

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**Who will defend
Eastern Europe?**

**Trump tells Germany:
'Take control!'**

Jerusalem: City of pieces

When food attacks

**God's view on making
and managing money**



**Should America
trust this man?**

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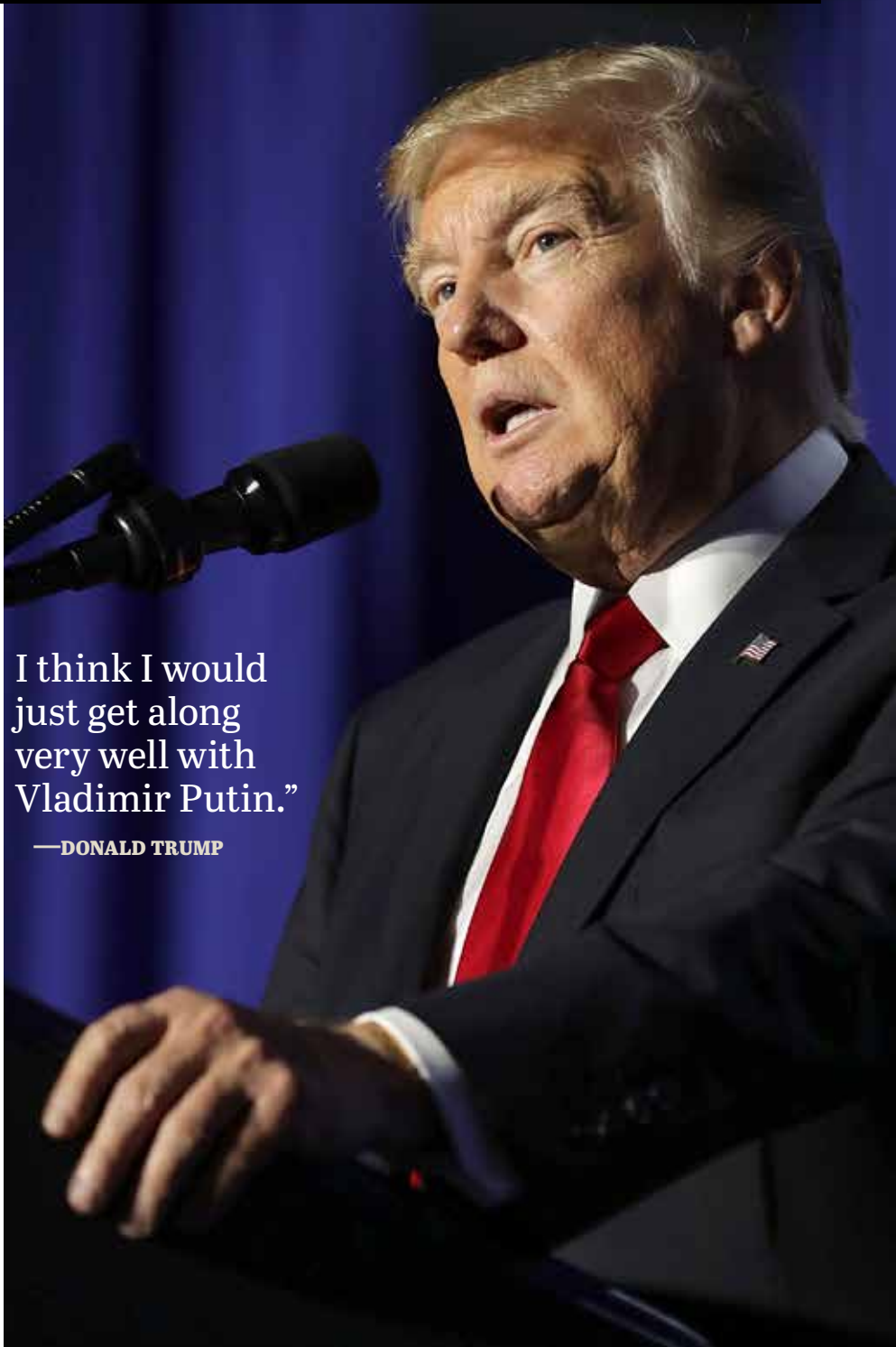
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“ I think I would just get along very well with Vladimir Putin.”

—DONALD TRUMP

NAIVE LEANINGS **President Trump has indicated his willingness to work with his Russian counterpart.** (GETTY IMAGES)

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Should Donald Trump Trust Vladimir Putin?

The Russian president is more than he appears to be.

MANY PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN PRESIDENT Donald Trump's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. But they are not concerned about this relationship for the right reasons. They do not understand the real danger.

On July 31, 2015, candidate Trump said publicly, "I think I would just get along very well with Vladimir Putin." He repeated this sentiment numerous times throughout his campaign.



GERALD FLURRY

Mr. Trump indicated that, under certain circumstances, he might not protect America's allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO was created to keep Russia in check, and Putin would love for it to go away.

Russia is a rival power to the United States. It fought America in the Cold War, and its socialist ideology has infiltrated American universities, news corporations, government and culture since the 1960s. It is also a major antagonist toward Eastern Europe and Europe as a whole, which America has treated as its allies. And it is not afraid to assault nations like Georgia, Ukraine or Syria. Its nuclear arsenal and delivery systems rival those of the United States. These are all reasons to worry about Trump's comments about Putin.

But I want to focus on another reason why Trump's comments are dangerous. And this reason revolves around who Vladimir Putin is as a man.

What will happen if the American president does "get along very well with" a man of Putin's character? What happens to America if our country gets along with this man?

What Kind of Man Is Putin?

Putin's Russia, along with China, has vetoed multiple United Nations sanctions that would have restricted some of the most terrible regimes on Earth. And yet Western leaders continue to "push the reset button" every time a new administration comes into office, thinking they can work with him.

President Putin has continued Russia's support of Iran, giving this suicidal religious extremist terrorist nation hefty support, including the development of *nuclear weapons*. This is a regime that has disgusting, devastating policies and openly calls America the "Great Satan" and the Jewish nation the "Little Satan," and for the latter to be wiped off the map. Putin supports Russia's vile policy of sponsoring this nation.

In Chechnya, an Islamic separatist region of Russia, Putin has lashed out in warfare that killed more than 160,000 of his own

people. Imagine the president of your country killing 160,000 of your fellow citizens. Russians do not have to *imagine* that!

Putin has crushed Russia's independent media and taken control of it. That is the classic hallmark of a dangerous, oppressive, tyrannical despot. But notice this: Putin has allegedly ordered the murder of 134 journalists! Imagine your president not just arguing against or insulting or silencing journalists who disagree with him, but going so far as to *murder* them!

Vladimir Putin is a former KGB operative. He says that even in high school he dreamed of becoming a spy. Putin told his biographers that the allure of the KGB wasn't its professed high-minded ideals, but the actual dirty work of espionage. You can read about all this in the Jan. 23, 2016, *Washington Post* ("The Death of a Former KGB Operative Is a Reminder of Vladimir Putin's Past Life as a Spy").

"I was most amazed by how a small force, a single person, really, can accomplish something an entire army cannot," Putin said to his biographers. "A single intelligence officer could rule over the fates of thousands of people. At least that's how I saw it" (*Telegraph*, Feb. 25, 2012). Putin achieved

"I was most amazed by how a small force, a single person, really, can accomplish something an entire army cannot." —Vladimir Putin

his dream and became a Russian agent during the Cold War in one of the most brutal intelligence agencies that has ever existed—a genuine deception and murder machine.

What did Vladimir Putin actually accomplish as a spy? How did his career in espionage shape who he is now? And how was he affected when he saw firsthand the Soviet Union disintegrate around him? When he ascended to power and ultimately took the presidency, did he leave that deceitful, dangerous and deadly way of life behind? These are vital questions that need to be asked and answered before anyone should trust this man.

'Supersize Model of the KGB'

Alexander Litvinenko was a former KGB operative. He criticized the actions of his superiors and accused them of assassination. He fled to Britain, where he was granted asylum and apparently worked with the British MI6 spy agency. Then, in 2006, he was murdered. Inquiries into his death found he was poisoned with polonium, a rare and lethal radioactive isotope, and that the murder was likely approved personally by Vladimir Putin.

Putin is also widely considered responsible for the 2004 poisoning of Ukraine's opposition leader, Viktor Yushchenko.

This man is not just an authoritarian leader! He is an evil, ruthless, vindictive agent with Soviet-style methods of psychological warfare, assassination and war! As one Russian journalist put it, Putin "is a supersize model of the KGB."

This is a man with beastly power and with a beastly desire to rule the world! He is a vengeful, monstrous friend of the devil with all sorts of anti-God policies. He is steeped in secrecy, deception, manipulation, aggression, intimidation, coercion and force, and there is far more about him that we do not know.

What will happen to a country that will "get along very well with Vladimir Putin"?

That's not just a rhetorical question. THE CLOSER OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR NATION GETS TO PUTIN, THE FURTHER IT GETS FROM WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS RIGHT—THE FURTHER IT GETS FROM GOD! That is deadly dangerous!

Putin will stay true to his character and prey on President Trump and America as he has preyed on others. And we will deserve it for having cozied up with him.

Two Individuals Prophesied

Putin's Russia is in the news almost daily right now because of how active it is in the world. But do you know that what this nation is currently doing was forecast many centuries ago?

If you can believe it, a perfect description of 21st-century Russia and its leader is recorded in the sixth-century B.C. book of Ezekiel. This is a stunning and wide-ranging prophecy, one of the longest in the entire Bible.

Ezekiel 38:8 says, "After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years" Notice that Ezekiel was writing not for people who lived at that time, but to people who would read his book "in the *latter years*." That is our time today.

"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him" (Ezekiel 38:1-2). God wants a man in the *latter years* to prophesy against "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal." This prince is a powerful leader who is visible in world news.

The Bible prophesies of a "prince" in our lifetime and says he will be revealed during a period called the end time. It also prophesies that there will be a messenger who will prophesy against this leader. You can't deliver this message and you can't understand this prophecy unless you know *who* this prince is.

Ezekiel gets specific here. There are two individuals, a "son of man" and this "prince." If you can identify the message of Ezekiel to this prince, then you can also identify God's messenger in the 21st century. God reveals this message to His messenger. No human being can just figure out these prophecies and discern anything from them. Only God can unlock what these prophecies mean.

This passage mentions "Gog" and "Magog." Ezekiel is using the ancient names of these nations. What modern nation or nations do these peoples represent? The Bible says Gog and Magog must be warned. So

God's messenger has to *know* who these two great nations are and who this prince is.

This is an electrifying prophecy in your Bible that discusses super-powerful nations that are active in the latter years. If you know this is a prophecy for our time period, then it is not that difficult to discern who these nations are, who this world leader is, and who this messenger is.

Scholars generally agree that "Gog" is Russia, and that "the land of Magog" includes China. The descendants of Meshech and Tubal have been found together throughout history. In Assyrian and Greek histories, Meshech appears as *Musku*, *Moschi* or *Mushki*—all names related to the Russian spelling of Moscow (*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*). What about Tubal? On the eastern side of the Ural Mountains lies the city of Tobolsk, named after the Tobol River, derived from Tubal. Tobolsk was once the seat of the Russian government over Siberia, and was basically considered Russia's Asian capital.

Also there is a name for all the Russian people in Ezekiel 38:2. There is controversy over how the Hebrew word *rosh* should be translated in this verse. The King James Version uses the adjective "chief." But the correct rendering (used by the Moffatt, New King James and others) uses the word not as an adjective, but AS A PROPER NOUN, *Rosh*. Thus, this verse should read, "the PRINCE OF ROSH, Meshech and Tubal."

ROSH WAS THE ANCIENT NAME OF RUSSIA, ONCE CALLED RUS. Many encyclopedias and commentaries (such as the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary*) recognize this. So who is this "prince" of Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk? The use of three names states that this is an individual ruler of all the peoples of Russia from the west to the east.

—Gerald Flurry, *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'*

This is the leader of Gog, the leader of Meshech, the leader of Tubal, the leader of Rosh! This is the *prince of Russia*.

This individual controls an enormous, monstrous swath of land in Asia, from east to west. The territory described in your Bible sounds very much like that of the former Soviet Union, the territory Russia dominates or wants to dominate right now.

Russia's 'Prince'

Russia has already conquered or threatened states that were formerly part of the Soviet Union. In 2007, Putin ordered a devastating cyberattack against Estonia. In 2008, he sent

the Red Army into Georgia and conquered it. In 2014, he sent masked gunmen with no insignia to seize the peninsula of Crimea and ordered it to be annexed to Russia. The same year, he deployed the same type of masked troops

to mainland Ukraine to assist pro-Russian rebels in Donbass who want to separate from Ukraine. In spite of evidence that these Russian operatives may have been responsible for

"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him." —Ezekiel 38:1

shooting down a commercial airplane in eastern Ukraine in 2014, Russia continues to field troops in the region.

The “latter years” prophecy about Gog, Magog and the prince of Rosh, including Meshech and Tubal, indicates that Russia may conquer more former Soviet satellites.

Under Putin, Russia is mobilized and aggressive. He is a powerful prince. In 2005, he called the demise of the Soviet empire “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.” To put it mildly, most people don’t agree with his statement. After all, the oppressive Soviet regime persecuted all kinds of people, imprisoned them, and murdered countless millions just because of their ideas and thoughts. Most people were glad to see the Soviet Union break up in 1991. But Vladimir Putin thinks very differently. He sees the Soviet Union as Russia’s greatest glory in this modern age.

Putin rules an immense territory, but he wants to extend it even farther. If you think the world is too sophisticated or too nice for Russia to reconquer former Soviet states and try to create a new Russian empire—it has already happened!

The prophecy in Ezekiel 38 is being fulfilled now.

When you look at what Russia is doing, the burning question is, where is this leading? Well, the same Bible that forecast Vladimir Putin’s dominance also forecast the answer and revealed how it would affect the whole world!

The Largest Army in History

If the prophecy of Ezekiel seems amazingly up to date, look at Revelation 9:16: “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.” This verse uses an ancient description of soldiers, “horsemen,” and an entirely modern phenomenon: the fact that there are *two hundred million of them*. In fact, the entire book of Revelation is specifically for the end time.

This prophecy is definitely for our modern era! This is an enormous army even by current standards. The U.S. military has only about 1.5 million personnel. Even in the 21st century, where could you find a 200 million-man army? You will find it in the near future in Russia, as well as in China. (Bible prophecy also includes Japan and perhaps India in a power bloc it calls “the kings of the east” in Revelation 16:12.)

This may sound astounding, but the book of Joel describes this same army and actually calls it *God’s army!* God is using this unrighteous power for His own purposes. And why? Because He says He is going to cause the heathen

to *come to know Him*. God is orchestrating His plan on this planet, and not even the mighty, massive kings of the east can do anything but play right into His hand. All of this great turmoil and war around the world will lead to the heathen coming to know God.

The rise of Vladimir Putin; Russia’s invasions; a budding alliance between Russia, China and other Asian nations—these are all signs that Bible prophecies are true! Bible prophecy and just honestly looking at the world reveals that this is all building toward a nuclear World War III!

When nuclear bombs begin detonating, when a 200 million-man army mobilizes, when World War III explodes, it will seem like this will literally be the end of the world, the end of life on Earth. And it *would be*, except for something else the Bible prophesies. The Bible forecasts not only the geopolitical situation we are facing right now and the resulting violent eruption, but also what comes next: the precise events leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

The Bible has been 100 percent correct about its prophecies so far, and it prophesies that the rise of Asia, the rise of Europe, and the clash of these two superpowers are all leading to the Second Coming! In fact, these superpowers will be fighting each other in the Holy Land and then fighting Jesus Christ Himself right in

Jerusalem! It will be the bloodiest battle ever on Earth—yet it will mark the *end* of man ruling over man and the injustice, tyranny, violence and death it produces.

If the Bible is exactly right about the prince of Rosh, you can be certain it is right about the return of Jesus Christ!

Notice Ezekiel 39: “[A]nd they shall know that I am the Lord. ... Then shall they KNOW that I am the Lord their God Neither will I hide my face any more from them” (verses 6, 28-29). This is where these events are leading: All mankind will come to know the Eternal! Isn’t that wonderful?

God prophesies massive destruction in connection with the prince of Rosh and the 200 million-man army. But He also prophesies in the same books of Ezekiel and Revelation that *He will resurrect* the dead who have never had the chance to know Him. Then they will have the chance to *know God!*

That is the greatest news we could hear! ■



Russia's Attack Signals Dangerous New Era

Russia’s attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower—and there will be more! ... Will the Georgia strike actually spark European unification? Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well. We have witnessed the beginning of a new era! We saw an extraordinary military strike by one of the kings of the east!

—GERALD FLURRY, AUG. 22, 2008



Vladimir Putin is prophesied in the Bible.

Learn more about who Vladimir Putin is in prophecy and what the Bible says he will lead Russia to do. Order your free booklet: **The Propheesied 'Prince of Russia.'**

Who Will Defend Eastern Europe?



TRAINING FOR WAR
Lithuanian Rifleman
Union members carry
out a training exercise.



PREP FOR BEAR ATTACK
Estonian volunteers participate
in NATO's biggest annual military
competition on January 14.

Donald Trump's praise for Vladimir Putin has people from Estonia to Ukraine nervously looking over their shoulders. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

EVERY FEW WEEKS, BÄRBEL SALUMÄE leaves her husband and two daughters for a weekend. She doesn't spend her weekend off at an Estonian day spa; she spends it in the forest outside her village, holding a rifle. Salumäe is a member of the Estonian Defense League, and is training to defend her country from a Russian invasion.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in early 2014 struck fear in the hearts of many Estonians. Their country has only been independent from Russia for 25 years. Now that Putin is regaining the motherland's lost territory, many in the Baltics fear they may be next on his hit list.

Salumäe is only 29 years old, but she had older relatives who disappeared in the Soviet gulags. In a personal way, she knows the Cold War glory days of Russia that Putin extols are far darker than he claims.

About 15,000 men and women have joined the Estonian Defense League, a volunteer militia that trains citizens in how to wage guerrilla war against an occupying force. Estonia's tiny

6,000-person military doesn't stand a chance against Russia's 845,000-person juggernaut, but the league trains private citizens to use automatic rifles and prepares them to form a home guard that could hamper a successful Russian occupation.

"My husband says that if there is a war, he and the kids will take a boat to Sweden," Salumäe told Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet*. "They plan to leave right away, out over the Baltic Sea. He made it clear that I should follow. But I will have a war location and a duty to my country. Of course, I cannot say how it would feel if it was serious; if the children stood on the beach and cried and I had to say goodbye" (Nov. 22, 2016).

Many Estonians are concerned that the inauguration of United States President Donald Trump may make a Russian invasion of the Baltic states more likely. While campaigning last July, Trump suggested to the *New York Times* that he might withhold U.S. involvement in any defense of the Baltics if those nations had not met the NATO requirement of spending 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense.

Estonia spends 2.2 percent of its GDP on defense, but Latvia and Lithuania set aside less than 1.5 percent. So many people, including Salumäe, say they are confused about America's commitment to the defense of Eastern Europe.

The mere prospect of a thaw in relations between Washington and the Kremlin has heightened the anxiety across Eastern Europe. The *Trumpet* confidently forecasts that the fear currently driving Eastern Europeans to join volunteer militias will undoubtedly play a major role in bringing Eastern Europe into stronger military unification with Western Europe in fulfillment of Bible prophecies of a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

Running From Russia

The 15,000 men and women in the Estonian Defense League are not the only people fearful of a Russian invasion. About 9,000 people have joined Latvia's Home Guard, and 10,000 have joined Lithuania's Riflemen's Union. There is only one real purpose for these militias: to resist Russian occupation. Last December, Poland's senate approved a volunteer defense force to begin recruiting up to 50,000 people.

In eastern Ukraine, many combatants in volunteer battalions have been absorbed into the Ukrainian military to fight against pro-Russian insurgents—who themselves are reportedly being reinforced by Russian troops. The Ukrainian volunteers are not professional soldiers; they are citizens fighting for their country. "Without us, the situation would be far more

grievous,” Vitaly Feshenko, a former furniture salesman, told the *New York Times*. “We are lawyers, businessmen and housewives” (Nov. 22, 2014).

Over the past decade, Vladimir Putin’s military has conquered more than 35,000 square miles of territory for Russia. These conquests include the de facto annexation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia during Russia’s invasion of Georgia in 2008; the de jure annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, at the start of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine; and the so-called soft annexation of the self-styled People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk in 2015, where fighting is still ongoing.

In addition to these military conquests, Putin maintains a sizable military task force in the self-proclaimed republic of Transnistria, an autonomous region of Moldova that borders western Ukraine. He has also deployed, to the Russian side of the border in the east, 55,000 troops armed with nuclear-capable munitions and ready to overwhelm Ukraine and possibly other former Soviet states.

Right now, Russia’s military is more powerful than at any point since the end of the Cold War, in spite of the fact that its economy is suffering from falling energy prices and Western sanctions forcing the Kremlin to cut next year’s defense budget by about 30 percent. Since Putin rose to power 17 years ago, Russia has spent billions modernizing nuclear warheads, intercontinental ballistic missiles, anti-aircraft systems, fighter jets and warships. Putin has transformed Russia’s always-intimidating military into a leaner, meaner fighting force capable of and now experienced in invading other nations.

Putin has stationed 330,000 troops along his country’s European border, thus provoking many European nations to remilitarize. Ukraine increased its military budget by 26 percent the year after its eastern territory erupted in war; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania increased their collective spending on new military equipment by 85 percent between 2014 and 2016. Poland has hiked military spending 22 percent since the Russian annexation of Crimea.

However, military spending and volunteer militias are not long-term guarantees for Eastern Europe against

Russia’s Middle East Invasion

BY ANTHONY CHIBARIRWE

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin lamented the Soviet Union’s collapse as “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.” It is now clear that the loss he feels is not confined to former Soviet satellite states. It extends to Moscow’s former client states far and wide—even as far afield as the Middle East.

When the Syrian Arab Spring began in March 2011, Russia (and China) opposed every major world power by vetoing United Nations Security Council resolutions that would have condemned the Bashar Assad regime. Britain’s UN ambassador condemned the act as putting “national interests ahead of the lives of millions of Syrians.” Since then, nearly half a million people have been killed in that country.

In 2013, Assad crossed a “red line” drawn by United States President Barack Obama when he used chemical weapons multiple times. Russia seized the opportunity and brokered a deal that would remove Assad’s chemical weapons. From that point forward, Russia became the most influential player in Syria and the greater Middle East.

In September 2014, a U.S.-led coalition began bombarding Islamist rebels from Syrian airspace. One year later, Russia joined the Syrian battlefield with its own air strikes—its first military conflict since the Cold War outside former Soviet Union borders.

Russia established an airbase near the Syrian port city of Latakia and a naval facility in Tartus. Its target list included Islamist rebels and “moderate” rebel groups, groups the U.S.-led coalition was supporting.

Putin’s Russia has repeatedly violated an air-safety agreement with the U.S. in Syria, and the threat of a war with Russia has intimidated Washington from imposing a no-fly zone in Syria.

Russia formed a joint alliance with Syria, Iran, Iraq and Hezbollah and established an information exchange center in Baghdad. Russia’s relationship with Iran—Assad’s strongest

ally—grew so close that in August 2016, Russia launched air strikes from an Iranian airbase, the first time a major world power had done so since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Russia has also strengthened its relations with Turkey. The two countries have conducted joint air strikes against the Islamic State in northern Syria.

As for the negotiations for a political settlement in Syria, Russia has aggressively taken the lead. In December 2016, Russia and Turkey brokered a ceasefire deal for Aleppo and for the parts of Syria not controlled by Islamic extremists. Russia also led Syrian peace talks, which began in Kazakhstan on January 23.

Libya, which borders the western edge of the Middle East, is another former Soviet client state in which Russia has increasingly intervened. When the Libyan Arab Spring and a NATO-led military intervention toppled Muammar Qadhafi in 2011, the nation descended into chaos. President Obama later described his intervention in Libya without a plan for the aftermath as his “worst mistake.” The nation now has essentially three separate governments.

Russia has provided direct support to none of these governments, but it has allied with Cmdr. Khalifa Haftar of the Libyan National Army. Haftar’s military organization has been the most successful group in combating terrorists in Libya, but it opposes the only Libyan government recognized and supported by the UN and West.

Twice in 2016, Haftar visited Russia to request support for his military ventures. On January 11, Russia airlifted Haftar from his headquarters in Tobruk to its Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier. The warship had anchored in the Mediterranean near Tobruk as it was sailing from Syria to Russia. While on board, Haftar conducted a video conference with Russia’s defense minister. Russia’s Defense Ministry said the two “discussed pressing issues in the fight against international terrorist groups in the Middle East.”

Beyond Libya, Syria, Turkey, Iran and Iraq, Russia in recent years has also increased its cooperation with or involvement in Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan as part of its remarkable Mideast offensive. ■

Russian aggression. To stay free of Russia's clutches, these nations need a *superpower's* protection, and they know it. According to NATO and the post-Cold War order, that superpower has been the United States. But America's new administration has indicated it may be unwilling or unable to guarantee Eastern Europe's safety. These nations can either subject themselves to Russia, fight the Red Army with small arms, or look elsewhere for an ally.

No Trust in America

When Eastern European nations gained their freedom from the Soviets, they placed their trust in America. In the 26 years since, however, many of them have become bitterly disillusioned.

During his 2005 visit to Georgia, President George W. Bush told an audience of 150,000 people that, "As you build a free and democratic Georgia, the American people will stand with you."

The Georgian people learned the hard way that American promises were empty rhetoric.

President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia was a strong U.S. ally, yet when Russia invaded his country in 2008, no help came from America. As one Georgian soldier told the *New York Times* in

the aftermath of Georgia's inevitable defeat: "We killed as many of them as we could, but where are our friends?"

To the northeast, President Petro Poroshenko maintained Ukraine's strong alliance with the U.S. But when Russia invaded his country in 2014, America did not help. The U.S., Britain and Russia signed an agreement with Ukraine in 1994 promising to ensure that nation's territorial integrity in exchange for the Ukrainians forfeiting their nuclear weapons. Since then, Russia has taken Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk, and the Obama administration simply ignored the promise.

The Ukrainians learned the hard way that American promises were empty rhetoric.

So although U.S. Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham traveled to Estonia last December to promise the people of the Baltics that America will never abandon them, many people see that it already has.

Seventeen leading officials from Central and Eastern European countries—including Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Sweden—penned a letter to then President-elect Donald Trump on January 9 arguing that lifting sanctions against Russia or accepting its

aggression against Ukraine would be "a grave mistake."

They received a response when, only a week later, Mr. Trump told the *Times* of London and *Bild* that the NATO alliance was obsolete and indicated that he was open to lifting sanctions on Russia as part of a nuclear weapons reduction deal. "They have sanctions on Russia—let's see if we can make some good deals with Russia," he said. "For one thing, I think nuclear weapons should be way down and reduced very substantially, that's part of it."

Comments like this from an American president demoralize Eastern European leaders. America's will is broken, and Russia, Europe and the rest of the world know it!

Turning to Germany

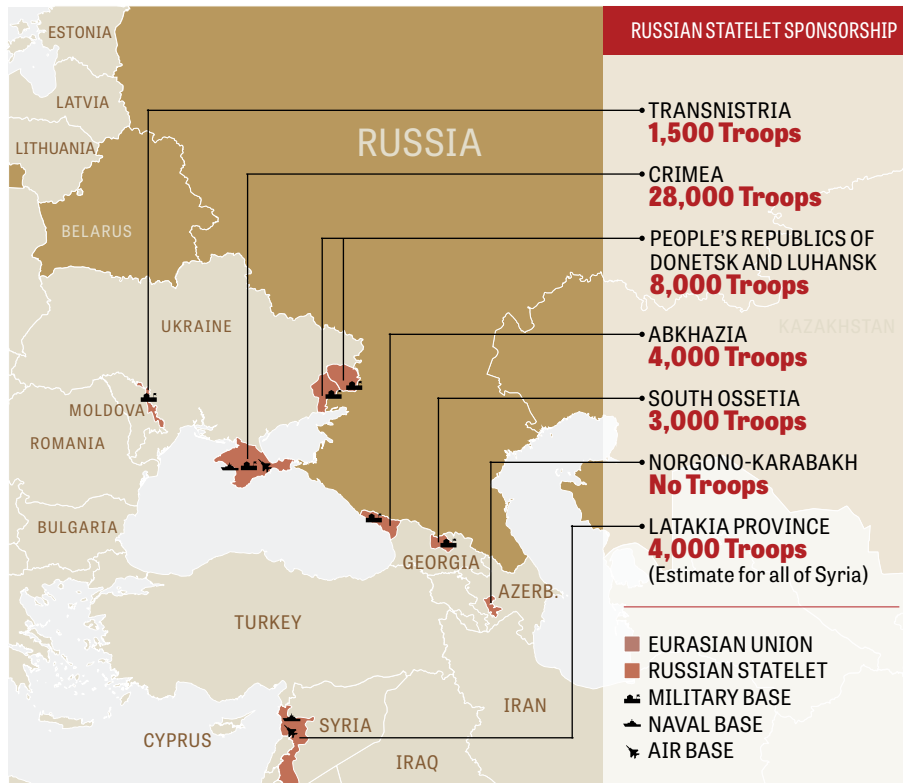
After Russia's 2008 invasion of Georgia, the Czech government made an about-face and signed the Treaty of Lisbon, colloquially known as the European Union's constitution. This turnaround was brought about largely due to the efforts of Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, who wrote in an editorial published by the Czech daily *Mladá Fronta DNES*, "It's by far better to kiss the German chancellor than to hug the Russian bear" (Nov. 20, 2008).

In many ways, that sentiment has defined Eastern European politics for the past decade. After President Obama scrapped the previous administration's plans for a European missile defense shield in 2009, Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski transformed from the region's most prominent transatlanticist to its top advocate for European integration. He famously delivered a speech in November 2011 actually calling for Germany to lead Europe.

"I will probably be the first Polish foreign minister in history to say so, but here it is," he announced: "I fear German power less than I am beginning to fear German inactivity."

Now that Russia has invaded Ukraine and is threatening the Baltics, Germany has woken up to the fact that Europe will no longer be able to rely on America to guarantee its security.

In a speech delivered in Brussels on January 12, German Chancellor Angela



NEW WORLD ORDER
Donald Trump's
inauguration is
forcing world
leaders to rethink
their policies.



Trump Tells Germany: **'TAKE CONTROL!'**

The pressure building up against Germany will force it to aggressively pursue its own interests for the first time since World War II. BY RICHARD PALMER

IS AMERICA NOW GERMANY'S enemy? With the election of Donald Trump, the German government and news media think so.

Since the end of World War II, Germany has sat in America's shadow. The nation hasn't aggressively pushed its own interests—it hasn't had to. America has taken care of them.

That time is over. President Trump is ushering in the greatest change in the world order since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

During the Cold War, German and American interests were the same. If

Russia had overrun Western Europe, the Soviet threat to the United States would have exploded—so America defended Germany, to the point of reuniting the very country it had helped to divide after the war. And since the Cold War, America and Germany have faced a common threat in radical Islam.

America has taken care of Germany's economic interests too. Both countries wanted free and stable global trade, with open oceans and trade routes.

Meanwhile Germany had good reason to keep its head down. The destruction left by the Nazis remains in living memory. If Berlin threw its weight around, other nations would quickly oppose it.

German policy, then, has been simple: America takes care of Germany's general

interests, while Berlin focuses on building economic, not political, power.

There were disagreements, of course. At times, Germany pushed its own agenda. The Balkans are a good example: Germany recognized Croatia's

"The inauguration of Donald Trump heralds the arrival of a new world order. ... Trump is the end of the world as we know it."

—Spiegel Online

independence from Yugoslavia against major opposition. But once America came around, Berlin was happy to let Washington do the hard work.

Now, however, times are different. In an increasingly dangerous and chaotic world, Germany has to stand aggressively for its interests—for the first time since World War II.

The threat comes not from a few offhand comments by the new president, but his entire worldview. Mr. Trump promises a revolutionary foreign policy. Rather than pursuing America's long-term interests, he aims to maximize short-term profits. He's about the balance sheet, not the balance of powers.

This has triggered an almost frantic response in Germany. "The inauguration of Donald Trump heralds the arrival of a new world order," wrote Spiegel Online. "Trump is the end of the world as we know it."

"Can Merkel's Europe now hold together?" this article asked. "Can she become a *worthy adversary* to Trump in the approaching conflicts over trade regulations, international agreements, and the liberal legal and economic order that has been so important to the United States for the last six decades?" (January 20; emphasis added throughout). One of the most popular and influential magazines in Europe sees America as the enemy—and wonders if their leader is aggressive enough.

In an interview in 1990, Mr. Trump singled out Germany and Japan as America's top two enemies—because, he said, those two "are making billions screwing us."

"Merkel's staff is convinced that his views haven't changed," wrote Spiegel

Online (op cit). Germany's leaders genuinely think America is out to get them.

Germany Under Attack

What could possibly make Germany so desperate? On the surface, the nation is doing great. The economy grew faster than forecast in 2016. Rather than borrowing, the government is actually paying off its debt. The nation is rapidly growing in power.

Yet Germany is vulnerable. Its political order is fragmenting. The upstart Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) and the Left Party (the former Communists of East Germany) are growing in popularity, threatening to destabilize the country's entire political system. Both are generally considered too extreme for mainstream parties to

In Challenge, Opportunity

DONALD TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY POSES A GREAT THREAT TO Germany, but there are major opportunities too.

President Trump's retreat from the world and criticism of the EU is piling pressure on Europe. He wants the EU to collapse under that pressure—but it could force Europeans to unite. After Mr. Trump's *Times* and *Bild* interview, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated, "I think that we Europeans have our destiny in our own hands, and I would very strongly argue that we all stand together." French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said, "The best response is European unity."

Talk of NATO's obsolescence is encouraging Europe to pursue its own military force—something Germany has pushed for years. Without America's security guarantee, the EU "can address its current geopolitical realities only by developing its own capacity to project political and military power," explained former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (Project Syndicate, January 5).

"Hostile inauguration speech," tweeted the EU Parliament's lead negotiator on Brexit, Guy Verhofstadt. "We can't sit around & hope for US support & cooperation. Europe must take its destiny & security in its own hands."

Europe was already working on military union with a new seriousness. Mr. Trump's election is accelerating those efforts.

President Trump's move toward Russia also contains opportunities for Germany.

No American détente with Russia can last. The two countries have almost no interests in common. Their rivalry has played out throughout history—it's the classic great land power versus great sea power competition that pit Sparta against Athens, Rome against Carthage and Britain against France. Such powers never get along; they have too many



CARPE DIEM
German Defense Minister
von der Leyen consults
with German troops.

clashing interests. The only interest Russia and America share is opposition to Islamic terrorism, but Putin's support of Iran reveals his lack of commitment on this front.

Russia and Germany have more common interests, which is why they have forged agreements throughout history. Mr. Trump is paving the way for Germany to move closer to Russia—an alliance Berlin could use to great advantage in the long run.

At the same time, America's rapprochement with Russia is pushing Eastern Europe closer to Germany. This region knows it cannot stand up to Russia alone, and has spent the last few years struggling to find a patron. With America under Mr. Obama unwilling to confront Russia, and with Europe struggling to devise a coherent foreign policy, the region has been trying to decide which is the least bad option. An America that cozies up to Russia makes Germany—with its much weaker military and its history of striking deals with Russia—that least bad option. Watch for Eastern Europe to shift toward Germany.

RICHARD PALMER

work with. Terrorism and immigration—major threats in their own right—are only pushing more voters toward these parties.

Less appreciated is Germany's economic peril. Germany is the most export-dependent of all big economies. Exports account for almost half its economic output, compared to only one fifth for America. A decline in exports would have major, immediate consequences.

Here Mr. Trump's outlook directly threatens Germany. He believes free trade means other nations *taking advantage of America*. He wants to completely reevaluate global trade policy. No nation has more to lose from this reevaluation than Germany.

Given Germany's current political trouble, economic turmoil would spark a political crisis unprecedented in its postwar history. If the AfD and Communists are currently polling around 10 to 15 percent each, how high would their popularity soar after a crash? They could win a *majority* of votes between them—which would mean that no coalition government would be possible without one of these groups. The dangers posed by an export crisis in Germany are far greater than a slight increase in unemployment: It could destroy Germany's political system.

Yet this is exactly the kind of economic turmoil Donald Trump threatens to ignite.

'Our Prosperity Is at Risk'

In his interview with *Bild* and the *Times*, published January 15, Mr. Trump threatened BMW with tariffs of 35 percent. America is the top destination for German exports. If Germany's economy is to grow, it must increase exports. With most of Germany's export markets in trouble, America is one the few locations with potential for growth. Anything threatening to *slow that increase* is a danger to Germany. But Mr. Trump wants to go much further and drastically *cut* German sales to America.

By toying with tariffs, Mr. Trump is threatening to destroy Germany's economy.

Germany worries that Mr. Trump could use the 1974 Trade Act to impose tariffs of up to 15 percent on German

exports for 150 days—without needing to consult Congress.

Much in President Trump's analysis is right. Germany's export miracle is largely because of the euro. The euro is a de facto subsidy for German goods. Weak economies in southern Europe keep the euro weak—and cheap. Cheaper euros mean cheaper German goods, which means more exports from Germany. If Germany were not part of the euro, its BMWs would be more expensive. Mr. Trump is perfectly justified in taxing them.

Nevertheless, a core German interest is threatened. Germany must persuade America not to impose tariffs—find a way to make free trade with Germany in Mr. Trump's short-term interest. In other words, Germany needs power and leverage—a return to power politics and an aggressive pursuit of self-interest.

"Our prosperity is at risk more than at any other time in the past 60 years," warned Markus Kerber, director general of the Federation of German Industries. If Mr. Trump follows through with his rhetoric on free trade, "the German prosperity model would fail."

But the threat President Trump poses to Germany's economy goes beyond just direct trade.

Trump Vs. the EU

Germany's reliance on exports makes European unity a core interest. Seven of Germany's top 10 destinations for exports are in the European Union. If the EU unravels or the euro falls apart, it means economic depression for Germany.

Unfortunately for Berlin, President Trump wants exactly that. The EU, he said in his January 15 interview, is "basically a vehicle for Germany." He praised Britain's decision to quit, adding, "I believe others will leave."

Spiegel Online wrote, "Officials in Brussels are concerned that one of Trump's foreign-policy goals may be that of *dividing the EU*—in areas like the environment and energy policy, for example, but particularly in its relationship with Russia" (op cit).

For 60 years, Americans have been cheering for European unification. Now they have a president who is ideologically opposed to it.

Mr. Trump's fondness for Britain may be designed to hurt the EU. British Prime Minister Theresa May was the first world leader to visit President Trump at the White House. His administration is promising lucrative trade deals to post-Brexit Britain, a marked change from his predecessor, who said that if Britain left the EU, he would put it at "the back of the queue."

Such deals between Britain and America would undermine Europe's position in any Brexit negotiation. Britain would enter talks with the world's most powerful economy on its side.

More importantly, any such trade deals would effectively represent an invitation from President Trump to any other nation thinking of following Britain. *Quitting Europe is not a leap in the dark*, he would be saying. *Abandon Europe and we'll welcome you with open arms and great deals*. No wonder officials in Brussels are worried.

Mr. Trump's isolationism poses an additional, though less direct, threat

Mr. Trump's unique rejection of America's long-term interests could lead him to tolerate a Russian expansion that all former U.S. presidents opposed.

to European unity. For years, American leadership had kept the EU from facing the kind of strain that now threatens to tear the Continent apart. Though this leadership couldn't protect Europe from economic problems like the euro crisis, Europe didn't have to ask questions like *what do we do about Russia?* *How do we confront terrorism?* The questions were there, but the answers didn't matter much; America set the direction for the West, and Europe merely decided whether to hop on board or not. America did all the hard work, persuading or cajoling nations to follow the American lead.

Even before Mr. Trump's election, Europe's answers were starting to



As united Jerusalem turns 50, we ask: Will it make it to 51?
BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

JERUSALEM

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50TH anniversary of the Six-Day War. Over several turbulent days in 1967, the tiny Jewish state of Israel defended itself against three Arab armies simultaneously. The Jews not only survived, but by the war's abrupt end, they had taken possession of the Sinai Peninsula

from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank from Jordan, expanding Israel's territory by 300 percent. At the time, many Jewish leaders and foreign journalists alike recognized this as a miraculous victory.

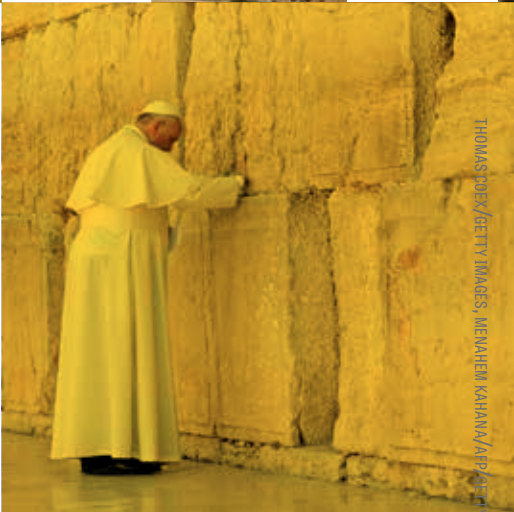
The most symbolic and emotional moment of the war for the Jews occurred on the third day, when Israeli Army Chaplain Rabbi Shlomo Goren gathered soldiers before the Western Wall to blow the shofar at Judaism's holiest site. The solemn blast announced to the world that the Jews had captured the Old City and the Temple Mount. For the first time in almost 2,000 years, Jerusalem was united under Jewish rule.

But now, 50 years on, we must ask: Will united Jerusalem make it to 51?

Unilaterally Dividing Jerusalem

Entering 2017, more attention is being focused on Jerusalem than any year in recent memory.

On Dec. 23, 2016, the United States broke with its traditional role as Israel's protector at the United Nations Security



Council (UNSC) by choosing *not* to veto a resolution that calls Israeli communities in the West Bank illegal and invalid. The resolution, however, has a more sinister clause than most previous attempts to impugn Israel's claims over the territory it won in the 1967 war.

Resolution 2334 attacks Israel's control of and sovereignty over not just the territory of the West Bank, but over Jerusalem itself.

FLEETING PEACE
Despite its name,
Jerusalem is more
known for uprisings and
bloodshed than peace.



THESES

Notice the first three points of the resolution. They say that the UNSC (emphasis added):

1. Reaffirms that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, *including East Jerusalem*, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
2. Reiterates its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, *including East Jerusalem*, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard;
3. Underlines that it will not recognize any changes to the June 4, 1967, lines, *including with regard to Jerusalem*, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations

Why single out Jerusalem in the resolution? Why not just mention the West Bank, or the more general term

of the “territories” as in previous resolutions?

Because the real target of this resolution is the *unity of Jerusalem*.

According to the UNSC—which is the closest thing this planet has to a world government—Israeli rule over East Jerusalem “has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law.”

In each of these three points, the resolution draws specific attention to East Jerusalem, not just the West Bank. East Jerusalem of course is technically part of the West Bank, but all previous negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, such as the Oslo Accords in the 1990s and the Camp David Summit in 2000, dealt with Jerusalem as a separate issue from the West Bank. The issue of Jerusalem in a final peace deal was to be negotiated separately.

But now, according to the United Nations—notably enabled and supported by America’s abstention—the Israelis not only cannot build or live in Judea and Samaria, but any



construction in East Jerusalem beyond the now-invisible 1967 lines is also illegal.

THE UN HAS UNILATERALLY DIVIDED JERUSALEM, and Israel didn’t even have a vote—or an ally willing to vote on its behalf.

Past Precedent

Some past Israeli leaders have offered East Jerusalem to the Palestinians in an effort to reach a peace agreement.



A SHAMEFUL RECORD AGAINST ISRAEL

2009 JUNE 4 President Obama condemns Israeli settlements in the West Bank as “occupation” during his famous Arab outreach speech in Cairo, Egypt.

2010 MARCH 23 President Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; presents him with 13 demands; abruptly leaves room after disagreement over Jewish settlements; no customary photo op.

2011 MAY 19 Barack Obama becomes the first United States president to officially endorse a two-state division of Israel based on its pre-1967 borders.

2012 MARCH High-level sources reveal that the Obama administration allegedly leaked Israel’s secret relationship with Azerbaijan, where Israeli planes could refuel for an air strike against Iranian nuclear facilities.

SEPTEMBER 11 President Obama refuses to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu during the Israeli leader’s visit to the United States.

2013 MARCH 21 Obama visits Israel; refuses invitation to speak before Knesset; speaks to students about Israel’s “foreign army” in Palestinian territory; says, “It’s not fair that a Palestinian child cannot grow up in a state of their own.”

2015 MARCH U.S. State Department attempts to oust Netanyahu from power by funding an opposition political group in Israel with \$349,276.

APRIL 6 President Obama says in an interview that Iran’s recognition of Israel will not be a precondition of the Iran nuclear agreement.

2016 JANUARY 16 President Obama lifts economic sanctions against Iran, opening the path for an Iranian nuclear bomb.

JANUARY 19 U.S. supports EU regulation requiring goods originating in the West Bank to be labeled separately from those made in the rest of Israel.

SEPTEMBER White House publishes a transcript with a speech location as Jerusalem, Israel, then republishes it with a strike through the name “Israel.”

DECEMBER 23 President Obama’s United Nations ambassador breaks a decades-long diplomatic precedent and allows a Security Council resolution to pass that condemns Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal.

2017 JANUARY 20 In his final hours as president, Mr. Obama gives \$221 million to the Palestinian Authority. Two House Republicans had placed a hold on the money due to concerns about the PA, but the president did not honor the hold.

One of these was former Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

In 1993, the government of Yitzhak Rabin signed the first set of the Oslo Accords. It became the new foundation from which Israeli-Palestinian peace would be negotiated. As part of the accords, the future of Jerusalem was declared to be a separate subject for future negotiations. The likelihood of Israel giving up sovereignty of East Jerusalem in a peace deal was highly unlikely. Rabin even declared in his last Knesset speech before he was assassinated in 1995 that Jerusalem must always remain the united capital of Israel.

Five years later, however, one of Rabin’s own followers, Ehud Barak, went against Rabin’s stance.

In 2000, during the waning months of his time in office, Barak offered Palestinian Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, a terrorist, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in return for peace as part of the Camp David summit negotiations with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

This offer signaled a radical shift in the Jews’ negotiating platform: Israel was now willing to negotiate away East Jerusalem. Israel had always said Jerusalem would be undivided, but apparently the Israelis themselves were divided over that issue.

Dore Gold, adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, recounted in his book *The Fight for Jerusalem* that when the Israeli people learned that Jerusalem was being offered as part of a peace deal, they were furious. This led to the largest demonstration in Israel’s history: A protest march to the Old City walls drew an incredible 400,000 Israelis.

Yasser Arafat refused the offer. Still, at the time, some leftist Israeli officials considered proposing a UNSC resolution where the parameters for peace including East Jerusalem would be locked into Israel’s new negotiating position.

That didn’t happen in 2001. But fast-forward to December 2016, and *that Security Council resolution has passed*. The international community has unilaterally decided, with U.S. support, that East Jerusalem does not belong to the Jews. East Jerusalem is no longer up for negotiation: the UN has decided that it is Palestinian land and

the Jews have no right to it. Jerusalem, according to the United Nations, is *not* the united capital of the Jews.

Setting the Stage

Why is this important? It would be easy to disregard Resolution 2334; it's nothing more than talk. Israel today, especially under the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, would refuse to concede the Old City and East Jerusalem to the Palestinians; the prime minister himself has said as much. If the UN decides to enforce this resolution, it would have to march member-nation armies into Jerusalem to force Israel out. Most people agree that it would be highly unlikely and irregular for the UN to be able to organize itself that way.

But it is possible that the Palestinians themselves could react to this resolution in an armed uprising and/or terrorist intifada and try to *take* what the UN has now said already belongs to them. At that point, Israel would suppress the violence. One would think that, on the basis of the resolution, the international community would then retaliate against Israel.

For the past two decades, the *Trumpet* has forecast this exact scenario we see developing. Pointing to a prophecy in the biblical book of Zechariah, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said for many years that half of Jerusalem will indeed fall into Palestinian hands.

In March 2006, he elaborated on how it would come about: "It seems the Palestinians could get East Jerusalem, minus the Temple Mount, without a fight. Zechariah's prophecy implies that there will be an impasse over the Temple Mount—which the

Palestinians 'resolve' by taking East Jerusalem by force. That is why I believe the conservatives could regain control in Israel. They have a stronger will to fight for the land they believe belongs to the Jews."

At the time Mr. Flurry made this statement, a passive left-wing government was in power. But for this prophecy to unfold, it appeared conservatives would have to return to power.

This has since happened.

Netanyahu will not accept Palestinian control of the Temple Mount or East Jerusalem. Yet buoyed by this recent resolution and likely further action by the international community in the coming months, the Palestinians could be motivated to make a run for it themselves.

In this environment, the UNSC resolution does not improve the chances for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It instead undermines Israel's negotiating position and encourages the Palestinians to fight for the land, thus bringing into play Zechariah's pivotal prophecy of half of Jerusalem falling.

Added to this, Prime Minister Netanyahu seems to be viewing the presidency of Donald Trump in the

United States as a green light to virtually disregard the United Nation Security Council's decision. This was evident in the first week of Mr. Trump's tenure when the Israeli government approved construction for nearly 600 apartments in east Jerusalem as well as almost 2,500 abodes in outlying areas of the West Bank in direct defiance of the resolution. After

the decision to proceed with the construction in East



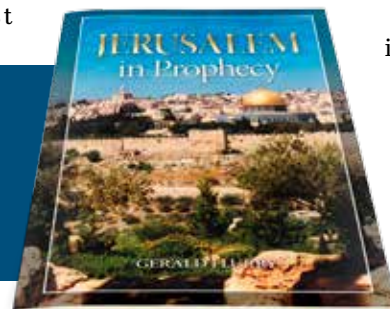
DIVISION Palestinians in the West Bank throw stones at Israeli police.

The UNSC resolution does not improve the chances for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It instead undermines Israel's negotiating position and encourages the Palestinians to fight.

Jerusalem Mr. Netanyahu stated, "There is no longer a need to coordinate construction in the Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. We can build where we want and as much as we want." However, it is likely that these actions will only further infuriate the Palestinians and the rest of the world. This will only increase the volatility of the situation.

In 2017, all eyes are going to be on Jerusalem. Zechariah's prophecy of half of the city falling is a verifiable and highly visible event that sets off a chain reaction of the fulfillment of subsequent prophecies leading to the coming of the Messiah.

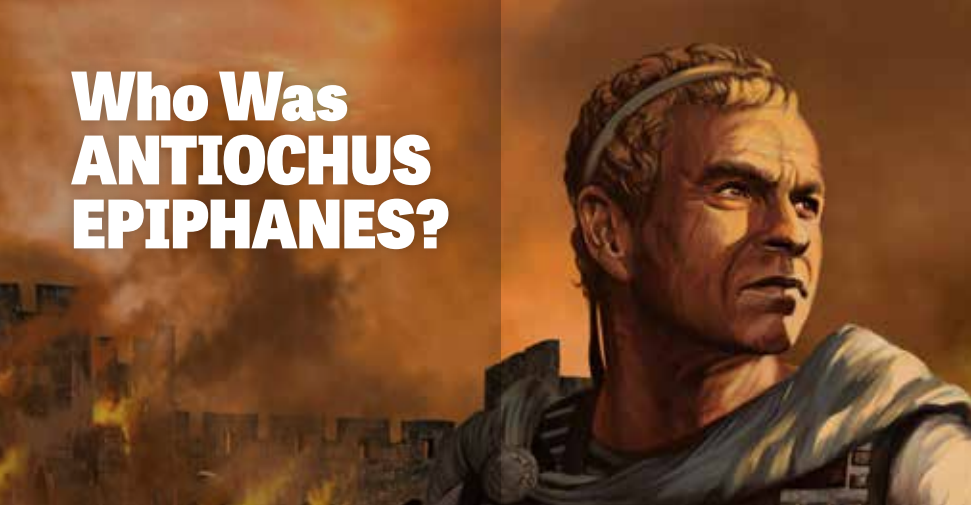
To understand in detail the events to follow the fall of East Jerusalem, read Gerald Flurry's booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. ■



Target: Jerusalem

The Bible says the bloodiest city in history is about to get bloodier. Find out why and what will happen next in the Holy City. Request your free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.

Who Was ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES?



Barack Obama's treatment of Israel hearkens back to one of Jewish history's most ruthless anti-Semites. BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

AFTER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION enabled United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 to pass, declaring many Jews illegal residents in their own country, some analysts compared America's president to Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the worst villains in Jewish history. In doing so, they were actually echoing a comparison that *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry had made six years ago. You can read his free booklet *America Under Attack*, published in 2013, for a full explanation.

Who was Antiochus? Here is a survey of the history that has become so relevant because of recent events.

Taking Power

Antiochus was never meant to lead the Seleucid Kingdom. He was the son of Antiochus (III) the Great, but he was the third son, not the firstborn crown prince. In fact, for much of his childhood, Antiochus lived far away from the Syrian capital, as a resident hostage of the Roman Republic. However, he would eventually lead one of the most ferocious attacks against the Jews in antiquity.

When Antiochus was a boy, his father desired to expand Seleucid territory out of the Levant and into Greece. There he met the Roman Republic in a fierce battle. He lost and was ordered to pay a massive annual tribute to Rome and to send representatives from the Seleucid family to Rome as hostages. Among those hostages was young Antiochus IV.

Confined to Rome, young Antiochus received the highest class of Roman

upbringing. He was well educated in the most acclaimed schools, rubbing shoulders with the greatest intellectuals of the period. He befriended many of the young Roman aristocrats. Members of the Roman government hoped that if they treated Antiochus well, he would eventually ensure an alliance between the Seleucid Kingdom and Rome.

In his later teen years, news reached Rome that Antiochus's father had died and his brother, Seleucus Philopater, had assumed the crown in Antioch. Antiochus was released when Philopater's young son, the new crown prince, replaced him as Rome's hostage.

After almost a decade of being held in Rome, Antiochus began his journey back toward his homeland. On the way, he stopped in Athens and was employed as assistant to the city's chief magistrate for a few years.

Then Antiochus received news about Philopater: His brother had been murdered at the hands of one of his treasurers. Immediately, Antiochus thought, *This is my time to act!*

The Seleucid throne should have rightfully passed to Philopater's young son, but Antiochus quickly traveled to Syria to take the throne for himself. Aided by some of the powerful people he had befriended while in Athens, Antiochus entered Antioch secretly in 175 B.C. before revealing himself at a public gathering. Using the oratorical skill he had gained while in Rome and Athens, the returning royal appealed to the hearts of the people, seemingly full of kindness and compassion. The

people of Antioch accepted his rule, though they knew it was not his right.

Antiochus and the Jews

Antiochus's main foreign-policy objective was to take over the Ptolemaic Kingdom, which was based in Egypt. After a few successful campaigns, Antiochus ventured once more to Egypt to finish the job. This time, the Roman Republic sent its fleet to support the Ptolemies. Instead of facing off with the Romans, Antiochus wisely withdrew his forces from Egypt, never to return.

On his journey from Egypt back to Syria in 168 B.C., Antiochus decided to take his rage out on one of his subject peoples: the Jews.

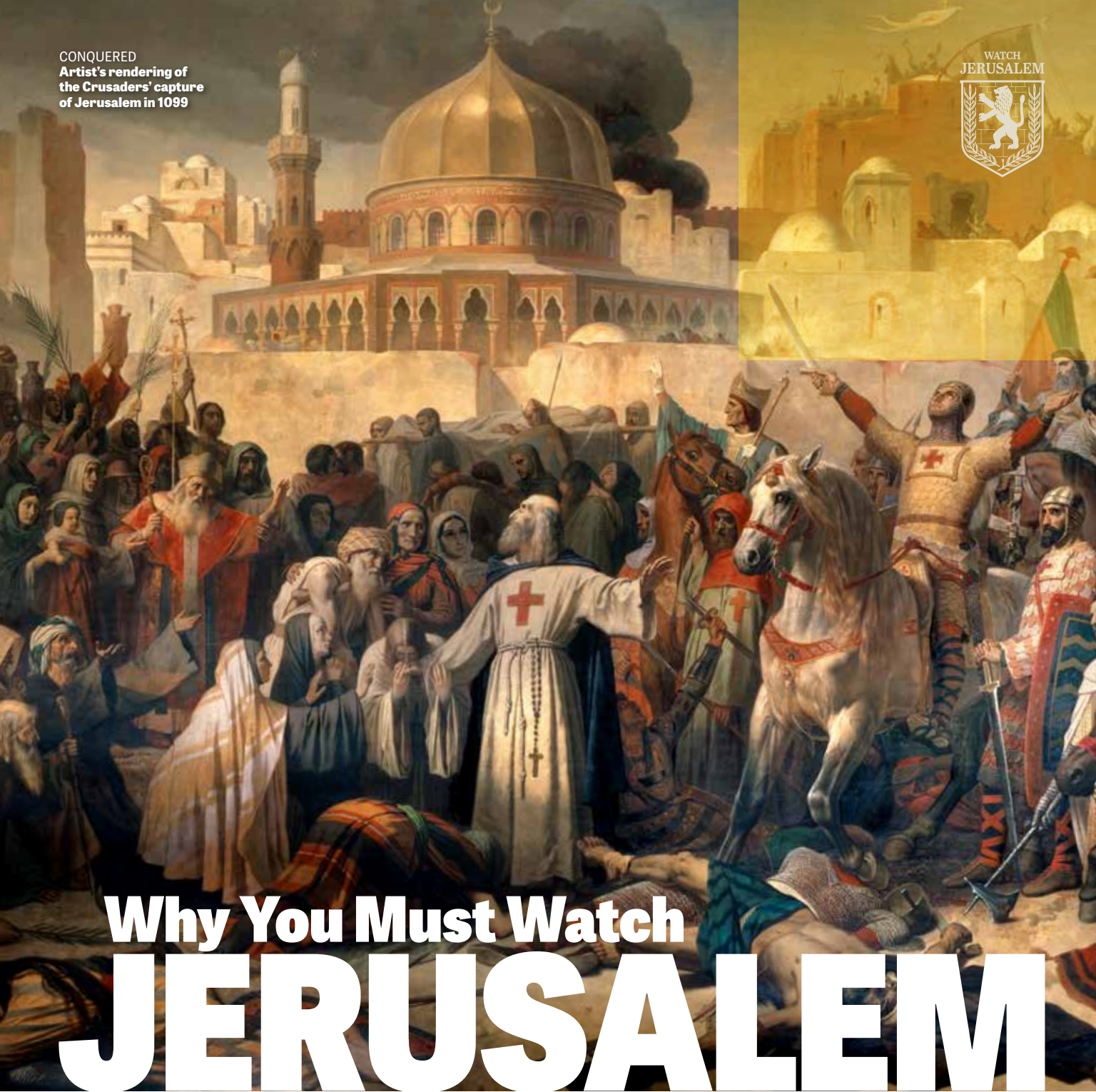
Over the previous decade, many of the Jews in Judea's capital city had been Hellenized, adopting the culture that dominated the Seleucid Kingdom and beyond. But the Jews still practiced many of their ancient traditions and laws. The Seleucids held power over the affairs and tribute of Judea, but they allowed its people to keep many of their customs.

The Jews had heard that Antiochus had been killed, and a rival priest had become high priest, throwing off the priest Antiochus had appointed into that office. When Antiochus arrived on the scene, he launched into one of the most inexplicably barbarous acts in history.

Antiochus went first to the temple in Jerusalem and set up a statue of the Greek god Jupiter Olympus in the holy of holies. On the altar of sacrifice in the temple courtyard, he forced the priests to sacrifice pig flesh to the pagan gods. Anyone in Jerusalem who was seen practicing any form of religion other than Antiochus's was sentenced to immediate death. Wherever books of the Bible were found, they were destroyed, as were the people in whose possession they were found.

In order to ensure the Jews did not revert back to their religion, Antiochus ordered that a massive fortress be constructed just south of the temple. This towering citadel gave Antiochus's forces the ability to view everything taking place in the temple area. Its impregnable walls also allowed

CONQUERED
Artist's rendering of
the Crusaders' capture
of Jerusalem in 1099



Why You Must Watch JERUSALEM

Jerusalem has a bloody past and an even bloodier immediate future. Beyond that, it is destined for eternal glory! BY GERALD FLURRY

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, horrifically brutal wars have been fought for control of Jerusalem. It is the bloodiest city on Earth. The Jewish people face a gloomy

and threatening reality on a daily basis. Knife assaults, suicide bombings and rocket attacks are commonplace.

Several recent events practically guarantee that this type of violence will increase. Sadly, the prophecies of the Bible reveal that life in Jerusalem will get a lot worse before it gets better.

What happens in this city is important to every person on Earth. You need to understand why.

Several scriptures in the Bible show that this city bears significance unlike any other. Jerusalem is at the core of the eternal plan of God and the key to the future of mankind. We cannot afford to ignore this special city. We must WATCH Jerusalem.

In the days when King Solomon reigned there, God became angry because of his sins. He said he would strip the kingdom of Israel from him.

Then He said, “Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant’s sake, and FOR JERUSALEM’S SAKE WHICH I HAVE CHOSEN” (1 Kings 11:13).

This is one of several biblical verses that show *God has chosen Jerusalem*. God has not *chosen* any other city on Earth, but He has chosen Jerusalem, for a very special purpose.

Solomon’s father, King David, was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Scripture prophesies that he will rule over the 12 tribes of Israel in the World Tomorrow. This important man was passionate about Jerusalem, as God is today. To understand prophecy and to become perfect like God the Father, we need the same passion for Jerusalem that David had.

Compassed With Armies

Look at some of the Bible’s prophecies about what will happen in Jerusalem in our day.

The most important of these was spoken by Jesus Christ Himself. When His disciples asked Him for the signs that would precede His Second Coming, Christ spoke of a nightmarish period of war that would close this age of man:

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should

God has not chosen any other city on Earth, but He has chosen Jerusalem, for a very special purpose.

be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22). Think about what He said! At what time in human history has it been possible to exterminate every person on Earth? Only recently have scientists created a weapon that could cause such devastation. The number one problem facing this world is human survival! This is a prophecy for *right now*.

And in this context, Christ referred to Jerusalem specifically: “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in THE HOLY PLACE, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (verse 15). The *holy place* described here is JERUSALEM.

This is a prophecy of a calamitous event: a foreign army, an “abomination of desolation,” surrounding Jerusalem just before besieging it! This is about to happen—before this age of man finally ends and just before the return of Jesus Christ! I explain this prophecy thoroughly in my booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* (request a free copy).

Before that event takes place, however, there is a more immediate prophecy we must watch to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. It was recorded by the Prophet Zechariah:

“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and HALF OF THE CITY SHALL GO FORTH INTO CAPTIVITY, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zechariah 14:1-2).

Half of Jerusalem will soon fall! Think about the intractable problem in this city. The Arabs already inhabit the eastern half. Your Bible says it is only a matter of time before they forcibly seize control! I believe the United Nations Security Council resolution that the Obama administration shamefully enabled to be passed in December makes this more likely. (See a map of how this decision affects Jerusalem on

page 18 of this issue.)

Here is what I wrote in *Jerusalem in Prophecy* about this prophecy in Zechariah: “Consider it: THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE DISPUTE OVER ONE HALF OF JERUSALEM ARE PRESENTED IN THE SAME CONTEXT. That is because when half of Jerusalem goes into captivity, THAT CRISIS TRIGGERS A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LEADS TO THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST! One half of Jerusalem being taken captive is like the first domino to fall, leading to Christ’s return and battle against all nations in Jerusalem! It all begins and ends in Jerusalem.

“In other words, THE CURRENT DISPUTE OVER EAST JERUSALEM IS A STRONG SIGN THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ALMOST HERE!”



Christ’s prophecy also shows how events in Jerusalem will signal His return. The chaos in that city prophesied by Zechariah will get the attention of a foreign power, and it will come to the rescue. Who is that foreign power?

Look at Luke’s account of this prophecy: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto” (Luke 21:20-21).

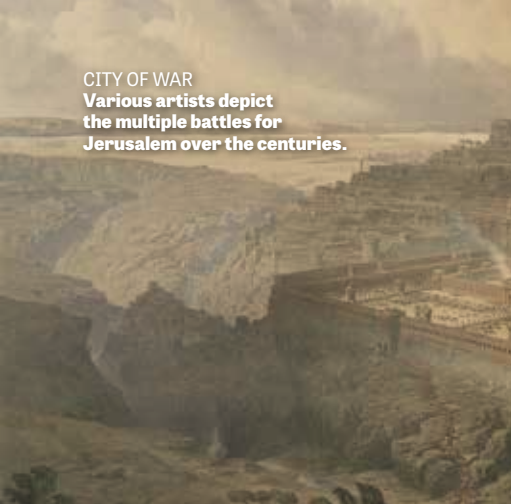
Other prophecies explain that this is, in fact, *European armies led by Germany*. They show that these armies will surround Jerusalem after they have conquered radical Islam led by Iran!

“Jerusalem compassed with armies” is the biggest sign God gives us that it is time to flee—or be destroyed!

Yes, God gave these prophecies as a WARNING TO US. We need to understand them—so we can ACT on them!

Christ continued in Luke 21: “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. WATCH YE THEREFORE, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (verses 34-36). WATCH JERUSALEM, and WATCH YOURSELF. Make sure you don’t let down spiritually—time is too short. Hear God’s instructions and apply them in your life!

CITY OF WAR
Various artists depict
the multiple battles for
Jerusalem over the centuries.



understand just how important this city is to God. He chose it not just as the capital city for Israel under Kings David and Solomon, but as His capital city during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, the King of kings!

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and *the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*” (Isaiah 2:3). The word of God will go forth from Jerusalem and cover the Earth! *All people* will learn God’s way and live according to His law.

At long last, Jerusalem will be the city of *peace* that its name represents.

“Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her ... As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:10, 13).

What a contrast to the unfathomable bloodshed just ahead! (Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19-20). No city has suffered more than Jerusalem. No city will *rejoice* more than Jerusalem! God will stop all the violence and misery. He will heal all scars and wipe away all tears.

Those of us who do His Work today will share His throne forever as the Bride of Jesus Christ, living in Jerusalem (Revelation 19:7).

Beyond that, this city that God has chosen will become the headquarters of the universe! God will dwell there for all eternity (Revelation 21:2-3).

The great patriarch Abraham had his mind locked in on new Jerusalem. “For he looked for a city which hath



foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10). The book of Revelation shows that God the Father will bring this city down to Earth and establish His throne among us!

Keep your eyes on Jerusalem! God has chosen this city. He instructs us to follow His example—to become *perfect* even as He is (Matthew 5:48). To become perfect like Him, we must make it a priority to do the same!

The Bible contains many more details about the shocking chain of events that leads to Christ’s return, but the main takeaway is that JERUSALEM IS AT THE HEART OF IT ALL.

New Jerusalem

It is exciting and comforting to know when Christ will return. But amazingly, this is only a PHYSICAL reason to watch Jerusalem. There is an even more important, SPIRITUAL REASON.

In the book of Psalms are canonized these words: “If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy” (Psalm 137:5-6).

Notice another prophecy in Zechariah: “Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and SHALL YET CHOOSE JERUSALEM” (Zechariah 1:17).

When you put all the prophecies of the Bible together, you come to

HISTORICAL PICTURE ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES, DEA/AGALLORTI/GETTY IMAGES, DEA/AGALLORTI/GETTY IMAGES, DEA/AGALLORTI/GETTY IMAGES, DEA/AGALLORTI/GETTY IMAGES

'HALF OF THE CITY SHALL GO FORTH INTO CAPTIVITY'

On Dec. 23, 2016, the United States broke with its traditional role as Israel's protector at the United Nations Security Council by choosing not to veto a resolution that calls Israeli communities in the West Bank illegal and invalid. Resolution 2334 attacks Israel's control of and sovereignty over not just the territory of the West Bank, but over Jerusalem itself. It condemns all Jewish settlers in territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, as illegal trespassers. It lays the legal groundwork for the Palestinians to forcibly take what the UN has said already belongs to them. For two decades, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has forecast that half of Jerusalem will fall into Palestinian hands. As it is written in Zechariah 14:2, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."



TERRITORY DECLARED PALESTINIAN BY UN RESOLUTION 2334

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
NUMBER OF JEWISH RESIDENTS

MUNICIPAL JERUSALEM BORDER

JUNE 4, 1967 ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER

OLD CITY WALLS

NEVE YA'AKOV 21,300

PISGATZE'EV 40,700

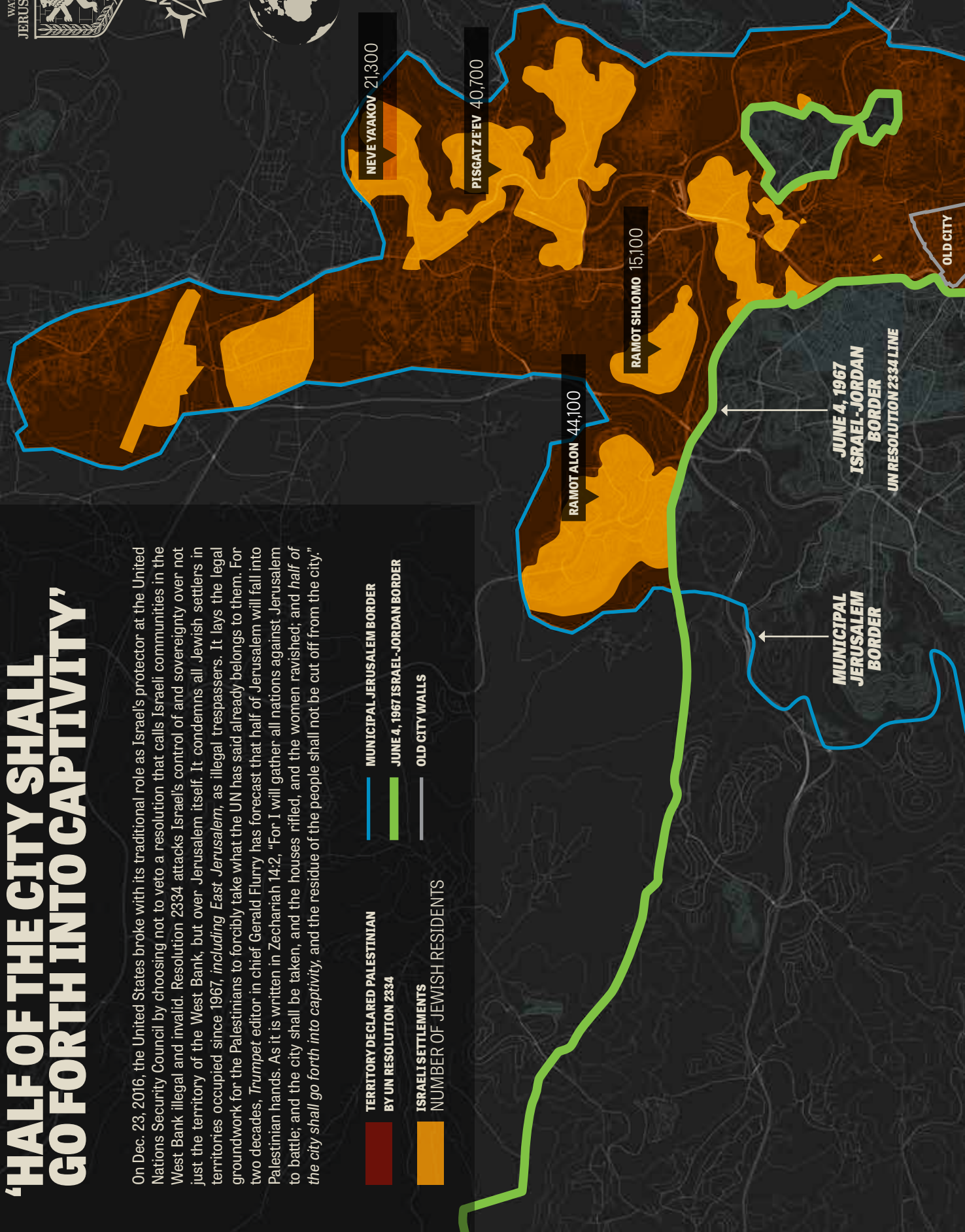
RAMOT ALON 44,100

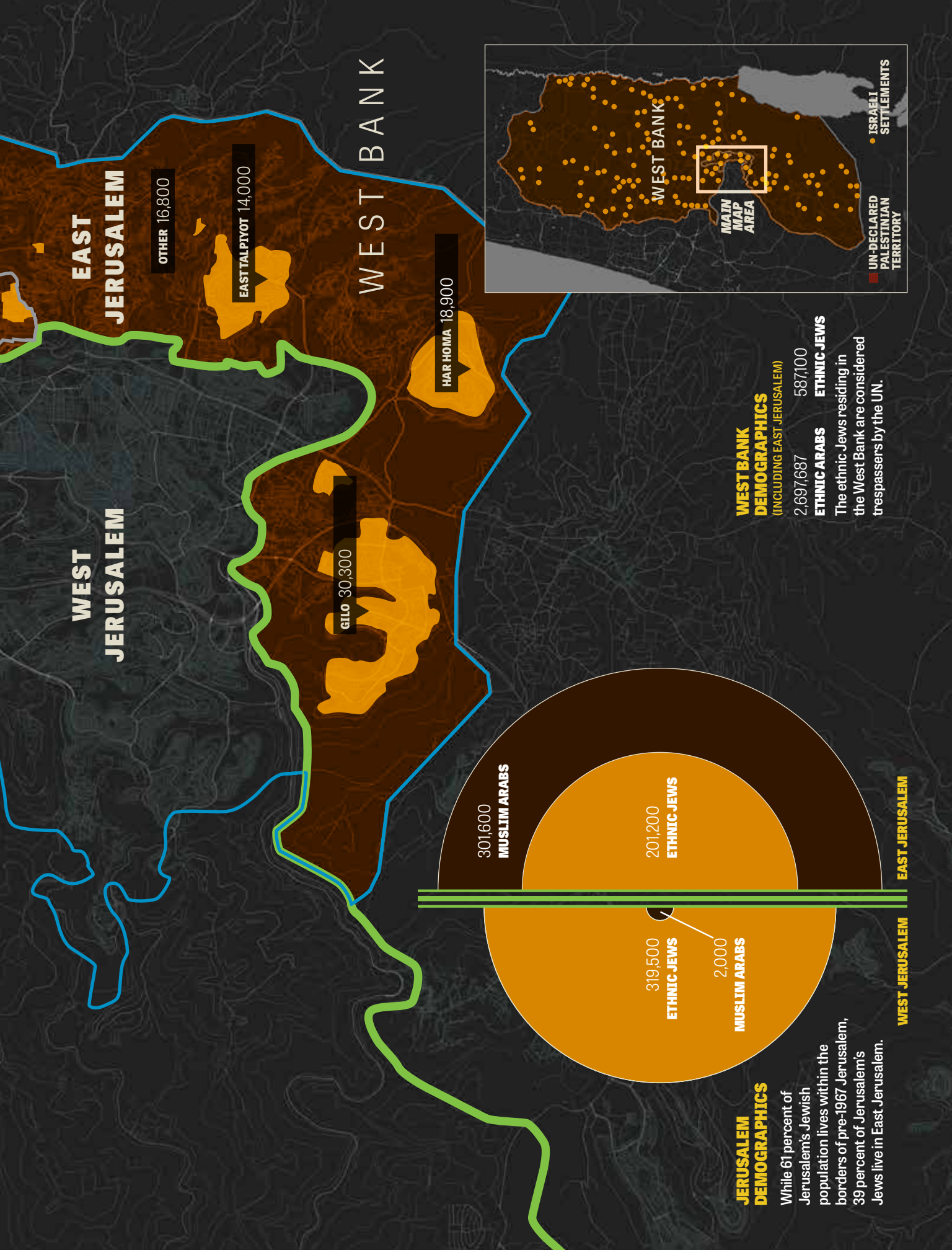
RAMOT SHLOMO 15,100

JUNE 4, 1967 ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER
UN RESOLUTION 2334 LINE

MUNICIPAL JERUSALEM BORDER

OLD CITY





**WEST
JERUSALEM**

**EAST
JERUSALEM**

WEST BANK

OTHER 16,800

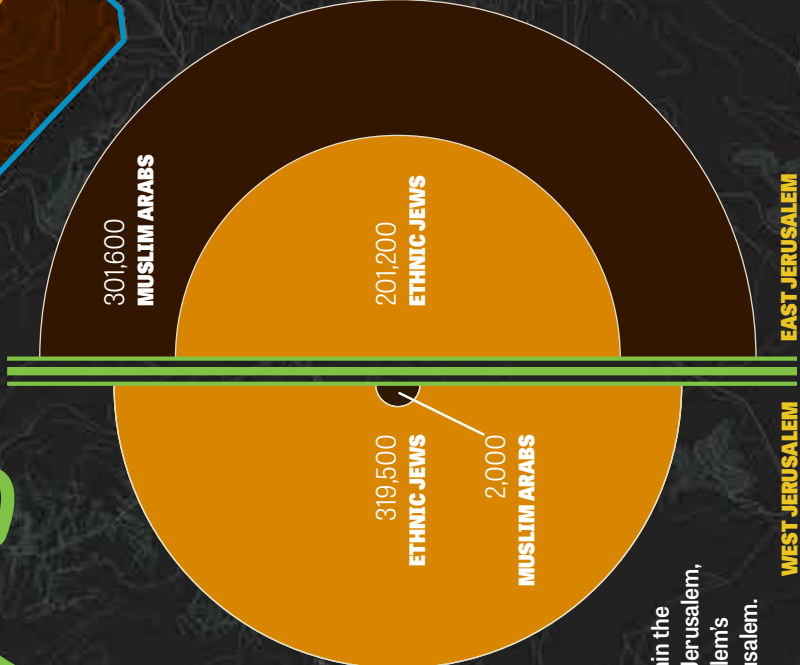
EAST TALPIYOT 14,000

GILLO 30,300

HAR HOMA 18,900

**JERUSALEM
DEMOGRAPHICS**

While 61 percent of Jerusalem's Jewish population lives within the borders of pre-1967 Jerusalem, 39 percent of Jerusalem's Jews live in East Jerusalem.

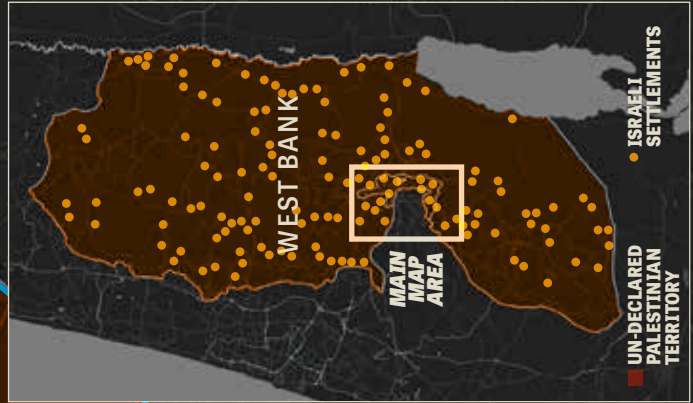


**WEST BANK
DEMOGRAPHICS**

(INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM)

2,697,687 ETHNIC ARABS
587,100 ETHNIC JEWS

The ethnic Jews residing in the West Bank are considered trespassers by the UN.





The Cryptic Nationalist Group Steers

Will the Nippon Kaigi group steer Japan into a repetition of World War II-era nationalism?

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

WHAT IF GERMANY ELECTED A leader who was part of a radical nationalist group that believed Germany should no longer acknowledge that it committed war crimes during World War II? What if that group said historic accounts of Germany massacring Jews and other groups were “either exaggerated or fabricated”? What if that group believed Germany should, in fact, be applauded for “liberating” Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and other nations during the war?

What if the stated goal of the organization was to return modern Germany to its World War II-era “glory”?

And what if this German leader successfully stacked his cabinet with members of that same organization?

This is essentially the actual situation in Japan today. Yet the fact that more than half of Japan’s top leaders hold these beliefs regarding their country

seems to attract little attention, especially outside of Japan.

Prime Minister Shinzō Abe is a member of the Nippon Kaigi (“Japan Conference”), a somewhat secretive group determined to normalize the Japanese military, teach history in a way that cultivates patriotism in young students, and restore the imperial family as the center of Japanese life. Ten of Mr. Abe’s 19 cabinet members also belong to this shadowy organization.

Resentment Born in Defeat

Shintoism is the ancient animist religion native to Japan. Leading up to and during World War II, State Shinto, intertwined with nationalism and militarism, was Imperial Japan’s national religion. State Shinto promoted an ideology of Japanese racial superiority and the notion that Emperor Hirohito was a divinity, destined to rule the entire world. The fanaticism of Imperial Japan’s soldiers—and civilians—was driven largely by these religious beliefs.

The toxicity of this faith rendered many Japanese incapable of surrendering—even when offered the chance while facing insurmountable odds.

After Japan’s defeat in 1945, the U.S.-led Allied Occupation sought to root out the Japanese radicalism that had caused so much suffering throughout East Asia. The Allies abolished State Shinto, forced Hirohito to publicly renounce the idea that he was a god, and wrote a new constitution for Japan, saying its people “forever renounce war as a sovereign right” and that they also renounce “the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.”

After Tokyo’s defeat, most Japanese accepted the outcome and embraced the postwar realities, which included a prolonged period of extremely rapid economic growth and a surge in the general quality of life in Japan. Most Japanese were grateful to the American-led occupation for bringing prosperity, stability and democracy to the nation.

But not everyone was remorseful about Japan’s wartime behavior. Not everyone was willing to accept the war’s outcome, including the Allied Occupation. In the early 1970s, some who were resentful of Japan’s defeat formed a State Shinto revival group called Nihon wo Mamoru Kai. They championed the trashing of Japan’s



ering Japan

pacifist constitution and a return to nationalism and emperor worship.

In 1997, this group merged with a similar nationalist organization called Nihono Mamoru Kokumin Kaigi. The two became Nippon Kaigi.

The United States Congressional Research Service concluded in a recent report that Nippon Kaigi believes that “Tokyo War Crimes tribunals were illegitimate,” that the Massacre of Nanking was either “exaggerated or fabricated,” and that “Japan should be applauded for liberating much of East Asia” during World War II.

The *Economist* listed the following as Nippon Kaigi’s primary goals: “[A]pplaud Japan’s wartime ‘liberation’ of East Asia from Western colonialism; rebuild the armed forces; inculcate patriotism among students brainwashed by left-wing teachers; and revere the emperor as he was worshiped in the good old days before the war” (June 6, 2015).

Kobayashi Setsu, a former member of the group and one of Japan’s top constitutional scholars, said Nippon Kaigi members “have trouble accepting the reality that Japan lost the war.” This

is in part because some of the group’s members are descendants of those who instigated the war. Many, Setsu says, openly long for the days of Japan’s great-power status.

This is the group influencing the most powerful people in Japan.

Today, Nippon Kaigi has only around 38,000 full members. Yet it wields influence far beyond its membership rolls because its network reaches deeply into the various echelons of government.

Besides Prime Minister Abe, many other government officials also belong to Nippon Kaigi, including Mr. Abe’s deputy prime minister; his state ministers of defense, foreign affairs, education, health, reconstruction, and his chief cabinet secretary; and 289 of the 480 members of the Diet, Japan’s parliament. Other Nippon Kaigi members include numerous state and local lawmakers, renowned academics and authors, media moguls, leading Shinto priests, titans of industry, high-ranking diplomats and military officers, the great-grandson of Emperor Meiji and former Prime Minister Tarō Asō. Even a famous former sumo wrestler is among the group’s ranks. Former Defense Minister Yuriko Koike, who became governor of Tokyo in July, is another highly influential member. The former head of Nippon Kaigi was the former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Japan.

Why So Little Coverage?

For decades, Nippon Kaigi received little attention in Japan’s mainstream media, and even less outside of the

With Japan’s economic and industrial excellence, all it lacks to transform its defense forces into a nuclear-armed world-class military is will. Nippon Kaigi members have that missing element in abundance.

country. That changed in spring of last year when researcher Tamotsu Sugano published an exposé called *Nippon Kaigi No Kenkyu* (*A Study on the Japan Conference*). The book sold more than 153,000 copies, making it a surprise bestseller and bringing Nippon Kaigi’s vast influence out of the shadows.

Sugano’s book shows that Nippon Kaigi’s main accomplishment has been uniting various nationalist organizations within a like-minded program. “Throughout 40 years of history,” he said, “it has been sending almost the same message and focusing on the same priority: educating the young generation.”

On January 6, in a rare and telling move, a Tokyo court ordered the book’s publisher to suspend all publication of *A Study on the Japan Conference* on the grounds that it contained defamatory information. The *Japan Times* noted on January 7, “It is rare for a court to suspend publication of a bestseller in Japan.”

Opponents of Nippon Kaigi say the court’s decision fits with the idea that the group wields considerable influence to suppress those who seek to expose that very influence.

Nippon Kaigi’s Accomplishments

The *Economist* said Nippon Kaigi has proved itself to have “a formidable ability to mobilize.” A major example of this came in 2006 when the group collected 3.6 million signatures demanding judicial reforms that would legally require schools to teach patriotism to students. The signatures were enough to pass the controversial legislation, which helped to ban “left wing” curricula and to reinstate the traditions of standing for Japan’s Hinomaru flag and singing the national anthem.

“Enacting a law with this requirement was one of the few things that Mr. Abe accomplished in his first, inglorious term as prime minister from 2006 to 2007,” the *Economist* said.

Around the same time, Nippon Kaigi played a vital role in convincing the government to restore April 29, the birthday of wartime Emperor Hirohito, as an official national holiday.

Sugano says it is clear that without Nippon Kaigi, Mr. Abe would not have been successful in returning to politics

after his resignation in 2007 convinced many that his political career was finished. But with the group's guidance and backing, Mr. Abe returned in 2012 and has gone on to win another two consecutive national elections.

Writing for the Daily Beast on July 9, 2016, Jake Adelstein and Mari Yamamoto said Nippon Kaigi was also instrumental in "getting the Japanese government to reinstitute the Imperial Calendar, which was banished by the U.S. occupation government." That change means that while it is 2017 in the Western world, in Japan, it is year 29 of the Heisei Period. Adelstein and Yamamoto wrote, "The system is so confusing that many reporters in Japan carry a handy chart to translate the Imperial Calendar dates into Western time."

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of Nippon Kaigi's power came in the summer of 2015, when the Diet held heated debates about whether the country should have a right to collective self-defense. Sugano says the crucial factor in delivering victory to those arguing to restore that military capability was the testimony of three leading constitutional scholars. All three were Nippon Kaigi members or affiliates.

This victory equated to a milestone "reinterpretation" of the Constitution that expanded Japan's military role abroad. Some 14 months later, in a clear indication that history is on the march, Japan's first armed soldiers since the end of World War II deployed overseas.

With Japan's economic and industrial excellence, all it lacks to transform

its defense forces into a nuclear-armed world-class military is *will*. Nippon Kaigi members have that missing element in abundance.

What Lies Ahead?

The *Economist* noted that Nippon Kaigi's opponents have been impressed by the success that the group and its affiliates have had in "quietly transform[ing] the landscape of Japanese politics" (op cit). Yet Nippon Kaigi members themselves "are frustrated over what they see as the slow pace of change," it wrote

That pace, however, could soon pick up. As of July 2016, Mr. Abe, his Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partners have a two-thirds majority in both houses of the Diet. This unprecedented double supermajority makes Mr. Abe the most powerful Japanese prime minister in postwar history.

Some analysts have argued that since Nippon Kaigi's membership is comprised overwhelmingly of older individuals, it will soon die out and doesn't need to be feared. But the age factor could infuse Mr. Abe and other members with greater urgency to return Japan to its war-era "glory."

"I don't think many people have grasped yet what is happening in Japan," said Tawara Yoshifumi, head of the non-profit group Children and Textbooks Japan Network 21. "The situation is very dangerous." Tessa Suzuki, a professor of modern Japanese history at Australian National University, agrees. She told the *Japan Times* she is "enormously concerned about the way Japan is going."

National Review columnist Josh Gelernter said July 16, 2016, that "it would probably be a good idea [for America] ... not to stand idly by while our most important Asian ally, and the second-richest democracy in the world, reverts to fascism."

Nippon Kaigi's "strength is growing," said Norihiro Kato, professor emeritus of Waseda University. "And there is no telling when its members might start saying what really is on their mind: 'Take Back Japan From America'" (*New York Times*, Sept. 12, 2014).

A Propheesied Resurgence

In 1971, when even Nippon Kaigi's fore-runner groups were little more than whispers among closet nationalists, educator Herbert W. Armstrong predicted that Japan would awake from its postwar slumber, cast off the pacifism the U.S. imposed on it, and return to formidable militarism. "Japan today has no military establishment," he wrote. "But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so powerful economically that it could build a military force of very great power very rapidly" (*Plain Truth*, March 1971).

Mr. Armstrong's view was informed by Bible prophecy. He understood that Japan would be a key part of a massive end-time Asian military power bloc that the Bible calls "the kings of the east" (Revelation 16:12). Ezekiel 38:6 specifies that "Gomer" and "Togarmah" will be part of this power bloc. These are ancient names for the main peoples that make up modern Japan.

For decades, Mr. Armstrong's forecast could have seemed alarmist to many Japanese and students of geopolitics. But now, in part because of the rise of Nippon Kaigi, that forecast no longer appears far-fetched. Today, as we face

the prospect of nationalists and hard-liners dismantling Japan's pacifist architecture and leading a revival of the nationalism, militarism and emperor worship that made Japan an unusually ruthless military machine. ■

IS JAPAN ABOUT TO PROJECT ITS POWER ONCE AGAIN?

Japan forged a powerful empire in the middle of the 20th century. Today the industriousness of the Japanese has again built their island nation with few natural resources into the world's third-largest economy. But will Japan build a military to match? Herbert W. Armstrong foresaw Japan's resurgence almost 50 years ago. Read what he wrote in your free copy of *He Was Right*.



LUCRETIOUS WROTE, “WHAT IS FOOD to one is to others bitter poison.” Nowhere is this Roman philosopher’s observation more apparent than with the steep rise in food allergies over the last two decades. In years past, some few suffered an allergy to one type of food. Today, it is common to see people suffering from allergies to three or more foods. The scary part is that no one is certain of the cause or how to stop the problem. The allergic condition plagues a person with anxiety, food phobia and constant fear of reactions, sometimes up to and including death.

Why did generations before us not suffer from this epidemic? What is it that’s making us so allergic?

What Causes Food Allergies?

Food allergies have become the fifth leading chronic illness in the U.S., affecting up to 15 million people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The most common triggers are eggs, cow’s milk, peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, sesame, soy, fish and wheat.

A seemingly innocuous meal can be a loaded weapon. When the allergy sufferer ingests a trigger food, the immune system produces immunoglobulin E antibodies in order to neutralize what it determines to be a danger. The body releases chemicals such as histamine into the bloodstream, triggering an exaggerated external response and sometimes a deadly internal response of swelling, known as anaphylaxis.

The big mystery is why we get allergies. Theories abound. The hygiene hypothesis says rising rates of allergies mirror our declining exposure to bacteria during childhood, making us prone to reacting to substances that would otherwise be harmless. Some also point a finger at increased rates of vaccinations, the use of carcinogenic agricultural chemicals and even genetics.

Surprisingly, an often-overlooked cause of food allergies is food itself. In *The Unhealthy Truth*, Robyn O’Brien writes that food allergies and intolerances may be a product of toxins and genetically modified ingredients in the industrial food system.

Beginning in 1994 with the introduction of the first genetically altered



ALLERGIES: When Food Attacks

BY JORG MARDIAN

tomato, we have now reached a critical juncture with genetically modified foods. They have been shoved onto the public without meaningful debate, without long-term animal feeding studies or government tests, and without labels.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association says between 70 and 80 percent of all processed foods may contain ingredients from genetically engineered plants. So most Americans are eating genetically modified organisms with almost every bite.

The genetically engineered hormone rBGH (recombinant bovine growth hormone), used to increase milk production, causes cows to have higher rates of disease, requiring the use of antibiotics for ill effects. Consuming products from these cows is a major factor precipitating leaky gut, a condition where a person’s intestines have increased permeability. This allows toxins, microbes and undigested food particles to leak into the bloodstream, causing food allergies and many illnesses.

Consuming Pesticides

Another common ingredient in processed foods is soy, a top food allergen genetically engineered to withstand massive doses of weed killer. Corn allergies are also rising, with some genetically modified corn engineered to withstand Monsanto’s herbicide Roundup. Other varieties are

engineered to create their own internal pesticide, Bt toxin (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which breaks open the stomach of certain insects and kills them.

This marks the first time in history that pesticide toxins inside cell walls are being sold for human consumption. It also raises the possibility that eating produce containing Bt might damage the human digestive tract the same way it does to insects.

A 2011 study at Quebec’s Sherbrooke University Hospital showed correlation, finding the Bt toxin in the blood of pregnant women and their unborn babies. And in 2012, *The Journal of Applied Toxicology* showed the Bt toxin causes leaky gut, something Bt’s aggressive mechanism was designed to do to insects in a ruthless way.

O’Brien writes that since the introduction of genetically modified foods, hospitalization rates due to food allergies have risen 265 percent. This has concerned scientists, including some in the Food and Drug Administration, who have warned that genetically altering a food plant could trigger food allergies. In 2009, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine stated, “[S]everal animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food consumption, including infertility, immune dysregulation, accelerated aging, dysregulation of genes associated with ... insulin regulation ... and changes in [major organs] and gastrointestinal system. There is more than a casual association between GM foods and adverse health effects. There is causation ...”

What can you do if you suffer from food allergies? Look for a nutritional program that focuses on removing damaging foods and replacing them with healthy alternatives, giving the intestinal lining a chance to heal and seal. One such program is the GAPS nutritional program by Dr. Natasha Campbell-McBride.

For prevention, eat a wholesome diet based on unprocessed, ideally organic or locally grown foods cooked at home. These form the foundation upon which your immune system can function and thrive without allowing allergies to become a lifelong disability. ■

Jorg Mardian is a registered holistic nutritionist.

God's View on Making and Managing Money

Is wealth sinful? Is poverty virtuous? What does the Bible say?

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

SOME PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BE POOR. THEY believe poverty is admirable or even righteous. They live ultrasimple lives, or even banish themselves to a bare-bones existence in a religious house or monastery, thinking that this makes them closer to God.

Is money—even wealth—bad? What does the Bible say about money? Everyone needs it, but there are right and wrong ways to use it. How much is too little? How much is too much?

The Bible is a vault of wisdom about money. It contains very practical instruction. So let's dive in and study it. Open your Bible and read each scripture that answers each question. This will help you learn and remember the principles we cover.

God Wants You to Prosper!

1. Who owns everything on Earth? Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8.

God created everything and therefore owns everything. Some say God is against riches. But how could He be? He Himself is a multitrillionaire!

2. Does God hoard His wealth? Does God desire for you to prosper? John 10:10, last part; 3 John 2; Ecclesiastes 5:19.

God gives of all He has made. That is His way. In fact, He created all things for the *purpose* of sharing them! God wants us to enjoy the wealth of blessings His creation offers.

3. What are some of the blessings God promises to those who live righteously? Psalm 1:1-3; 112:1-3; 84:11-12; 37:3-4.

4. Since God owns everything, and all you have comes from Him, what does He expect from you? Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10. If you obey God in this respect, will He bless you even more? Same verses.

The firstfruits, or tithe, is the first 10 percent of your income. God wants you to show your appreciation and respect for Him by giving that portion back to Him before you take anything else out of your paycheck. The governments of this world demand 25 or 50 percent or more, God commands that we pay only 10 percent. We don't give this to God directly, but to His representative on Earth. When we do, we will find that the remainder of our money stretches even further!

Money Tips

Now that we have established that God is in favor of wealth, let's look at some money tips from the Bible.

1. How important is hard work in making money? What will laziness and a love of pleasures lead to, monetarily? Proverbs 21:17; 23:21; 24:30-34.

2. Besides diligence and hard work, what lesson can we learn from the ant? Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:24-25.

While food is plentiful, ants store enough to last them through the colder months. This teaches us not only to save for the future and to set money aside for emergencies, but also the principle of budgeting, allocating money for specific purposes to cover all your expenses, from food and housing to entertainment. This practice keeps you in control of your money and is invaluable in managing a household. The sooner you develop this habit the better!

3. How can your choices today help you prepare for a financially stable future? Proverbs 24:27; verses 3-4.

Verse 27 in the Moffatt translation reads, "First work your farm, and till the soil—then marry and set up house." There is much to be said for getting established with a good job and saving some money before taking on the responsibilities of a family. Some people marry too young and end up struggling financially—and otherwise—for years.

4. Will generously sharing your wealth—with God and others—actually increase your wealth? Luke 6:38; Proverbs 11:24-25.

The Revised Standard Version renders Proverbs 11:24, "One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." It is smart to save money and spend wisely, but don't become stingy. Give generously, as you are able, and you will have more in the long run. Selfishly hoarding each dollar may seem to make you richer, but in fact God's way of give leads to greater blessings. Read Luke 12:15-21 of the man who used his great wealth for selfish purposes.

5. Is it important to leave an inheritance for your children when you die? Proverbs 13:22.

This too follows God's way of give. Occasionally you hear older people say, "We're spending our kids' inheritance!" as they indulge in purchasing some luxury. That often lighthearted sentiment actually reveals a selfish, nonbiblical attitude toward

money. God says to keep your children and even your future grandchildren in your financial plans!

Pitfalls of Wealth—and the Solution

Let's now look at some of the common problems that money can cause—and get the Bible's solution.

1. What dangers await the person who lusts after money? 1 Timothy 6:9-10. What does God suggest to the person who has great wealth? Verses 17-19.

Greed drives people to do terrible, unethical things. Verse 10 should read “a root” (money is not the cause of every evil, but it is one cause for all sorts of evil). As we will see from other scriptures, God wants to ensure that physical riches are used correctly and never become more important than spiritual riches.

2. Another mistake is to covet possessions. In order to get things they do not have the money for, many people borrow the money or charge the expense to a credit card. Is that wise? What does God say about borrowing, or going into debt? Proverbs 22:7.

Those who lend money, such as credit card companies, usually charge interest—an extra percentage of the debt for the “service” they provide. The greater your debt, the harder it is to pay for it! Just ask someone who is trying to get OUT of debt—it *enslaves* you!

3. What about get-rich-quick schemes, promising instant wealth for little labor? Proverbs 28:20, 22; 13:11.

Always be on guard against this classic appeal to greed and laziness! To avoid this trap, always be willing to work for your living (Proverbs 28:19).

4. Should money be your main reason for working? Proverbs 23:4-5. What effect can preoccupation with money have on a family? Proverbs 15:27. What does the Bible say to those who believe money will solve their problems? Ecclesiastes 5:12-16; Luke 12:15.

5. What will ultimately happen to the person who trusts in his possessions? Proverbs 11:28. Where should your heart be instead? Matthew 6:19-21, 24.

It is easy to become MATERIALISTIC, preoccupied with money and things, because as a human being, you ARE material—made of flesh and blood. But God cautions against putting physical riches above spiritual riches. Read the story in Matthew 19:16-26 of the man who turned away from Christ because he wasn't willing to give up his “great possessions.” You must be willing, if necessary, to give up ANYTHING to follow God! Being unwilling to do this amounts to idolatry, which is breaking the First Commandment (Exodus 20:3).

6. What are some biblical examples of things that are more important than physical wealth? Proverbs 16:16; 22:1; 15:16; Psalm 119:72.

7. We all need money to live, but money issues can tend to take up too much of our thinking.



NEVER ALLOW MONEY TROUBLES TO OVERWHELM YOUR THINKING. TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE.

What should our overall attitude be toward providing for our physical needs? Matthew 6:25-32.

Never allow money troubles to overwhelm your thinking. Trust God to provide.

8. What should our main goal in life be? Verse 33.

The bottom-line solution to many of the pitfalls of wealth, particularly the covetousness and greed it can arouse within us, is to seek first God's Kingdom. Always make sure that God's way of life, His law, His spiritual wealth, is most important in your life. That way, you can be sure that God will see to your other needs.

Final Advice

1. Should you be content with your physical state as it is? Philippians 4:11-12, 19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

Here is a secret of happiness. Most people, at all levels of income, believe they would be happier if they only had a little more money. There is nothing wrong with trying to improve your station in life, but learn to enjoy just what you have. Proverbs 30:7-9 show great wisdom: It is a request that God provide an income exactly right for the person—so that he can avoid the pitfalls of being either too poor or too rich.

2. How can you tell if the blessings you receive are from God? Proverbs 10:22.

Worldly wealth can come by unwholesome means. But when God blesses you with riches, whether physical or spiritual, there will be no bad kickbacks or side effects. You will be able to fully enjoy them!

3. How important are your money-management skills to God? Luke 16:10-11.

Read the whole parable, beginning in verse 1. To be trusted with more exciting, grander assignments in the future, you must prove trustworthy in the smaller things today. How do you treat the blessings God gives you? Proper money management develops and demonstrates the qualities of character that God will need in His Kingdom. Care for your money and possessions—and keep them in perspective—and the riches God will ultimately give you will stagger your imagination! ■



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

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

matter. But how do you come up with a common answer for a bloc with such a disparate range of views? At one end, you have Estonia, where all young men are conscripted into the armed forces and one in 20 of its working-age adults serves in the military or volunteer for its national guard. Fear of Russia has led to the nation approaching the Israeli model in terms of the level of its citizens' participation in the military. Yet in the same bloc you have nations like Austria and Italy that are chaffing against sanctions on Russia.

Once, America provided the leadership necessary to keep such a group on the same page. Now someone must replace that leadership. Someone must fight back against Mr. Trump's attempts to break up the EU. Because if nobody does, the euro, the EU and Germany's prosperity will fall apart.

President Vladimir Putin without a "boogeyman." If the U.S. president is no longer the source of all evil in the world, then who else could Putin blame and attack? "[G]uess who qualifies best as a new, well, boogeywoman?" Bittner asked. "Angela Merkel" (January 1).

"The German chancellor is a perfect target," he continued. "Germany is holding general elections next autumn, and with politicians sympathetic to Moscow on the rise, she may well be running for her fourth term as the sole European leader willing to stand up to a newly assertive Russia."

During Obama's administration, Merkel worked hard to keep Europe united in its sanctions on Russia. If Trump reverses those sanctions and Germany doesn't, Merkel would be left as the most prominent Russian opponent in the world—and subject to the full force of Putin's ire and geopolitical genius.

Russia could take advantage of Trump's favor to try to divide and rule Europe—while Trump himself is doing the same thing.

Under all this strain, Germany would have to assert itself aggressively against both powers at once—and hold Europe together at the same time.

'Brutal Pursuit of Self-Interest'

Thinkers around the world see this change in Europe coming. "Brexit, a shock all around, will combine with a Trump presidency to force the EU to put away childish things, and ask hard questions of itself," wrote John Lloyd in an article published by Reuters. "Infancy may be ending; always a hard transition" (January 13).

Yes, that transition will be hard, but over the next few months *the world is going to see Germany and Europe grow up.*

So Germany faces mounting pressure from all sides and can no longer rely on the United States—and even sees America as an enemy. The result? The nation must stand up for itself. If America follows a narrowly defined "America first" policy, then Germany has no choice but to respond with a "Germany first" policy.

Germany has not had to do this for 70 years. As George Friedman writes in his book *Flashpoints*, after World War II, Germany and Japan "tried to become economic giants without becoming militarily powerful. Both exercise less international power than they could."

"German intentions are to have an economic policy without political, and certainly without military, consequences," he writes. "They intend to be the dominant power in Europe without imposing their will on anyone. Their intention is to exercise only one element of national power, the economic, and to exercise that without the brutal pursuit of self-interest. ... This is an understandable impulse. It is not clear that it is practical."

There have certainly been leaders who wanted a more forceful Germany. But Friedman gives a good description of the worldview of chancellors such as Angela Merkel.

As Friedman notes, Germany is being forced into a more "brutal pursuit of



Germany is being forced into a more "brutal pursuit of self-interest."

—George Friedman

Pressure From Russia

Meanwhile, Germany could also face peril from Russia. Mr. Trump promises a revolution in relations with Moscow. Almost every U.S. president since the 1990s has started out promising closer ties with Russia, only to be disillusioned. But this time, Russia seems interested in playing along, at least for a time. Also, Mr. Trump's unique rejection of America's long-term interests could lead him to tolerate a Russian expansion that all former U.S. presidents opposed.

Now Europe must confront this threat—alone.

For Germany, the situation could get worse. Jochen Bittner, an editor at the German weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*, wrote in the *New York Times* that the election of Mr. Trump leaves Russian

That's not something she is used to.

A Russia with American support would be powerful. "If Trump sticks with his positions, it is the chancellor's view that Europe could be facing a great threat," wrote Spiegel Online (op cit). Elmar Brok, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the EU Parliament, warned that Putin might use the opportunity to grab one of the Baltic states: "Trump's messages about NATO could lead to a situation in which Putin says to himself, 'Let's give it a shot!'"

Paul D. Millar, assistant professor of international security studies at the National Defense University, wrote in *Foreign Policy*, "Putin now has the most favorable international environment since the end of the Cold War to continue Russian expansion" (November 16).

self-interest” by the euro crisis. It has to impose its will on southern Europe, or it will face major political and economic crises. Now, the paradigm shift in America’s worldview adds another great pressure.

For the last 70 years, Europe has lived in a bubble, with the pressures of global politics held off by the United States. With America’s retreat, reality is setting in—a reality where, as one of the first thinkers on international relations, Thucydides, put it, “the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”

Germany will be forced to become strong in a host of ways.

It must become strong in its response to Russia. It must muster the strength to rally Europe around it. It will have to cajole, beg or force France and Italy to accept sanction extensions, or do the same to the Baltic countries to keep them in line with a rapprochement.

The Middle East can no longer be left to America—Europe sees this already. Germany must muscle up its foreign policy, or migrant floods and terrorist attacks will ravage its political system.

Germany must preserve and strengthen its international trade. This may mean wrestling for leverage with America, meeting strength with strength in order to prevent Mr. Trump’s tariffs. Again this will probably mean an aggressive pursuit of its own interest within Europe. It will mean holding at least a core of nations together while America works to pull them apart.

Trumpet columnist Brad Macdonald wrote after the terrorist attacks in Germany last December: “Berliners, the German people and even Europeans in general will increasingly grapple with a choice between who they want to be and who they need to be. They might want to be progressive, open-minded and tolerant, but the message from Berlin and all the other attacks is that they need to be more cynical, more unforgiving and more confrontational. This, you can be sure, is a trend that will affect us all.”

Germans and Europeans face exactly the same choice in foreign policy. The luxury they have enjoyed for decades of being able to forgo the brutal pursuit of self-interest because America took care of that is ending. Now, if they do

not aggressively pursue their own interests in the next few years, they will face calamity. They will not let that happen. We will soon see a new Germany, one that is willing to push other nations around.

Returning to Its History

Europe is peaceful now. History shows this is abnormal. This peace has existed only because America lifted the immediate need for European nations to be strong and stand up for themselves. With that gone, Europe will return to its historical character.

President Trump is pushing an isolationist policy—one that is opposed to the EU, but, outside of trade, not directly anti-German. He probably does not realize the pressure he is placing on Germany. Germans may believe Mr. Trump is an enemy, but there is little evidence that he himself thinks so. He

time that it steps back from the world. This sets the stage perfectly for Germany to reemerge as a major power.

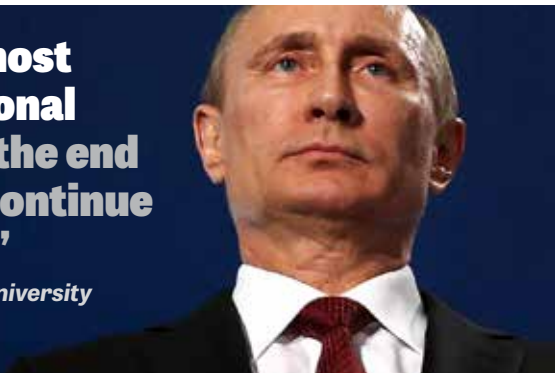
This is exactly what the *Trumpet* has forecast for years.

These forecasts are rapidly becoming reality. In January 1963, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Plain Truth*, the *Trumpet*’s predecessor, wrote, “A united EUROPE—the astounding resurrection of the ‘Holy Roman Empire’—a giant new world power equal to Russia or the United States—perhaps even stronger. It will then hold the *balance of power* between East and West.”

It’s easy to see how President Trump’s foreign policy will lead to the rise of this new power in Europe—a power that, as Mr. Armstrong prophesied, does not merely sit in America’s shadow, but maintains its own power base, grows its own resources, and asserts its own foreign policy.

“Putin now has the most favorable international environment since the end of the Cold War to continue Russian expansion.”

—Paul D. Millar, National Defense University



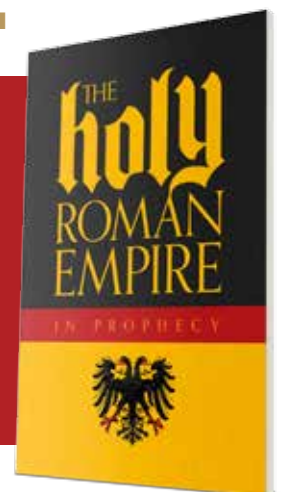
opposes Germany in important ways, but in other areas, he is all for it. More German military spending? *Great!* More German troops in the Middle East? *Wonderful!* An EU army? *About time you defended yourselves!*

America is forcing Germany to return to power politics, at the same

But the rise of this new European power really is “the arrival of a new world order” as Spiegel Online put it. It is a world that few alive today have ever seen—one with an assertive power in Europe, a power that is ready to challenge both America and Russia. ■

History is prophecy

The Holy Roman Empire is not just a relic in history books. Global forces are animating a resurrection of this ancient power in our day. Understand today’s Europe by studying this fascinating history. Request a free copy of ***The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy***.



BIT BY BIT
A rocket carrying part
of the Galileo satellite
navigation system launches
from Kazakhstan in 2005.

Europe's satellite navigation system goes live

Europe's satellite navigation system, Galileo, went live on Dec. 15, 2016. The project is a result of the European Union's effort to become independent of American satellites and is a step toward it joining the United States and Russia as the only powers to field their own satellite navigation systems.

The milestone comes as the EU makes the military uses of its space program more public.

Satellite navigation is far beyond a simple convenience for travelers. Automated mining, agricultural and other vehicles

rely on these systems, and from construction to archaeology and beyond, more uses for the technology are being found.

But the most crucial use for satellite navigation is within modern militaries. The technology is used to track friendly and enemy forces and to guide smart munitions to their targets. This is why just about every major power is working on its own system.

Independence from America has been at the heart of Europe's efforts from the start. In 2001, French President Jacques Chirac said that without Galileo,

France calls for more German militarism

Germany must become more powerful militarily, said a top presidential candidate in France. Center-right politician François Fillon said the Christmas market attack in Berlin and the election of Donald Trump show that Germany can no longer play the role of a "pacifist."

Fillon said he wants to "remobilize the European Union around strategic priorities: our collective

security, defense, innovation and the retightening of the eurozone." Though he has disagreements with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Fillon agrees Germany and France must form the core of a tighter EU in which Germany assumes more responsibility.

Such talk has become a common French request. France is trying to control government spending while sustaining major overseas deployments against Islamic terrorism. One way to square that circle is to get Germany's help with the fighting.

Former German Foreign

EU nations would become "vassals" to America. In 2002, a European Commission report noted that "Galileo will underpin the common European defense policy that the member states have decided to establish." It said Europe wanted to put "an end to a situation of dependence."

"If the EU finds it necessary to undertake a security mission that the U.S. does not consider to be in its interest, it will be impotent unless it has the satellite navigation technology that is now indispensable," the report said. "Although designed primarily for civilian applications, Galileo will also give the EU a military capability."

The system now has 18 satellites. It needs 24 to become fully operational. It will launch eight more in 2017 and 2018, and is scheduled to field a total of 30, including six backups.

The EU has emphasized that its system is a civilian project, unlike the Russian and American systems. But for all practical purposes, they are the same. Galileo is configured so access can be restricted to European military personnel and emergency services only.

On October 26, the EU released its first-ever space-policy document, which highlights the military

importance of its efforts, noting, "Space is also of strategic importance for Europe. It reinforces Europe's role as a stronger global player and is an asset for its security and defense." The document states that EU space programs will consider "additional services" to help meet "emerging needs" in Europe's "security and defense."

Another major project of Europe's space program is Copernicus. It was originally touted as a tool to support "environmental security." But the EU has tweaked the wording so its purpose now is to support "the environment and security."

The European Parliament's stated military purposes for the system include "border monitoring outside the EU" and "EU peacekeeping operations"—in other words, European military operations. "It's already abundantly clear that the system will also be used for military operations and surveillance purposes," said former EU chief scientific adviser Anne Glover.

The new policy document promised to "assess further the potential" of Galileo and Copernicus to "meet EU autonomy and security needs."

Watch for Europe to continue breaking free of its military dependence on America. ■

Minister Joschka Fischer made a similar call in an article published on January 5. Like Fillon, Fischer believes that "it will fall to its two largest and economically strongest countries, France and Germany, to bolster Europe's defense." He notes how a military cooperation once considered impossible is now forging ahead. Fischer concluded: "The old EU developed into an economic power because it was protected beneath the U.S. security umbrella. But without this guarantee, it can address



PENDING DEPLOYMENT
German soldiers await
their marching orders.

its current geopolitical realities only by developing its own capacity to project political and military power. Six decades after the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community, history and current developments are pushing France and Germany to shape Europe's future once again." ■

OVERFLOW
Migrants cross the border from Hungary into Austria.



Austrian cardinal: 'We can't accommodate all refugees'

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna, admitted on Austrian television that he was rethinking his stance on the migrant crisis. During a discussion with Protestant Bishop Michael Bünker, the archbishop said an "unbelievable number" of migrants are causing a

"feeling of overcrowding" in Austrian society. He pointed to the rise of the anti-immigrant Austrian Freedom Party as a sign that the "country is worried" and said he is no longer convinced that Austria should accept all refugees.

The cardinal stated that Europe needs to develop a

common strategy to support nations in Africa and the Middle East so migrants can live peaceably in their own land. In the December 23 discussion, Schönborn said, "Sure, in the beginning, I also said, with [German Chancellor] Angela Merkel: 'We can do it!' And many important experts in Austria said, 'We can do it!'... We then realized that there is another dimension, and we need common European plans; we need more help on the ground. In the meantime, I believe this is clear: We cannot accommodate all refugees. We must first see that they can find and live in their homeland again" (*Trumpet* translation).

Bünker agreed with Schönborn and added that terrorism was both a cause and consequence of the migrant crisis.

While Schönborn and Bünker were vague about what steps Europeans should take to enable migrants to "live in their

homeland again," they agreed that the long-term solution to the migrant crisis was a united EU response to the turmoil in Africa and the Middle East.

Last September, Schönborn spoke on the 333rd anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, when a Habsburg emperor defended the city from an invasion of Ottoman Turks. He used the occasion to warn about "a third attempt at an Islamic conquest of Europe" if Europeans don't return to their "Christian heritage."

Schönborn and Bünker highlighted the need for Europe to deal with the problem of radical Islamic terrorism before it can solve the migrant crisis in a way that will allow Germany to maintain a working relationship with pro-European Arab and Turkish regimes across the Middle East. While this might sound positive, the Bible makes plain that this alliance will ultimately wreak staggering devastation. ■

Make the Cuban regime normal again?

On January 12, as one of his final acts as United States president, Barack Obama ended a decades-old policy that granted special status to illegal immigrants from Cuba seeking residence in the U.S.

Under that policy, enacted in 1995, Cubans caught at sea while attempting to enter the U.S. were sent back to Cuba or other countries. Those not caught in transit were eligible for residency in the U.S. the moment they set foot on American soil. This "wet-foot/dry-foot" policy treated such Cubans less as illegal immigrants and more as refugees fleeing the brutal regime of the Castros.

"Cuban nationals who attempt to enter the United States illegally and do not qualify for humanitarian relief will be subject to removal, consistent

with U.S. law and enforcement priorities," President Obama said in a statement. "By taking this step, we are treating Cuban migrants the same way we treat migrants from other countries."

On Dec. 17, 2014, when President Obama announced the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba, he ended what he called "an outdated approach that, for decades, has failed to advance our interests." Two years later and one week before the end of his presidency, Mr. Obama ended the "wet-foot/dry-foot" immigration policy, saying that it had been "put in place more than 20 years ago and was designed for a different era."

The policy change was "long sought by the Cuban government," the *New York Times* said. "The move places a finishing touch on Mr. Obama's efforts as president to end a half-century of hostility between the United States and Cuba and to establish normalized relations and diplo-

Fidel Castro's government, by welcoming tens of thousands of Cubans fleeing repression."

"[T]he White House caved to what Castro wants," said Florida's Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, whose family was forced to flee the Castro regime in 1960. "Castro uses refugees as pawns to get more concessions from Washington" (*Washington Post*, January 13).

Prof. Carlos Eire said, "Obama has achieved two ends here. First, he has completed the utter betrayal of the Cuban



SEEKING REFUGE
Cuban migrants in Colombia demand entrance into the U.S.

people—a legacy move set in motion two years ago. Second, he has burdened [Donald] Trump with a no-win situation with the potential to seriously tarnish or weaken his presidency right from the start." ■

matic ties with a government American presidents have long sought to isolate and punish" (January 12). The *Times* noted that the "wet-foot/dry-foot" policy was "one way in which the United States tried to weaken



Chinese president's power grab 'just like the Putin model'

Chinese President Xi Jinping is taking more and more power for himself and blocking the promotion of a potential successor, according to a *Wall Street Journal* analysis. Jeremy Page and Lingling Wei wrote, "Mr. Xi has taken personal charge of the economy, the armed forces and most other levers of power,

overturning a collective-leadership system introduced to protect against one-man rule after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976" (Dec. 26, 2016).

Xi's consolidation of power has been underway for several years. Now he apparently is also attempting to block the promotion of a potential successor. Page and Lingling said this is a worrying

indication that Xi will try to remain China's leader even after his second term expires.

"Now, as he nears the end of his first five-year term, many party insiders say Mr. Xi is trying to block promotion of a potential successor next year, suggesting he wants to remain in office after his second term expires in 2022, when he would be 69 years old" (ibid).

One party official said it is apparent that Xi is seeking a leadership structure "just like the Putin model," a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has changed the nation's constitution in order to prolong his rule.

"Concern is rising among China's elite that the nation is shifting toward a rigid form of autocracy," Page and Lingling wrote, quoting a retired senior official as saying, "Mao built the nation. Deng Xiaoping made it rich. We're now in the Xi era, which will make it strong." ■

India overtakes UK economy

India has economically surpassed its former colonizer several years earlier than experts projected it would, as India has grown rapidly over the last quarter century and the United Kingdom has suffered economic troubles. *Forbes* wrote on Dec. 16, 2016, that India's gross domestic product was expected to surpass the UK in 2020, but the pound's value dropped nearly 20 percent in the last year. For 2016, the UK's GDP was \$2.29 trillion, and India's was \$2.3 trillion. "Furthermore, this gap is expected to widen as India grows at 6 to 8 percent per annum compared to UK's growth of 1 to 2 percent per annum until 2020, and likely beyond," *Forbes* reported. This is significant largely because it underscores the shifting power dynamics between Asia and Western powers. ■

Japan increases its military spending again

Seventy-five years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Japan—a nation that constitutionally was to "forever renounce war as a sovereign right"—now boasts a military that might be even stronger than it was in World War II. And it is set to grow bigger still.

Japan's defense budget for 2017 is expected to hit a record high of \$44.6 billion. This will mark the fifth year in a row that Japan's defense spending has increased. The budget includes plans to develop land-to-sea missiles; upgrade Japanese missile destroyers with American-developed Aegis advanced radar systems; and construct a new type of submarine.



The increase is part of a five-year plan by the Japanese government to increase military spending by 0.8 percent each year until 2018. Japan is currently in the top-10 list of the most powerful militaries in the world. While its pacifist constitution imposed after World War II forbids Japan to wage offensive war, it has been free to build up a self-defense

force. Japan has established one of the most sophisticated militaries in the world, thanks to America bearing the primary burden of defending the nation. John T. Kuehn, a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, told CNN, "Pilot for pilot, ship for ship, Japan can stand toe to toe with anybody" (Dec. 7, 2016). ■

North Korea missile could reach U.S.?

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un brought in 2017 by proclaiming that his nation has "reached the final stage in preparations to test launch" an intercontinental ballistic missile. North Korea has never tested a missile that could potentially reach the West Coast of the United States. Such a test would violate international law and, if successful, pose a nuclear threat to America.

Pyeongyang has repeatedly defied Washington and the global community in developing nuclear and missile capacity. It has conducted test after test in brash defiance of international law and UN resolutions. Preventing a future test would be difficult without a preemptive military strike or a missile interception early in the test. ■

Police under attack

MOURNING
Baton Rouge police
mourn July 22, 2016,
at the funeral of a
gunned-down officer.

The number of police officers killed in ambushes in the United States reached a two-decade high in 2016, according to a year-end report by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Of the 64 police officers shot to death in the line of duty in 2016, 21 were killed in ambushes, including five in Dallas, Texas, and three in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is the highest total since 1995, and represents a 163 percent increase over 2015, when eight officers were ambushed and killed.

After the July 7, Baton Rouge attack, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund president Craig Floyd stated that anti-police rhetoric was

fueling violence against officers. Floyd told *Newsweek*, "If we're going to spew anti-cop rhetoric, anti-government rhetoric, then we have to realize there could be consequences of the type we saw in Dallas" (July 12, 2016).

Many politicians and media commentators have demonstrably distorted facts and made false accusations against American police in general. They claim that America's local law enforcement needs to be chastised for racism and brought under federal control. This sharp increase in ambush attacks against police officers is a tragic effect of this agenda.

In the August 2015 *Trumpet*, almost a year before the Dallas ambush, editor in chief Gerald

Flurry warned about this dangerous trend: "America's law enforcement is under attack. On one side people in communities are developing a mistrustful, hostile, antagonistic attitude, yelling at police, assaulting and even killing officers in some cases. Police are pulling back from doing their jobs for fear of attack, or losing their jobs or going to prison for doing anything that could be perceived as racist. On the other, the federal government is undermining local law enforcement and stripping it of power in an effort to centralize policing power on the federal level. You need to recognize just how dangerous these trends really are." ■

One in six Americans on psychiatric drugs

About 1 in 6 American adults were taking at least one psychiatric drug in 2013, a study published by *JAMA Internal Medicine* on Dec. 12, 2016, showed.

Researchers found that 12 percent of adults were using antidepressants; 8 percent were using anti-anxiety medication, sedatives and hypnotics; and almost 2 percent were using antipsychotic drugs. According to the study, those likeliest to

report taking a psychiatric drug were women, seniors above age 59, and Caucasians.

"Antipsychotics have become huge moneymakers for the drug industry," *Consumer Reports* wrote in December 2013. "In 2003, annual U.S. sales of the drugs were estimated at \$2.8 billion; by 2011, that number had risen to \$18.2 billion. That huge growth was driven in part by one company—Janssen Pharmaceuticals—and its aggressive promotion of off-label uses in children and elderly patients, relying on marketing tactics

that according to the federal government, crossed legal and ethical lines."

The U.S. has become the world's most medicated nation by far. Though Americans account for only 5 percent of global population, they consume 75 percent of the world's prescription drugs. This is not because they are unhealthier than other people, but because they hold a cultural belief that drugs will help them escape the effects of their problems without having to address root causes. Instead of addressing the

Facebook fights 'fake news'

Facebook announced on Dec. 15, 2016, that it is taking new measures to curb the spread of what it calls "fake news" on its influential social network. The organization will partner with fact-checkers to sort honest news reports from made-up stories that play to people's preconceived notions. Facebook said it is working with five fact-checking and news organizations: ABC News, the Associated Press, FactCheck.org, Politifact and Snopes. Stories that flunk the fact check will be flagged as "disputed," making them less visible on the platform's news feed. Critics worry that the company,



besides censoring stories that are objectively false, will censor stories that conflict with the political views of its leaders and its partners. Facebook is the largest social media company in the world, with more than a billion active monthly users. ■



underpinning causes of depression, anxiety and other mental health problems, doctors simply write a prescription for the latest, most heavily promoted psychiatric drug. ■

Merkel warned European leaders of this fact. “I am convinced that Europe and the EU must learn to take more responsibility in the world in the future,” she said. “Let’s not fool ourselves: From the viewpoint of some of our traditional partners, and I’m thinking of transatlantic ties, there is no guarantee of perpetuity for close cooperation with us Europeans.”

The German leader insisted that only a united Europe could solve crises like Russian aggression in Ukraine.

For years, one of the main arguments levied against the concept of a pan-European military is that such a fighting force would fatally undermine NATO by creating a competing command structure. Now that President Trump has openly proclaimed NATO to be obsolete, however, the architects of such an EU army have more impetus to finish their project. In an ironic twist of geopolitics, both Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are goading Europe into becoming an independent military superpower capable of standing up to both Russia and America!

Resurrected Holy Roman Empire

Europe has been comparatively peaceful over the past seven decades, but it is no stranger to military might, empire and war. Russia has its formula for greatness, but so does Europe.

Renowned educator and unofficial ambassador for world peace Herbert W. Armstrong forecast for decades that Europe would produce a military

representing the powerful Gentile empires that would rule the world from the time of Daniel until the day Jesus Christ returns. The image’s head of gold represented King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire, the chest of silver symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire, and the belly of bronze represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire.

The statue’s two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. The legs of the statue were divided, just as the Roman Empire would be divided between its western capital in Rome and its eastern capital in Constantinople.

The original Roman Empire fell in A.D. 476, yet other prophecies in Daniel 7, Revelation 13 and 17 reveal that the Roman Empire was to be resurrected 10 times. That empire has, in fact, been resurrected nine times and has already reawakened for the 10th time. And just as each foot of the Daniel 2 image has five toes, so the final resurrection of the Roman Empire is forecasted to be composed of five nations from the general area of the western Roman Empire and five nations from the general area of the eastern Roman Empire.

In the April 1980 issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine, Mr. Armstrong further predicted that fear of Russia and bitterness toward the United States would be among the catalysts driving European unification.

“You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may unite and provide a united Euro-

pean military force so they can defend themselves!” he wrote. “And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And who will they blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency, and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.A.? They will blame the United States! And when they are strong

enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!”

This process has probably taken longer than many European leaders expected, but today we see Eastern Europeans desperately pleading with Germany to step up and lead a European military force capable of defending them from the aggressive expansionism of Vladimir Putin and the complacent indifference of Donald Trump. This 10-nation military superpower will be the force that ignites World War III!

Yet the prophecy of Daniel 2 does not conclude with the two legs of iron. It concludes with the toes, the legs and the entire, great monument of human empires being smashed to dust by a stone from heaven. This stone then grows into a mountain that fills the whole Earth (verses 34-35). The Prophet Daniel explains the meaning of this mysterious symbol with this inspiring verse: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but *it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms*, and **IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER**” (verse 44).

The end of the Daniel 2 prophecy is about God smashing all repressive forms of human government and establishing a kingdom that ushers in a reign of unprecedented peace and prosperity.

Sadly, Estonia, Ukraine, Europe, America, Russia, Asia and the rest of humanity are going to have to experience a lot of suffering in the time immediately ahead because we insist on rejecting God and relying instead on arms, promises, alliances and nuclear weapons. We don’t realize it, but we are proving the point we are trying to disprove: Human beings simply are not capable of justly ruling themselves! The good news—for Bärbel Salumäe and the rest of mankind—is that we are now approaching a time when we can almost count the days until Christ returns to defend Eastern Europeans and all of humanity from our own misguided and fatal attempts at governing each other and ourselves. ■



“You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may unite and provide a united European military force so they can defend themselves!” —Herbert W. Armstrong

superstate that would include nations from its west and east. Even in the midst of the Cold War, when Eastern Europe was essentially part of Russia, trapped behind the Iron Curtain, Mr. Armstrong insisted that at least some of these nations would break free and join this European superstate.

This wasn’t just a good guess; it was based on Bible prophecy. Daniel 2 records a vision of a giant statue

pean military force so they can defend themselves!” he wrote. “And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And who will they blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency, and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.A.? They will blame the United States! And when they are strong

What Do You Stand For?

Lead an honorable life, so you can die an honorable death. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

PEOPLE NATURALLY WANT TO LIVE. SOME DO JUST ABOUT anything to remain *alive*—ignore a wounded victim to avoid provoking a violent criminal; betray a friend to comply with a dictator’s unjust demands; surrender to a tyrant rather than wage war.

But in the end, we all die. You need to ask yourself: *What cause is worth dying for?*



JOEL HILLIKER

What are your foundational values? Is your sense of right and wrong so wholehearted and elemental that you would stake your life on it? To live a truly honorable life, you need to prove and then be governed by unshakable beliefs that you refuse to compromise, no matter the cost.

Three young Jews had proven for themselves what was true and right.

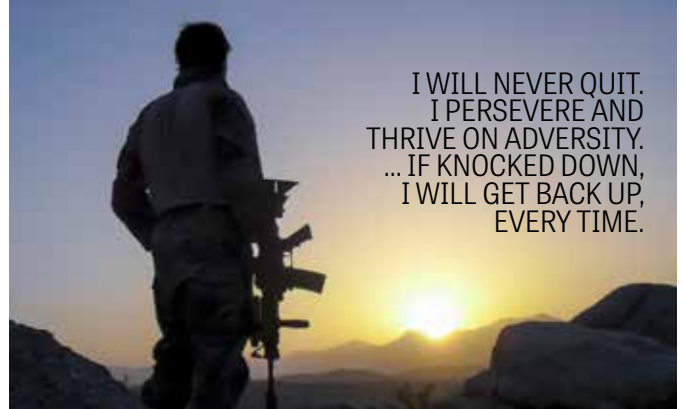
They had resolved to remain faithful to God whatever the consequences. As they faced the most powerful, fearsome man on Earth, who was about to execute them for refusing to worship an idol, they spoke with flinty conviction: “O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Daniel 3:16-18). The outraged king then pitched Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego alive into a blazing inferno. Only then, after proving themselves unbreakable, did God deliver them.

If staying true to your beliefs gets you killed, that is an *honorable death*. Many of the prophets did so. Stephen did (Acts 7:58). John the Baptist did (Mark 6:27). Almost all of the apostles did. These individuals all await a resurrection to glory. Jesus Christ’s conviction motivated Him to sweat blood in order to avoid sin (Luke 22:44; Hebrews 12:3-4)—and to sacrifice His life so you could live.

It is foolish to assume you won’t have to die for a cause. The world is growing more dangerous. Savagery is spreading globally, even unexpectedly besieging seemingly peaceful areas. The time remaining in this age of man is growing short.

You need to lock down your core beliefs and prove them beyond doubt, or you will soon find yourself in circumstances where they are tested past their breaking point. Winston Churchill said, “Virtuous motives, trammled by inertia and timidity, are no match for armed and resolute wickedness.”

Consider the example of the United States Navy SEALs,



whose job is to stare down death. If they are not absolutely convicted of the cause, they will not perform their duty when called upon. They cement that conviction in a specific, practical way: by memorizing the U.S. Navy SEAL Ethos.

This says, in part, “My loyalty to country and team is beyond reproach. I humbly serve as a guardian to my fellow Americans, always ready to defend those who are unable to defend themselves. ... I voluntarily accept the inherent hazards of my profession, placing the welfare and security of others before my own. I serve with honor on and off the battlefield. ... I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. ... If knocked down, I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight.”

This shows the power of *articulating* and *codifying* such beliefs. These words, burned into a SEAL’s mind, drive him onward in the most grueling conditions. He commits to them, and proves his commitment through the daily grind of drills, training, labor, sweat and pain. Then, when crisis arises, this guiding ethos is so ingrained into his fiber that he is able to accomplish acts of uncommon valor and grit.

You need this kind of clarity of purpose, and commitment to that purpose. It requires giving serious thought to life’s larger questions.

Take real time to pray and to think earnestly about this. Write down your thoughts on the true *guiding principles* by which you can make decisions, establish priorities, evaluate your actions, measure success and failure, and assess your life. Think about what you would consider an *honor* to die defending. This is not an exercise in morbidity, but in clarity.

Don’t be a person who will die dishonorably—or save yourself dishonorably—as your lack of principle is exposed. And don’t be a person who will die quietly, regretting the wasted and unprincipled life left behind. Dig deep until you strike the golden virtues worth devoting your life and death to. Then throw yourself into serving those virtues and fulfilling your life’s purpose, long before it ends.

Then you will be able to stand on the threshold of an honorable death, look back over your shoulder at an honorable life, and say with Paul in 2 Timothy 4:6-8: “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

This made me think about the climate in America post 9/11 (“Was This Germany’s 9/11?”, theTrumpet.com/go/14438). I was only in the 7th grade when the terrorist attack occurred, but I remember feeling a surge of patriotism as I saw the American flags go up on people’s houses or appear on their cars. I can still remember the emotion from listening to President Bush address the nation and announce that we were going to battle against the enemy. People wanted blood for the lives that were lost. Given Germany’s nationalistic past it doesn’t take much to imagine what sort of horror they will rain down on Islam once they have finally been jolted out of complacency.

Whitney D. Kelsey OKLAHOMA

Questioning America’s place

I tend to think that America under Mr. Trump will lose its influence and respect, becoming an undependable nation that will give rise to a European power (“Great Again,” theTrumpet.com/go/14437). Mr. Trump is showing himself to be very ignorant in failing to embrace America’s own intelligence agencies. Perhaps he would rather believe the KGB. Since Mr. Trump’s victory, many countries are questioning America’s place in the world. Without its greatness, America is just like Russia or China, just another military power with nuclear weapons.

Anonymous

Very insightful article that has truth throughout. I also believe this past election and the incoming administration has laid and will lay bare much corruption that has gone on in this nation.

Quinton Burke

Vladimir Putin helping Iran make atomic weapons could possibly be why the king of the south can push at the king of the north. When Mr. Putin tries to stop the U.S.A. from putting a missile defense system in Central Europe, claiming it will cause “a global crisis,” we should know he is not to be trusted. Let us pray that the new president soon grasps what the real Putin is like.

T. Lawrence

Democracy dies with America

Your February issue says democracy is dying (“Democracy Is Dying,” theTrumpet.com/go/14439). I thought our forefathers established this country as a constitutional

republic so we would not have a democracy. Please explain.

Dan Briner

“Democracy” is one of those vague words that means different things to different people. You are correct that the framers of the United States Constitution feared “democracy” in its pure form, wherein 51 percent of the people can take away the rights of the other 49 percent simply by voting to do so. Instead, the U.S. Constitution established a “democratic republic,” wherein three branches of government check-and-balance each other in an attempt to prevent majority tyranny.

For the past century, however, people have used the word “democracy” as an umbrella term to simultaneously describe America’s democratic republic and the parliamentary democracies of Europe.

The point in our article was that nations the world over are giving up on “government of the people, by the people, for the people” in favor of authoritarian autocracies ruled by strongmen. As the article stated, “All the major power blocs prophesied in the Bible are ruled by strong leaders. Russia will be led by a ‘prince of Rosh,’ Vladimir Putin. Europe will be led by



a ‘king of fierce countenance,’ who rules as part of an old-fashioned Holy Roman Empire church-state combine. Even America’s government is in dire trouble, and possibly deteriorating into the rule of a strongman.”

If you want more information on the erosion of governmental checks-and-balances within America, read “Rise of the Superpresident” from our May-June 2016 issue (theTrumpet.com/go/13711).

Andrew Miller

Crazy messages

The main problem is the crazy messages that people are bombarded with through TV, newspapers and the Internet (“A Building Storm of Debt”, thetrumpet.com/go/14443). They tell everyone they can have it all right now. Don’t bother saving up for anything. Just borrow the money and get what you want instantly. Pay back in 5, 10, 15 or 25 years. Don’t worry about the future. And I am afraid 99 percent of people have no willpower or discipline to resist spending every penny on rubbish they don’t even need. Until people are able to save more of their spare cash and stop spending credit, the economies of the West are due for a huge day of reckoning that will wipe us all out.

John

First time picking up a Trumpet? Don’t let it be the last!

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President Obama's Hidden Legacy

Did he 'fundamentally transform America'?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

FORMER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA RAN HIS campaign on “change” and said he would “fundamentally transform America.” For eight years he added action to his words, and America has indeed been transformed, fundamentally.

President Donald Trump's campaign inspired support by opposing Mr. Obama's transformations. Candidate Trump said undoing what Obama had done would be *easy*: He could nullify his executive actions by issuing executive actions of his own. When Mr. Trump got to work in January, he began signing them right away.

But is reversing eight years of Obama as simple as signing executive actions with the signature “Donald J. Trump”? Is it as simple as a Republican-controlled Congress repealing laws passed by the previous Democrat-controlled Congresses?

In reality, President Obama made eight years of systemic changes: not only legal and regulatory, but also *cultural, moral and psychological*. Some of this transformation of America cannot be reversed.

Let's start with young Americans. The Obama Justice Department and Education Department enforced policies, regulations and laws that prevent educators from disciplining insubordinate students. They argued that since statistics show that black teenagers are disciplined at a higher rate than white students, American teachers and administrators are racist. Obama's bureaucracy coerced and even prosecuted schools into leaving two high school generations unrestrained and unpunished. The result is millions of young people who have been educated to throw off rules and laws.

President Obama also attacked America's prison system, accusing it of systemic racism. He blamed the makeup of jail populations not on law breaking, but on the law itself, particularly the judges and law enforcement officers. He accused police of racism so vile that officers often murder a man simply because he is black.

By the end of Mr. Obama's second term, it had become much more common to see people marching in the streets, trashing public places, beating people on the sidewalks, and rioting in cities like Ferguson and Baltimore.

Fringe arguments received the vocal support of the highest office in the country. Eight years on, many more Americans

now mistrust, disrespect and even attack law enforcement officers. Many hate the law more than they hate the crime.

President Obama, occupying an office created to enforce the law, personally undermined the rule of law, in some cases openly refusing to enforce laws that his office is specifically required to enforce. His enforcement of immigration was lawless at best, completely anti-law at worst.

Mr. Obama gave a presidential endorsement to many more issues that fundamentally weakened America's culture, economy and security. He flung the doors wide open on entitlement culture and spent hundreds of billions giving away phones, health care, money and more. He hooked tens of millions more people on welfare benefits. He passed a gargantuan health-care law, reportedly the largest tax in history, that was a massive federal overreach into Americans' personal lives. He became the biggest spender in world history, accumulating twice as much debt as his predecessor and nearly doubling the national debt to almost \$20 trillion. Can that be paid back—with interest—with a few signatures?

President Obama also invited inside the White House Black Lives Matter, an organization whose website reveals that it has as much or more to do with anti-constitutional socialism

as with race-baiting. He bathed the outside of the White House in the colors of the homosexual/bisexual/transsexual/queer/intersexual/etc. flag, celebrating the newfound right of homosexuals to “marry.” President Trump has said he is not interested in challenging this law, which by itself fundamentally transforms America.

President Obama successfully used the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service as political weapons. He presided over the surveillance of journalists, the mass surveillance of average Americans, and the targeted killing of American citizens involved in terrorism. His Justice Department provided a framework arguing that the federal government sometimes has the legal right to kill Americans without trial, overseas and at home.

The most fundamental transformation President Obama accomplished can be summarized in one word: lawlessness. The most important American office for enforcing *laws* was occupied by a man who instead enforced *his personal will*. Unshackling the presidency from its constitutional limitations is one of the most dangerous transformations of all, no matter who occupies the Oval Office. The worst legacy of the Obama administration is the erosion of the rule of law.

In 2017, America is a different nation from what it was on Jan. 20, 2009. To sign away some of Mr. Obama's policies and laws will be easy, but to confront America's changed mentality will not. To instead leave it as it is will be easy; to transform it back to the way it was, much less to make it great, will *not*. That's because the Obama years appealed to an ugly, destructive and powerful element: our lawless human nature. The only way to truly roll back the Obama years is to change our own hearts and attitudes toward law.



► **ANTIOCHUS** FROM PAGE 14

Antiochus to garrison troops in Jerusalem in case the Jews thought to rebel.

With the heart of Jerusalem desecrated and construction underway on the citadel, Antiochus continued back to Antioch. There he made his policy official by issuing a formal decree to the entire realm. His decree stated that “the whole kingdom should be one people and that each nation must give up his customs.”

To enforce his decree, he sent soldiers to Jerusalem and throughout the Judean countryside. The soldiers prevented the Jews from offering burnt offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary at Jerusalem. They forced them to keep strange customs, to build altars and shrines to idols, to sacrifice and eat unclean meats, to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to break the Sabbath. Those who would circumcise their sons were burned to death. Many Jews adopted the pagan religion.

Antiochus was not just trying to control a subject population. He sought to destroy every vestige of the truth and laws of God.

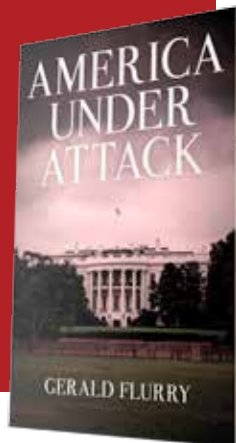
Antiochus’s incursion into Judea was extremely successful. All of Judea turned over to Hellenism at the expense of the law of God—all, except for a family in western Judea known as the Hasmonean family (or the Maccabees). This family would later lead a rebellion against Antiochus and the Seleucid Kingdom, known as the Maccabean revolt.

Antiochus sent a number of generals into Judea over the next few years, but none of them was able to crush the rebellion. Antiochus Epiphanes was with the main Seleucid army in the east trying to crush the rising Parthian rebellion. It was there that he heard of the defeat of one of his generals in Judea. Immediately he set out for Judea himself to crush the rebellion. According to Polybius, a historian of the time, while Antiochus was en route to destroy the Jews, he was struck down and troubled with a “perpetual delirium” of some sort, “imagining that specters [terrifying spirits] stood continually before him, reproaching him with his crimes.” This torment drove him literally insane. Soon after, in 164 B.C., Antiochus died.

For almost 2,200 years Antiochus’s name has been synonymous with the enemies of the Jews who would take away their freedom, their lives and their truth. ■

An end-time Antiochus

To learn more about the parallels between Antiochus and America’s former president, request a free copy of Gerald Flurry’s booklet **America Under Attack**.



THE KEY OF DAVID



Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at keyof david.com.

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Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

El Centro KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

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

Los Angeles KPXM 6:00, Fri;

Monterey KION 9:30, Sun

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West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

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Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

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

8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho’Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Mau’i/Lanai’i/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

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

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

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

Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

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Chicago WCUI 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCUI 9:30,

Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

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Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri

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Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
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Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
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Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings
 KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
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North Carolina, Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun
Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
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Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
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Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun
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South Dakota, Rapid City
 KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
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Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIIH-DT 8:30, Sun
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Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
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Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun

La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
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 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Atlantic Provinces
 CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; CKPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun; CJCH-DT 11, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun; CJCB-TV 11, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun; CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun; WUHF 8:30, Sun

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

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




AUSTRALASIA
Australia
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV47:30 PHT, Sun

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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Road, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **U.S. HOW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID:** The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions are welcomed, however, and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers. © 2017 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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CBS United Kingdom

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CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 74	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135



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