has affected not just the people's deepest beliefs about life and the afterlife, but also everything from political policy to architecture. Time after time, this church has used its influence to align with political leaders and resurrect the Holy Roman Empire.

Although the Holy Roman Empire's influence has ebbed during the modern democratic era, its heritage is still very much alive—and it is beginning to swell once again. The European Commission sponsored the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018, attracting 6.2 million people to 11,700 organized events across 37 countries, celebrating the luster of past Holy Roman Empire leaders like Charlemagne, Otto and Maximilian I.

Included in that heritage is the fact that dozens of those imperial leaders held a fanatic desire to rule the world. While they brought order and prosperity to new regions, they committed atrocities of savage brutality. While they celebrated the fine arts in their palaces, their subjects were tortured in the dungeons beneath.

Today Europe is still viewed as a leader in culture. The Bible prophesies that in the future, Europe will rise to even greater wealth and culture, but it will also unleash even greater atrocities.

Is Europe's barbarity contrary to its culture? Or is there a connection?

Charlemagne's Vision

Europeans have been celebrating one man in particular as founder of

Europe's Christian culture: Charlemagne.

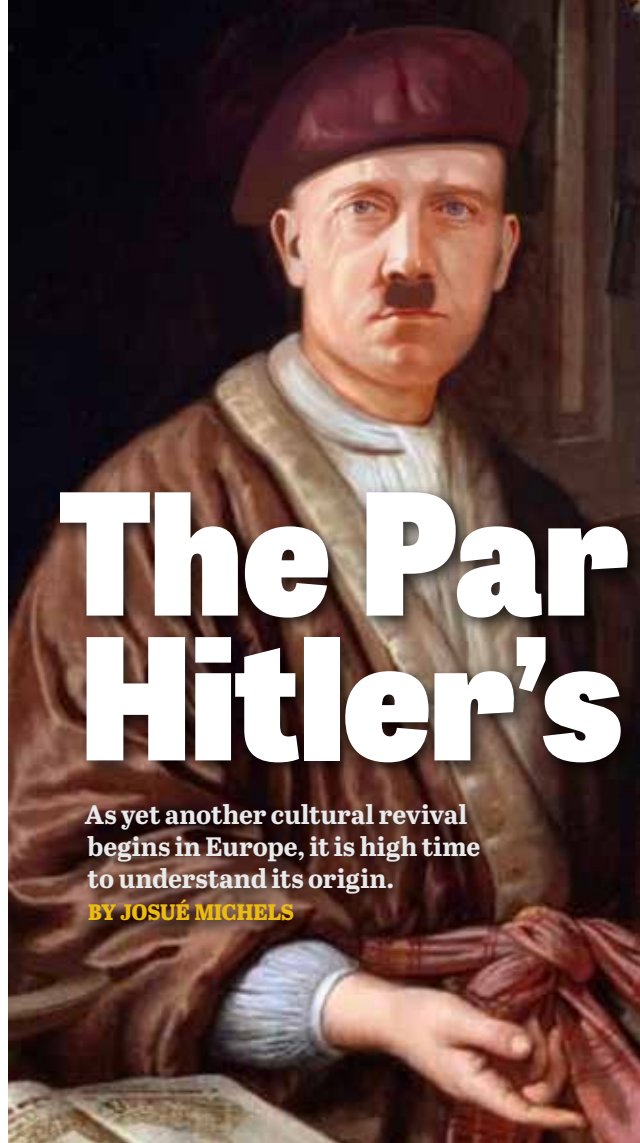
When Charlemagne was crowned king of the Franks in A.D. 771, Europe had comparatively few Christians, and the Continent was divided. His ideal was Roman Emperor Constantine, the first so-called Christian emperor.

Charlemagne lusted for power and allied himself with the Roman Catholic Church to gain it. He also sought to increase the number of European Christians. There is also evidence he believed in the superiority of Roman culture and the beliefs of the Catholic Church. His biographer, Einhard, recounted that he devoted much time to listening to readings of the books of St. Augustine, his favorite of which was *The City of God*. He sought to create an empire with "one God, one emperor, one pope, one city of God."

His thirst for power and his religious and cultural vision motivated Charlemagne to pursue years of violent conquest. He used brutal butchery to conquer the Germanic tribes. Then he established Christian cultural institutions. The spread of Roman-inspired Christian literature, culture and art became known as the Carolingian Renaissance.

Charlemagne required his conquered subjects not only to submit to his rule but also to convert to his religion. He wanted them to be Catholics for life, raising their children and their children's children in the religion. To this day, Europe is predominately Catholic.

Convinced he was fulfilling God's will, Charlemagne used bloody, torturous practices. "The violent methods by which this missionary task was carried out had been unknown to the earlier Middle Ages," *Encyclopedia Britannica* recounts. The Franconian annals recount that in A.D. 782 at Verden, Charlemagne ordered the execution of 4,500 Saxons whom allied Saxon leaders had delivered into his hands. Still the Germanic tribe of Saxony resisted Charlemagne's forced



The Par Hitler's

As yet another cultural revival begins in Europe, it is high time to understand its origin.

BY JOSUÉ MICHELS

conversion process for 30 years. A generation grew up under Charlemagne's tyranny until his brutality forced them to accept their new religion.

Previous empires had allowed considerable religious freedom. But Charlemagne sought to create something more than just an empire that was unified politically. One example of this is Charlemagne's throne in Aachen Chapel. The chapel later expanded to the Aachen Cathedral, today praised as one of the greatest symbols of Europe's cultural heritage. Inside, Charlemagne's throne was built from materials from Jerusalem. The emperor on the throne was the "anointed one."

"It is certain that Charles constantly attributed his imperial dignity to an act of God, made known of course through the agency of the vicar of Christ" (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*). The term "vicar of Christ" was used "until the ninth



adox of Culture

morning, noon and evening. [Charlemagne] hence was also 'a deeply devout man.'

"He was very much interested in the origins of Christianity. [Charlemagne's] throne could be connected with the beginnings of Christianity, whose marble slabs probably come from the Holy Sepulcher, according to the dean of the cathedral" (ibid).

Charlemagne's love for culture was rooted in his devotion to the Catholic way of life. He possessed a fanatic desire to establish "God's Kingdom" on Earth by using Catholicism to rule Europe and even the world in Christ's stead. There was no room for other religions.

There is no contradiction in Charlemagne's love for culture and his desire to subjugate the world: The one nourished the other.

Many Holy Roman emperors have followed Charlemagne's footsteps. Even his name became extremely popular among later emperors. A famous example is Charles V, grandson of emperor Maximilian I. He also swore his

allegiance to the Catholic Church, led many conquests, brutally converted Latin Americans to Catholicism, and pushed back a Muslim invasion.

Charles V's greatest challenge came with the Protestant Reformation, which divided Europe. He ordered the killing of "heretics" and advanced the Inquisition. As Protestantism swept through Europe, heretics were tortured until they denied their faith or lost their lives. Charles wanted to preserve Europe's Catholic culture, but the reformers grew stronger and formed military alliances to fight back. The religious conflict culminated in the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648).

The ambition of Holy Roman emperors, however, continued much longer than most people know.

Hitler: Lover of Culture

More than 1,100 years after Charlemagne, another lover of culture, deeply

motivated by a potent cause, exerted his will on Europe.

Many know of Adolf Hitler's claim to establish an empire that would last a thousand years. And that he presented himself as a "messianic savior," as the Jewish Virtual Library notes. Almost everyone knows of Hitler's fanaticism to seek the extinction of all Jews.

Yet few recognize the origin of Hitler's motives. In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler noted: "And so I believe today that my conduct is in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator. In standing guard against the Jew I am defending the handiwork of the Lord. ... Therefore, I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord's work."

Like Charlemagne, Hitler thought he was doing God's Work on Earth!

Various predominantly Catholic Christian movements over the centuries saw the Jews as Christ's primary enemy, which led to waves of persecution. Believers also came to believe that only Christ's prophesied coming millennial rule could eradicate all Jews from the world.

Hitler's claim of a thousand-year reich and his promise to extinguish the world's Jewry go hand in hand. Hitler saw himself as "the Redeemer" to bring about God's rule in the earthly realm.

This "Christian" ideology formed the foundation of his belief and is evident in everything he did. Though other Germanic traditions and socialistic concepts factored into Hitler's everyday agenda, the Catholic institution and this perverted view of Christianity formed the basis of his ideas and heavily influenced his goals.

Mein Kampf was edited by a Catholic priest. Hitler's hierarchical government also was patterned after that of the Catholic Church. Heinrich Himmler, though he is said to have later distanced himself from his traditional Catholic upbringing, modeled the SS after the principles of the Catholic Jesuit Order. He revitalized the Holy Roman Empire brotherhood of soldier-priests called the Teutonic Knights.

The Nazis also initiated a large-scale effort to rewrite the New Testament to prove that Jesus Christ was actually Aryan and that the Jews are His primary enemies.

Certainly, there were different beliefs

century ... for the emperor as well as for bishops and popes," this encyclopedia says. Throughout the centuries, popes and emperors contended over who would claim this supreme position.

Charlemagne gave the impression that he accepted the pope's authority over him. But through the divine rule granted by the pope, he believed he directly executed God's will on Earth, or ruled his empire in Christ's place. "Although Charlemagne is not considered a saint in the whole church, he may be revered as such in Aachen—despite his crusades and women stories," the archdiocese of Cologne's *Domradio.de* recounts (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

Dean of Aachen Cathedral "Von Holtum recalls that Charles spent the last eight years of his life in Aachen from Christmas to Easter, and from Hochmünster [part of the Cathedral] he took part in the choral prayer ... in the

and divisions in Hitler's and Himmler's ideologies. There are also different ideologies within the Catholic Church. Some supported Hitler; others did not. But in the end, they all shared the culture of the Holy Roman Empire.

Before Hitler became a dictator, he studied art. Once he rose to power in Germany and became a mass murderer, his passion for culture remained. His ruinous regime included a vast cultural program. His effort to revive European culture is vividly documented in *Hitler's Holy Relics*, by Sidney D. Kirkpatrick. In fact, his passion for culture *sparked his motivation*.

It all started in Vienna, Austria.

The Crown of Charlemagne

"In Vienna, Hitler came to believe that God had replaced the Jews with the Germans and the Holy Roman Empire. He learned it in that cultured city—looking at all those crown jewels and the opulence of the Habsburgs," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*.

"This was the time in which the greatest change I was ever to experience took place in me," Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf* concerning his time in Vienna. "From a feeble cosmopolite I had turned into a fanatical anti-Semite." He also wrote: "To me the big city appeared as the personification of incest. ... The longer I stayed in this city, the more my hatred increased against the mixture of foreign nations that began to eat up this site of old German culture."

Culture is a recurring theme in *Mein Kampf*; the word appears more than a hundred times. What are people really calling for today when they claim we must defend "Europe's culture"?

In Vienna at the time were the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire, which he brought back to Nuremberg in 1938, where prior emperors had sworn to keep them forever. Their return was a massive cultural event. The centerpiece of these crown jewels is today known as Charlemagne's crown.

Hitler celebrated these jewels' return to the city with a large-scale ceremony. Black-uniformed SS soldiers stood at attention. Trumpeters played from the balcony in medieval costumes. Nuremberg's choral society sang the "Awake"

chorus from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* as Hitler entered the sanctuary of St. Catherine's Church.

At the ceremony, Hitler said: "In no other German city is there as strong a connection between the past and present ... as in Nuremberg, the old and new imperial city. This city, which the German Reich deemed fit to defend the regalia behind its walls, has regained ownership of these symbols, which testifies to the power and the strength of the old Reich ... and is manifestation of German power and greatness in a new German Reich."

Touching the crown, he said: "The German people have declared themselves the bearers of the 1,000-year crown."

Hitler's fascination with the Holy Roman Empire spread throughout Germany. Millions traveled to Nuremberg to view the holy relics. An impressive movie production aimed to tell the jewels' whole story, but it was interrupted by the Allies' invasion.

In his vision, Hitler saw Nuremberg as the center of his resurrected empire. He wanted to establish the city as a shining light of cultural glory.

In the vast projects of transforming and renovating the city, Hitler also sought to eliminate all traces of Jewish influence. In this, as Kirkpatrick recounts, the "Nazis merely picked up where the city fathers had left off centuries before." The Church of Our Lady in Nuremberg was built following the destruction of Jewish synagogues on the initiative of Charles IV, Holy Roman emperor between 1352 and 1362.

During Hitler's reign, Nuremberg's castle, as well as its Catholic churches, were vastly renovated. Beneath the castle, Hitler ordered the creation of a large bunker to host the best of Europe's art and preserve it with the most modern technology.

Hitler's cultural fascination also played an important role in his conquests. Before burning down villages, Nazi soldiers were told to save famous artifacts from churches and bring them to Germany. Thus the Nazis learned to appreciate certain cultural artifacts more than certain human lives. Hitler also shaped the arts and architecture of the empire and spared no expense to establish universities, museums and other cultural institutions.

Hitler sought to eradicate all Jewishness from German art. Jewish artists were banned and persecuted while Nazi artwork was promoted. All paintings were required to portray Aryan families and European tradition. City renovations followed the architecture of the old empire. Music and movies were used to rally nationalism.

Hitler's favorite composer was Richard Wagner; his favorite living artist, Adolf Ziegler; his favorite architect, Albert Speer. He used the works of these three men to spread his anti-Semitic ideology. "Hitler used to love to go to



the opera and have his mind saturated with the music of Richard Wagner. He even said that one couldn't understand the Third Reich without understanding Wagner—a sex pervert and an anti-Semite—yet Hitler was intoxicated by him," writes Mr. Flurry (op cit).

For most people, what Hitler did is unfathomable. But to comprehend his actions, consider his motives. He believed *German culture* was under threat!

Today, Hitler is known only for starting World War II and exterminating 6 million Jews. His efforts to resurrect the culture of the Holy Roman Empire are forgotten. Remembering only Hitler's cruelty is a mistake. He is one of the best examples of where fanaticism for Holy Roman imperial culture leads.

The Woman That Rides the Beast

This truth becomes all the more important when you understand that the

Holy Roman Empire was prophesied to rise seven times and that one of these resurrections is yet to come. Revelation 17 depicts it as a mighty beast—a political-military power—ridden by a “great whore”—a symbol of a powerful false church. This prophecy is thoroughly explained in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* by Gerald Flurry (free upon request).

There is yet one more resurrection coming before God will end it *forever*.

Concerning the leader of this prophesied last resurrection, the Bible foretells that at one point “shall his mind change,



and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god” (Habakkuk 1:11).

Hitler had his mind change when regarding Vienna’s cultural treasures. This prophesied last leader will also be steeped in Europe’s culture.

“The next dictator will be much more sophisticated—much more cultured. But he is going to FIGHT CHRIST!” Mr. Flurry explains in *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*.

Also notice what Mr. Flurry notes about this man in *The New Throne of David*: “The leader of this modern-day Holy Roman Empire will be guided by a religious power that has fornicated

with the kings of the Earth. He will impute his war-making power ‘unto his god’—Satan the devil. This man will worship Satan in a way that other people do not: directly and personally!” Still, those who exalt the Holy Roman Empire are really worshipping the devil! This is what Revelation 13:4 prophesies: “And they worshipped *the dragon* which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast”

History shows that the fruits of this empire are grotesque. Despite the great architecture and fine music, there is something terribly evil in this empire.

The Origin of Culture

Of course there is nothing wrong with loving culture. God equipped mankind with creative minds that can produce marvelous art and invention. And certainly not all European culture is an incitement to evil. However, the culture of the Holy Roman Empire is a prime example of how good and evil can mix—and it has inspired much evil.

God Himself is the author of true and wholesome culture. He had a hand in establishing wholesome culture in ancient Israel that greatly impacted this world. Men used their God-given creative talents to create beautiful works of art that can uplift the human spirit. There is even evidence that much of Europe’s culture had a righteous foundation: The *Austrian Chronicles* indicates that the Hebrew patriarch Abraham spent years in Austria prior to his conversion and established Austria as Europe’s first cultural center. More recently, to take one example, Johann Sebastian Bach wrote sublime music that we still enjoy; he gave credit to the Almighty God who made his mind and gave him the power to think and create.

We can appreciate musical talent and creative design and glorify the God who gave the ability. But over the centuries, people have also created much perverted art. Some of Europe’s artwork is truly wonderful; some is grotesque. If

you visit a large European cathedral, you see both sides.

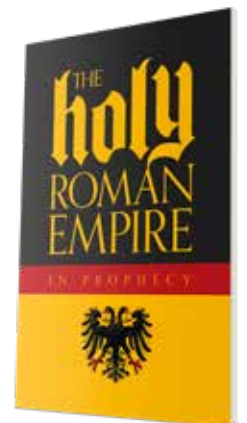
How has this mixture of good and perverted culture inspired the Holy Roman Empire? To truly understand, we must study the origin of all culture: God’s throne room.

God Himself is the origin of all true and wholesome culture. Through creative power, He created myriads of angels, one named Lucifer. All indications the Bible gives us is that this being was trained at God’s throne room with the vision to bring light, culture, music and God’s glory to the universe (Ezekiel 28:14).

However, Lucifer rebelled (Isaiah 14:13-14). His name was changed to Satan, and he sought to exalt himself above God. Eventually, his rebellion led to universal destruction.

Satan still has impressive creative power, but he now uses his abilities to effect unfathomable evil. To this day, he counterfeits God’s wholesome culture (Revelation 12:9). In the Holy Roman Empire, he influenced a great deal of culture produced within his system and used these works of art to bolster the empire. Instead of glorifying God, it glorified the empire. By mixing good and evil, Satan was able to both uplift the human spirit and inspire atrocities. The people and the emperors believed they were fighting for a good cause. But Satan perverted their minds.

While we see much abuse and perversion in Europe’s culture, there are still traces of good culture that truly point to God the Creator. While Satan’s counterfeit culture can be a direct path to worshipping evil, true and wholesome culture can lead us to God. One can only imagine what the world will be like when all of mankind’s God-given creative powers will be used to produce pure culture. Let’s pray for the day when God will restore true culture to this world and the universe. ■



Sophisticated slaughter

The Holy Roman Empire impressively contributed to Western civilization and deeply wounded it at the same time. Even today it can be hard to understand how a cultured people can be so violent. Request your free copy of *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy* to see why and how it will happen again.

Iran wages 'killer drone' warfare



Smoke billows from Saudi Aramco's oil plant on September 14. Above: Fragments from Iranian cruise missiles and drones fired on Saudi Arabia

Iran is using "killer drones" to terrorize Israel and Western interests in the Middle East.

On August 22, an Iranian terrorist cell organized and trained by Qassem Suleimani, commander of Iran's Quds Force, was recorded on camera by Israeli forces as it prepared to launch "a large-scale attack of multiple killer drones" from Israel's Golan Heights.

Israel thwarted the attack,

which could have killed Israeli civilians. Two days later, it conducted air strikes that it said destroyed the Iranian terrorist base associated with the drone launch attempt. In a rare announcement on August 25, Israel publicly acknowledged that it had conducted the attacks.

Soon after, Iranian-sponsored Houthi rebels in Yemen launched drones targeting Abha Airport in Saudi Arabia. Later that day,

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

"The drones, air strikes and tensions stretching from Yemen to Iraq and then to Syria and Beirut comprise an arc of simmering conflict that links Iran's role throughout the region," Middle East analyst Seth Frantzman wrote in the *Jerusalem Post*. "[T]he patchwork of Iranian-linked paramilitaries are entrenched in a corridor of

influence stretching from Beirut to Baghdad. This has been called Iran's 'land bridge,' and it came into full view over the weekend [of August 24-25]."

Then on September 14, Iran's drones were again on display as about a dozen aircraft struck Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil processing facility, the largest such facility in the world. Satellite images released by United States officials showed 17 structures damaged in the attack, most notably its storage tanks, displaying an unprecedented level of precision by Iran.

These attacks cut Saudi oil output in half, which amounted to 6 percent of the world's daily amount. In the two days following the attack, the world oil price shot up over 20 percent, highlighting high-profile targets' vulnerability to sophisticated Iranian drones.

The "arc of simmering conflict" poses a great threat to Israel, and Bible prophecy says in Zechariah 14:2 that it will eventually lead to East Jerusalem falling to Arab control. ■

Houthi state of Yemen—coming soon

The United States has initiated direct talks with Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The nations of North Yemen (mostly Shiite Muslim) and South Yemen (mostly Sunni Muslim) unified in 1990. But Houthis overthrew the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi in 2015, civil war ensued, and the nation re-divided.

"The success of Yemen's southern secessionists in taking over the city of Aden ... has effectively undermined all efforts to restore legitimate authority to the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi," Al Jazeera wrote. "If not reversed, the takeover of Aden



Yemenis gather in Sanaa to show their support for the Houthis.

by southern secessionists may well be the final nail in the coffin of Yemen's unity and territorial integrity" (August 20).

Arab Weekly asserted that "a return to a united Yemen is no longer possible." Other experts say the country will likely be torn in three: an Emirati-backed government along the southwestern coast, a Saudi-backed government in the southern

interior, and an Iranian-backed, Houthi-controlled government in the northwestern mountains.

If one of these scenarios occurs, a new radical Islamist state influenced by Iran will exist next to the Bab el-Mandeb, a crucial strait that facilitates almost 5 million barrels of petroleum products per day, more than half of which continues sailing toward Europe and North

America. *National Interest* has called it the world's most dangerous shipping lane: China, France, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States all have military bases on the western side of the strait.

"The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just a grassroots revolution," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in "[Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East](#)" (*theTrumpet.com/12459*). "It was a part of a deliberate and calculated Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea."

While an Iranian conquest of the Bad el-Mandeb and the Red Sea poses a threat to Europe, the U. S., Israel and many other nations, Bible prophecy specifies that a European power will be the one to violently confront this growing threat. ■



Salvini attends a Lega Party demonstration in Rome.

Salvini: Italy's crisis or opportunity?

Facing increased political pressure, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced his resignation on August 20. His government lasted only 14 months, and now Italy again faces political uncertainty. This new turmoil has been caused by the well-calculated moves of a man whom Conte calls a traitor, yet millions of Italians call a hero: Interior Minister Matteo Salvini.

Since the formation of Italy's government in May 2018, support

for Salvini's Lega Party has more than doubled to 38 percent. Under Italy's current constitution, if a party receives more than 40 percent of the popular vote, it has a majority in the legislature. Salvini is tantalizingly close.

Salvini brought down the Conte government, but two other parties joined to form a new government and prevent new elections. They both stand to lose votes in an election, but they have little else in common.

Meanwhile, Salvini remains

popular. As interior minister, he has aggressively delivered on his campaign promise to reduce migration, closing harbors to migrants, refusing entry to those rescued at sea, and dramatically reducing the flow of migrants. Although the pope has criticized some of his views, Salvini's projection of a religious image has resulted in increasing popularity among Italian Catholics.

Some compare Salvini to Benito Mussolini. Many still view the World War II Italian dictator favorably for his economic successes and his popularity with the people. His many supporters have even given him a similar nickname. Mussolini was *Il Duce* (The Chief). Salvini is *Il Capitano* (The Captain).

Revelation 17 prophesies that Europe will be ruled by the Catholic Church and 10 kings (authoritarian leaders) under one overall leader. Salvini's popularity shows that Italians now desire religious, authoritarian leadership.

To learn more, read *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■



Leopard 2 battle tanks

German tanks reentering Poland

In 1939, German tanks overran Poland, sparking World War II. Eighty years later, the tanks are coming back, but this time, they will be imports to equip Polish armed forces. On August 16, Poland announced its intention to join the European Main Battle Tank project.

DefenseNews.com wrote, "Poland's new desire to join the European Main Battle Tank project, an initiative spearheaded by the Franco-German tandem, is part of a larger regional trend under which numerous Eastern European allies are pursuing plans to acquire new vehicles and replace their Soviet-designed tracked and wheeled rides" (August 27).

On Dec. 19, 2018, German tank manufacturer Krauss-Maffei Wegmann signed a historic contract with the Hungarian Ministry of Defense in which Hungary ordered 44 of Germany's Leopard 2A7s main battle tanks and 24 Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers.

But the future of European armor lies in Germany's and France's cooperation in building a new supertank, which comes as many European countries fear an invasion and need to modernize their forces.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1980 that fear of Russia "will be the spark to bring the heads of nations in Europe together with the Vatican to form a 'United Nations of Europe.'" Europe is already building its united military. To learn more, read "Why the *Trumpet* Watches Europe's Push Toward a Unified Military" (theTrumpet.com/15727). ■

Far-right party goes mainstream in Eastern Germany

The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) became the second-largest party in the German states of Saxony and Brandenburg after state elections on September 1. The historic gains show that the far right is gaining greater acceptance among ordinary Germans.

In Saxony, the AfD rose from 9.7 percent in 2014 to 27.5 percent on September 1. It now trails the state's governing party, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, by only 4.5 percent. In Brandenburg, the AfD jumped from 12.2 percent to 23.5 percent, only 2.7 percent less than the more mainstream Social Democratic Party. These victories toppled

the ruling coalition in both states.

The popularity of the AfD is increasing because it is offering what many Germans crave: strong leadership.

An AfD position paper on the German military called for more soldiers, for removing a constitutional ban on the government deploying troops within the country, and for the development of nuclear weapons.

A decade before Europe's migrant crisis began, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Politics in Europe are going to shift dramatically to the right" (*Daniel Unlocks Revelation*). He based this forecast on the Bible's prophecies of strong leadership in Germany. The success of the AfD shows that

Germans have a strong appetite for the type of leadership that the Bible prophesies. Learn more by requesting your free copy of *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*, by Gerald Flurry. ■



The lead candidate for AfD celebrates poll results on September 1 in Potsdam.

Russia, Asian partners hold mass military drills

Russia held massive joint military drills from September 16-21 with China, India, Pakistan and four Central Asian republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Tsentr 2019 drills at eight locations in Russia involved 128,000 military personnel, about 600 aircraft and up to 15 naval vessels, and included air defense, counter-terrorism and simulated combat operations.



The opening ceremony for the Center-2019 military drills in Russia on September 16

Geopolitical Futures noted on August 22 that the eight nations were “a curious set of bedfellows,” since significant tension exists between India and Pakistan,

India and China, Kyrgyzstan and China, and Kazakhstan and China. Yet that animosity was not strong enough to prevent these nations from rehearsing for war together

under Russia’s leadership. Geopolitical Futures called the drills a “sign that Moscow still holds a large degree of influence over this part of the world.”

Bible prophecy states that the “end time” will be defined partly by the rise of an Asian power bloc led by Russia (Ezekiel 38). Revelation 9:16 numbers this combined Asian military at 200 million personnel. Such an unprecedented force could only be produced by the combined populations of Russia, China, India and other Asian allies. These prophecies are explained in *Russia and China in Prophecy*. ■



A man stands behind Russia's moving border in South Ossetia.

‘Creeping occupation’ of Georgia claims another village

At the beginning of August, the village of Gugutiantkari was located inside the free Republic of Georgia. But now it is in Russian-controlled territory. Russian forces had quietly and unlawfully relocated their razor-wire border fences to confine the village inside Russian-occupied South Ossetia.

Gugutiantkari and its people are the latest victims of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s

“creeping occupation” of Georgia, as his forces push deeper into the former Soviet nation.

In August 2008, Russia invaded Georgia and asserted control over South Ossetia and Abkhazia, equating to a fifth of its territory. Since first erecting miles of fencing around these two regions, Russian forces have engaged in at least 57 instances of “borderization,” moving the fences ever deeper into Georgia.

When Russia invaded Georgia,

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry said the move marked the historic “beginning of a dangerous new era.” Eleven years on, Russia is moving ever deeper into Georgia, it is in its sixth year of war in eastern Ukraine, has forcibly annexed the peninsula of Crimea, and has spread its destabilizing activities to Venezuela, the Middle East and even the Arctic. The significance of this trend is explained in our free booklet *The Prophesied ‘Prince of Russia.’* ■

Xenophobic violence plagues South Africa

In early September, South Africa was again plagued by what President Cyril Ramaphosa condemned as “acts of wanton violence”: illegally blocking roads, rioting, looting, vandalism, and arson attacks on cars, semitrucks and businesses.

South African officials initially attributed the violence to “pure criminality,” but they later blamed a recurring problem in South Africa: xenophobia.

During the violence, at least 50 shops were looted and burned in Johannesburg, the nation’s largest city, and

in the capital, Pretoria. As of September 9, at least 10 people had been killed and more than 420 had been arrested.

The violence began on September 1 when native South African truckers began a nationwide strike to protest increasing employment of foreigners. “People of South Africa are hungry, they are sitting at home ... while companies in South Africa are employing foreigners [because] its cheap labor,” one official from the All Truck Drivers Foundation told Agence France-Presse. “We are hungry and angry.”

While the All Truck Drivers Foundation said it didn’t incite the violence or even the strike,

a group known as Sisonke People’s Forum reportedly circulated a pamphlet on social media inciting South Africans to chase away foreigners, accusing them of stealing jobs and selling narcotics.

According to Xenowatch, there were at least 529 xenophobic violence incidents in South Africa from 1994 to 2018, causing the displacement of more than 100,000 people, the looting of 2,193 shops, physical assaults on 901 people, and 309 deaths.

The Bible explains the root



Rioters loot a foreign-owned shop in a Johannesburg suburb on September 2.

cause of such crimes and evils: “You are jealous and covet [what others have] and your lust goes unfulfilled; so you murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; ... so you fight and battle. You do not have because you do not ask [it of God]. You ask [God for something] and do not receive it, because you ask with wrong motives ...” (James 4:1-3; *Amplified Bible*). ■

Venezuelans demonstrate in support of President Nicolas Maduro.

Latin Americans dissatisfied with democracy

Latin Americans are growing dissatisfied with democracy. Data published by the polling service Latinobarómetro shows that only 48 percent of Latin Americans favor democracy over

authoritarianism, and 28 percent say democracy is not necessarily preferable to authoritarianism. This is the highest percentage skeptical of democracy since 1995, when Latinobarómetro began tracking the trend.

Losing the war on drugs

Americans are addicted to drugs. A report published on August 20 by RAND Corp. shows that in 2016, American citizens spent more than \$150 billion on illegal drugs, including heroin, cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamines. If America's illegal drug industry were a publicly traded company, it would be one of the top 40 companies in the world.

Rising levels of drug abuse are causing a surge in drug deaths. According to the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths have increased from 17,415 in 2000 to 70,237 in 2017. That means drug overdoses have become the leading cause of death of Americans under age 50.

Bible prophecy foretold this fatal pursuit of pleasure thousands of years ago. 2 Timothy 3 prophesies that "in the last days," this era prior to the return of Jesus Christ, "men

The Bible prophesies that 10 kings (or dictators) will partner with a false church and lend it their political and military power. The late Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his classic booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* that these 10 kings are European leaders who will reign over a resurrected Holy Roman Empire in the days before Christ's return.

The Holy Roman Empire colonized Latin America in the 16th century. Based upon this fact and others, Mr. Armstrong prophesied for decades that Europe would develop a powerful alliance with South America. The nations of Latin America will turn their back on American-style democracy and come under the influence of authoritarian European leaders. ■

shall be ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (verses 1-4). This slavery to pleasure is exactly what American society is like today. ■



A heroin user shoots up under a bridge where he lives with other addicts.

Why are American farmers killing themselves?

Suicide is rising in the United States, especially among farmers. According to a study published on September 6 by the American Medical Association's JAMA Network Open medical journal, suicide rates among people in rural counties were 25 percent higher than those in

metropolitan areas. Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that farmers, ranchers and agricultural managers have some of the highest suicide rates in the nation: 32.2 suicides per 100,000 workers in 2015, (the most recent year for which data is available).

That means suicide rates among farmers at that time were double the national average. Subsequent weather disasters and trade war have made farmers' financial situation, and likely the suicide rate, even worse.

A Bible prophecy paints a frightful picture of famine and crop failures in end-time Israel, which includes the

Women are majority of U.S. college-educated workforce

This year, the portion of college-educated women in the workforce is projected to exceed 50 percent for the first time in American history, according to an August 20 report by the *Wall Street Journal*.

More women than men are now receiving bachelors' degrees. Over the past 20 years, 57 percent of bachelors' recipients have been women. Women also attend and graduate from college in greater numbers than men. Women's wages and labor participation rates are also rising, largely thanks to greater emphasis on employing women.

The foundation of a strong nation is strong families. There is an undeniable link between women prioritizing careers over family and the disintegration of the family that is manifesting itself in many forms in America today, including lower birthrates, fewer marriages, and stable two-parent homes.

The Bible describes the destruction of the family structure as a major cause of cultural, economic and national security dangers. Isaiah 3:11-12 state, "Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." ■

United States. "Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished" (Joel 1:11). Prophecies in Deuteronomy 28, Isaiah 23, Ezekiel 5 and Amos 4 indicate that as worrying as the American farmers' situation is now, worse weather disasters and economic warfare lie ahead. ■

Today, German liberals talk of peace and humanitarianism. But God identifies Germany as *Assyria* anciently and prophetically, and says, “O Assyrian ... he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few” (Isaiah 10:5, 7).

On March 11 of this year, the Bundeswehr’s general inspector announced that weapons developments would be classified. The federal legislature and the public will be kept in the dark, as postwar transparency is cast aside (theTrumpet.com/18791).

What, then, do we know of German capabilities? As discussed, a change in administration clumsily exposed the existence of thousands of upgraded Leopard 2 tanks that previous administrations pretended didn’t exist. EU nations led by Germany possess nuclear stealth capability (theTrumpet.com/18015), and Germany leads the way in satellite and cyberattack capabilities (theTrumpet.com/1394), which our editor has long spotlighted as the Achilles’ heel of the U.S.

The Daniel 11 whirlwind assault includes “many ships”—apropos given that the Mediterranean Sea connects the EU and the Middle East. Consider then Germany’s virtual takeover of Greece following its financial collapse, providing direct access to Greek assets and capital (theTrumpet.com/13027). For years, the German government has successfully encouraged German citizens and corporations to invest heavily in *foreign shipping*. Thus Germany could easily seize, repossess, buy up or arrange to make

use of Greece’s vast shipping capabilities. Factor in the ease of converting its own nonmilitary ships to troop ships, load them with the thousands of modernized Leopard tanks—some of which they have sold to Iran’s neighborhood enemies—add their stealth and satellite prowess—and German conventional, “whirlwind” capabilities against Iran are phenomenal.

Right now, Iran is using armed Shiite proxies in Yemen to threaten Red Sea

One can already see clear outlines of the planning of a whirlwind assault in Germany’s recent deployments that encompass Iran.

shipping lanes—Europe’s lifeline. The ayatollah is promoting Islamic terror in Europe and North Africa. The provocations against Germany and Europe are real.

Read Gerald Flurry’s booklet *Germany’s Secret Strategy to Destroy Iran*. Like the Von Schlieffen Plan, Operation Barbarossa and other German invasions mapped out in advance, one can already see clear outlines of the planning of a Daniel 11 *whirlwind* assault in Germany’s recent deployments that encompass Iran!

Divine Correction

The Bible shows that God is raising up a nuclear-armed Germany to bring to

their knees an unrepentant U.S., Britain and Israel (biblical Judah) for their great and multiplying sins.

Some experts think it is possible to win a nuclear war. Reports that Germany has researched or developed low-radiation nukes indicates that their leaders have long thought this—and should alarm everyone! But something holds us back from facing it. Please read Mr. Flurry’s *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*. He states: “As before World War II, this generation has to grapple with living for many years in *unreality*.”

But notice his quoting of Churchill, describing a calamitous setback in his quest to warn Britain: “From midnight till dawn I lay in my bed consumed by emotions of sorrow and fear. ... I watched daylight slowly creep in through the windows, and SAW BEFORE ME IN MENTAL GAZE THE VISION OF DEATH.” Mr. Flurry commented: “Churchill believed that Britain’s great empire, built over centuries, would be destroyed suddenly. He was in deep sorrow, fear and despair *We first must experience some of Churchill’s sorrow and fear to be motivated to change*. There is hope only if we face reality and have the vision of what is on the horizon. [A] weak will was afflicting us badly in World War II. *But the good news is, we could change that weakness if we turn to God*.”

Face your fears and weakness by fully turning to God, and He will help you keep His joy-producing law. Read Joshua 1:1-6 and Proverbs 29:18. The time is now! Let the WARNING correct you—so the fulfillment doesn’t have to!

God will use Germany to correct many nations—and He *will* deal with *Germany*, as mankind finally learns this agonizing, but final cause-and-effect lesson. Once this lesson is learned, and God establishes His Kingdom on Earth, God can and will use the Germans’ creativity and work ethic in the world to come. They will be beautifully reconciled to their former enemies. The nation of Beethoven, Bach and Brahms helped design the rockets that took us to the moon. God—after giving us His law and instilling in us His wondrous way of life—plans to give them *and you* the moon and the stars and all the vast, ancient galaxies beyond, forever. And if you doubt that, God has a surprise for you. ■

Blitzkrieg like you’ve never seen it

The Bible prophesies Germany’s war machine will rise again, but this time with nuclear weapons. This will lead to a level of destruction and devastation never experienced before. To learn what is prophesied to happen and how to be protected, request your free copy of Gerald Flurry’s *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



You Can Conquer Addiction!

23 powerful scriptures that will help you break out of your slavery

ARE YOU ADDICTED? ARE THERE TIMES YOU WANT THAT thing, crave it, covet it more than almost anything else? Times it is the *only* thing you can think about?

You can be free!

Millions worldwide struggle with debilitating addictions. Reacting to stress, trying to find excitement or meaning in life, or attempting to escape reality, they turn to drugs, tobacco, unhealthy foods, possessions, screens and other physical and mental “release” that turns out to be repression. Even activities like exercise or work, which are beneficial in balance, can become enslavements in excess.



STEPHEN FLURRY

People consider indulgences like pornography or marijuana or excessive alcohol to be freedom. But then they find themselves *craving it*, ruining their minds, their bodies, their marriages, their families and the lives of others because of it. Alcohol seems like *freedom*, but when you look at an alcoholic or other addict, you are looking at *slavery*.

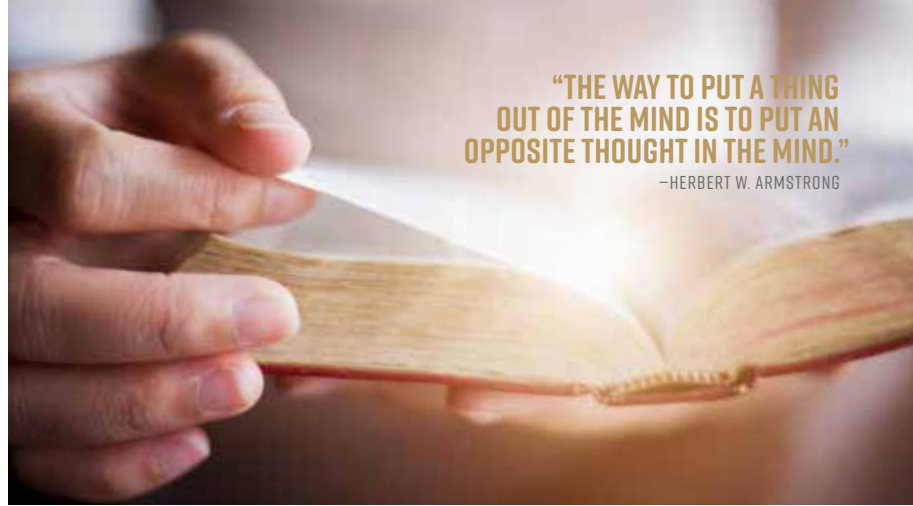
“[W]hatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved.” That statement from 2 Peter 2:19 (Revised Standard Version), rings tragically true for many—perhaps for you.

Do you have an addiction that seems impossible to overcome? Are you discouraged? Are you just trying to “manage” it, hopeless that you will ever overcome it? Do you want to give up?

No matter what addiction you have, you can conquer it!

How? Start here: “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:25). Your Creator’s eternal spiritual law of right living is perfect, holy, just, good and *loving* (see Psalm 19:7; 111:7-8; Romans 7:12, 14; 13:10). *It shows you the way out!*

Turn your attitude toward God. And—even if you feel you don’t know how—pray (Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 4:16). Then read God’s Word to learn His will (Ephesians 5:17). Read God’s commands for moderation and temperance (Philippians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 9:25) and His outlawing of selfish excess (Proverbs 23:29-30; Ephesians 5:18). Understand that addiction is a battle of the mind: “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:14-15).



“THE WAY TO PUT A THING OUT OF THE MIND IS TO PUT AN OPPOSITE THOUGHT IN THE MIND.”

—HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

God’s law of selfless love will help you *understand* the way out of addiction. But how do you *actually get out*?

You must not only *intend* to obey God’s law, you must also *do it* (James 1:25). That is the hard part. In fact, it is actually *impossible* to obey God’s law perfectly—and *God knows that!* The strength to *do* comes from God (Matthew 19:17-26). Sincerely, humbly, believably, obediently turn to Him, and God will bless your efforts (Philippians 4:9).

The first and most effective way to be free of addiction is to not let it begin in the first place. If you are battling the tentacles of an addiction, let that suffering motivate you to not let any other addiction *even start!*

Heed James 1:14-15. If something physical is tempting you, immediately *remove it* from your environment—or remove yourself! *Flee from it!* (1 Corinthians 6:18). If you start to think, *I’ll just end up eventually succumbing anyway*, reject those thoughts! Escape the temptation! Take that action, and God will give you strength, both this time and the next (James 4:7-8).

Then what? You must replace the bad with the good—your enslavement with freedom (see Ephesians 4:25-29). Take out the sin and put *in* prayer, reading the Bible, helping others, laboring, exercise, right music, productive reading, working, family time. Herbert W. Armstrong taught: “The way to put a thing OUT of the mind is to put an *opposite* thought IN the mind.” Remember: The mind is where the battle is won.

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are TRUE, whatsoever things are HONEST, whatsoever things are JUST, whatsoever things are PURE, whatsoever things are LOVELY, whatsoever things are OF GOOD REPORT; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8).

If you truly turn to your Creator, He will help you! Take the first step. Pray to God. Read these scriptures. Learn God’s law. Understand that it frees you. Act on it. Struggle! Fight! As you do, you will allow your Creator to come into your life. He will be able to exert His power and, ultimately, His Holy Spirit in your battle. He will *break you out* of addiction and lead you to the abundant life He created you to live! “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Now take on your addiction. And remember Jesus’s words: *With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*

For more instruction on conquering sin, request your free copy of ***How to Be an Overcomer.***

My friend and I have never agreed on anything religious, but the September 2019 article “Your Most Important Relationship” (theTrumpet.com/21044) took us aback and made us think deeply about how far we have gone into this world, relying on our own decisions. We found deep insights and key points that have allowed us to develop a straightforward, faith-based relationship with God.

Patrice Sowanou TEXAS

I am so very happy that I was able to attend my first *Trumpet* lecture series by PCG ministers in New York City. It was thrilling meeting people whom you can agree with on religion and knowing you’ve found the right Church. When my son and I were there, it was so peaceful and quiet. We listened to every word you spoke. I carried those words home with me in my heart. I was eager to pick out booklets that I hadn’t read. Your people mailed them to me—oh joy!

Edith Robinson NEW YORK

I have in my hands your *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine. I’m devouring it like a hungry lion. Lots of gratitude for being true to your promise and delivering me a printed copy of your wonderful magazine. Most of the evangelical churches all over the Western world refuse to send a printed copy of their primary “gospel” magazine or publications to most countries. They say that I am too far away in India and the shipping costs are too high to bear for their limited resources. Instead, they direct to a PDF copy to be downloaded, printed and read. I have tried to explain that Internet speed and bandwidth are too slow and backward in most

of India. A few have responded by providing old, out-of-circulation issues. I was shocked that you sent me your latest September 2019 issue. I take that as a huge honor and respect that you have showered on an unknown stranger in faraway India. To my pleasant surprise, on the opening page of the issue, I was so glad to see the photograph of Herbert W. Armstrong touching the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. After the *Plain Truth* stopped coming to me some 25 years back, seeing Herbert W. Armstrong almost made my eyes moist. I learned a lot of biblical truths because of him and his efforts.

Denzil Dias INDIA

I can’t tell you what a blessing it has been for me to come in contact with the PCG. Just in case you are interested in how I “discovered” the *TRUMPET* and the PCG, here’s my story: I was cleaning one day and came across a copy of the *Plain Truth*. It was 10 or 15 years old, maybe more. I stopped what I was doing and sat down and read it cover to cover. I agreed with everything I read. I found a letter in the letter section which was distinctly anti-feminist in tone, I read it, and thought,



Wow, I agree completely with that letter. Then I looked at the signature on the letter, and discovered I had written it all those years ago. How’s that for a happy coincidence? That’s when I realized I had to get signed up and do some serious studying. Thanks for teaching me. It’s so wonderful to learn the things I have never learned in all the years I went to church!

Joanne Ceruone ILLINOIS

Thanks for your magazines and material. I have learned so much about Jesus and the proper character a true Christian must have through your teachings. I especially appreciate prophecy and your Bible knowledge. Your ability to forecast future political and world events is outstanding!

Robert R.

I find your articles exceptionally good and informative. Thanks.

Nwizor Nkadam

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The *New York Times*' Dangerous New Agenda

After years of hearing 'Russia, Russia, Russia,' brace yourselves for a new approach: 'racism, racism, racism.' **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

FOR TWO YEARS, STORIES OF SUPPOSED COLLUSION BETWEEN United States President Donald Trump and the Russian government have dominated American news. Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation failed to find proof of these accusations, however, and the story finally appears to be dying. Now a leaked transcript of an August 12 meeting shows that the *New York Times* is focusing on another attack against President Trump: *racism*.

In the transcript, executive editor Dean Baquet addressed the focus of *New York Times* reporting for the past two years: "We built our newsroom to cover one story [Russian collusion], and we did it truly well Now we have to regroup, and shift resources and emphasis to take on a different story. ... It is a story that requires deep investigation into people who peddle hatred, but it is also a story that requires imaginative use of all our muscles to write about race and class in a deeper way than we have in years. ... We'll also ask reporters to write more deeply about the country, race and other division."

The *New York Times* is the news organization that other news and broadcasting media rely on more than any other. So when it tells its staff to focus on deep, imaginative, divisive subjects like racism, we can expect this topic to dominate much of America's print, online, network and cable news.

Two days after their August 12 meeting, the *Times* staff launched "The 1619 Project." This project purportedly marks "the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery." Its goal is to tell the "unvarnished truth" about America by "placing the consequences of slavery" at the "very center" of American history.

According to the *Times*, the U.S. was founded not in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence—but 157 years before that, when the first African slaves arrived. Yet this "unvarnished truth" is dripping with several coats of lacquer, gloss and embellishment.

In 1619, British sailors seized 20 enslaved Africans from a Portuguese slave ship and took them to Virginia. But colonial records and the Smithsonian Institute agree that these Africans were made "indentured servants" under a seven-year contract. After that, they were granted not only freedom but also land holdings.

Slavery was not legal in Virginia until 1654, when an activist judge ruled that the biblical prohibition against holding a person in servitude longer than seven years (Exodus 21:2; Deuteronomy 15:12) did not apply to Africans because they were not British subjects. Ironically, the first person to use this judicial

BLAME GAME
People protest against
President Trump after
an anti-Semitic attack.



decision to enslave a fellow human being was Antonio Johnson—one of the first Africans who was freed and given land after his seven-year work contract. The *New York Times*' "deep investigation" didn't go that deep—but it was "imaginative."

The first essay of "The 1619 Project" states that America's "white founders set up a decidedly undemocratic Constitution that excluded women, Native Americans and black people, and did not provide the vote or equality for most Americans." This is a terribly narrow and distorted view of history. As my father wrote in the *Trumpet*'s May-June 2016 issue: "The truth is that America's Constitution has given more freedom to more people than any other government charter in history! It was the system this document built that allowed the United States to become one of the first societies in history to completely abolish slavery. The U.S. Constitution is a *noble* document that has inspired and enabled so many to attain accomplishments that any other system anywhere else in the world would have denied them!"

Enslaving Africans was indeed one of the great sins the United States committed at its founding. But racism was far from being the principle upon which the nation was founded, as the *Times* would have you believe. It was in fact a hypocritical failure to live up to the biblically based principle of the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal."

What is motivating the *New York Times* is not journalism. It is an agenda! The *Times* is seeking to divide this country over race. The mainstream news media are "imaginatively" revising history for political purposes. They want to weaken President Trump and his supporters so Democrats can regain control of the country. And they will resort to stirring up and manufacturing race hatred and dividing the nation to do it.

These journalists and politicians are hastening the fulfillment of the terrifying prophecy of Isaiah 1: "Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers [Gentiles] devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers" (verse 7). This is about race wars destroying our cities. And God is allowing this destruction because of America's sins—because the nation is "laden with iniquity" (verse 4).

The *Times* is fomenting racial hatred that will end in death and suffering and the burning of America's cities. Abraham Lincoln was right when he quoted Jesus Christ: A house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25). The nation's only hope is to look to the same God Lincoln did and *seek the Eternal while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near* (Isaiah 55:6). ■

► **WHY GERMANY CONQUERED CYPRUS** FROM PAGE 3

RUSSIA AND CHINA AND THEIR ALLIES. Other prophecies show that Europe and these Asian powers work together for a time, but at this point, Europe begins to fear Asia—as it has in the past. Europe and Asia begin to prepare for war.

Verse 45 states, “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain” Europe will gain so much power in the Middle East, and religion will be such an important part of its empire, that it will actually move its headquarters to Jerusalem! This European power will unite its nations and its people in an undemocratic, tyrannical empire dominated by Catholicism. It will claim it is fighting America, Britain, radical Islam and Asia on behalf of Jesus Christ. But it is a force for evil, and soon it will unleash a third world war—far deadlier than any other war in history!

But this power is going to be stopped! By whom? Jesus Christ!

Verse 45 concludes: “yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” The Bible that reveals the Holy Roman Empire and so much more also reveals that the Messiah is coming, and that He will personally stop the evil powers that are wreaking death all over the globe.

This is all explained in my booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* The book of Daniel is ONLY for this end time (Daniel 12:4, 9). It is a prophetic book full of prophecies that have already come to pass in history, and with insights for what is about to happen in our day.

Daniel 8:25 says that this mighty and deadly European leader will finally be destroyed. By whom? “[H]e shall be broken without hand.” That means that the Prince of princes, Jesus Christ, is going to return, and He will destroy the Holy Roman Empire forever!

God revealed the prophecies of the Bible to Herbert W. Armstrong. He used Mr. Armstrong to visit dozens of presidents, prime ministers, legislators and other heads of government, heads of state, including acting President Ladas, as well as hundreds of other leaders in politics, education, culture, finance and business. He worked miracles for Mr. Armstrong to deliver the Bible’s message of warning and of hope. Through Mr. Armstrong, God told the leader of Cyprus that the Holy Roman Empire would return and would dominate Europe. That empire is not fully formed, yet it is already doing just that.

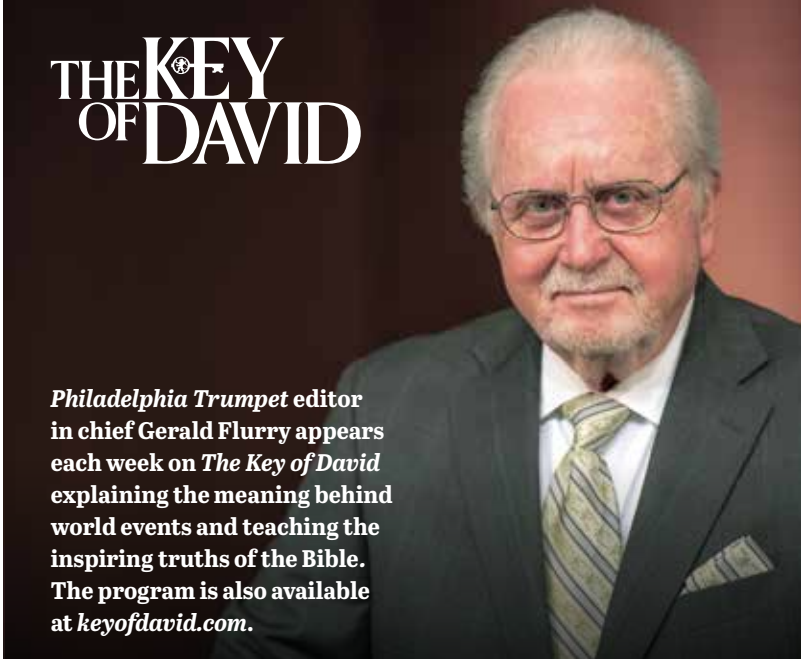
Over 80 years of Mr. Armstrong’s work and our work, we have delivered hundreds of prophecies, and ALL of them are being fulfilled or have already come to pass! Soon one more is going to come to pass: the coming of the Messiah! He will destroy the Holy Roman Empire forever—along with the powers of Russia and China and all the evil powers of this world. He will bring peace and joy to this world, and even the whole universe, forever and ever and ever! What wonderful news!

To learn the history of the Holy Roman Empire and why it seeks to gain control of Cyprus, Syria and other Middle East nations, request

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- Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun
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8:00, Sun
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- Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00, Fri; KTTV 6:00,
Sun
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- Macon** WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Savannah** WSAV-DT 9:30, Sun
- Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;
8:30, Wed
- Honolulu** KPXO 5:00, Fri
- 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, Sat
- Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
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- Chicago** WCIU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
- Peoria** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
- Rockford** WREX 10:00, Sun; WREX-DT
8:30, Sun
- Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WISE-DT 9:30, Sun
- Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri
- Lafayette** WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun
- South Bend** ESBT/WSBT 7:30, Sun
- Terre Haute** WTHI-DT 9:30, Sun
- Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri
- Des Moines** KFPM 5:00, Fri
- Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
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- Ottumwa** KWOT/KYOU-DT 8:30, Sun
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 WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
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Michigan, Alpena WBAA 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WFOX-DT 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
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Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
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Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
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Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin CWPL 8:30, Sun; KSXF/
 KEJX 9:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT/KYOU-DT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KPNP-LD 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL/KCWH-LD
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Kearney KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun
Lincoln KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun
North Platte KIIT-LD2/KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA 6:30, Sun; KOL03/
 KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City WPIX 6:00, Fri; WWOR,
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Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun
Durham WRXP 6:00, Fri
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT
 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
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North Dakota
Bismarck KXMD/KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
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Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
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Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri; KOCW 9:30, Sun
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
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 KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT
 9:30, Sun
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WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence
 WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun
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Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
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Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
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Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
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Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
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Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT
 9:30, Sun
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Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun
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West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
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 Sun
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Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-
 DT 8:30, Sun
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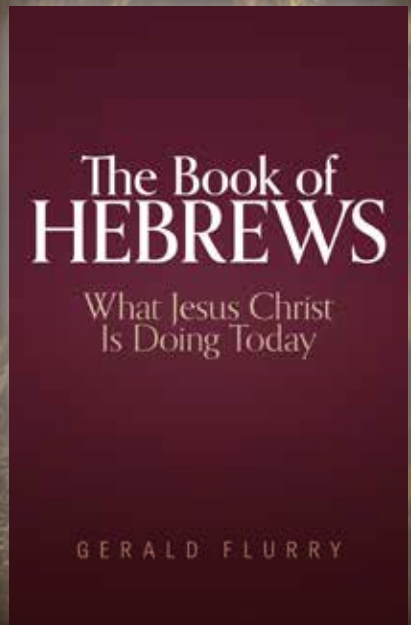
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