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ever reach
the stars?

ARMED, DANGEROUS
Europe has a lot more
nukes than you think

The reason
for world
troubles

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Don't have kids

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

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UNITED STATES
OF
AMERICA

1776-2014

**What
Happens Next?**

Life in the post-American world

THE DANGER ZONE

A member of the German Air Force based in Alamogordo, New Mexico, prepares a Tornado aircraft for takeoff.



How naive is America to entrust this immense firepower to nations that so recently—and throughout history—have proved to be **enemies** of the free world.

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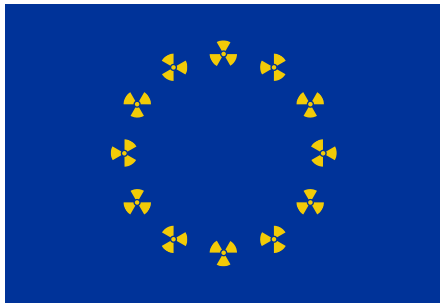
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Europe's Nuclear Secret

A nightmare made in the USA

FROM 1999 THROUGH 2010, *TIME* MAGAZINE WROTE A number of articles about “Europe’s dirty secret.” What is that secret? The fact that *America stores hundreds of nuclear weapons there.*

Most people are completely unaware of this situation. Even those who are scrutinizing it don’t fully understand the dangers posed by these weapons.

When we talk about European nations with nuclear weapons, we usually think of Britain and France. But there are *five other nations* with nuclear bombs, bombs that technically belong to America.

In Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Turkey, the United States has about *150 to 200 thermo-nuclear bombs.* It originally deployed those bombs and more to NATO nations in Europe during the Cold War from 1947 to 1991. At the peak of this program, America had over 7,300 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. Since the Berlin Wall came down, those numbers have steadily fallen. But many of these weapons remain there.



FROM THE EDITOR
GERALD FLURRY

Are those bombs still necessary? Is it still worth the risk to leave nuclear weapons in nations that were America’s

enemies as recently as World War II?

Does anyone remember the destruction these nations caused, or the devastation nuclear weapons have wreaked?

Think about this statement from a 2005 report by Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists: “[One] interesting feature is that nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from two German bases, two Turkish bases, and one Italian base is the mid-1990s were not returned to the United States but transferred to the main U.S. base in those countries. . . . In all of these cases, the weapons continue to be earmarked for ‘host nation use’ and delivery by the national air forces.” The exact number of tactical nuclear weapons deployed, stored and earmarked for host nation use is classified. But when you add these that were supposed to be “withdrawn” yet still exist in host nations to the numbers *reported* as still actively deployed, then the nightmare only gets worse.

Nuclear weapons are a horrific menace. Just one can vaporize a city full of people. Two hundred of them are enough to destroy the *whole world!* Yet America has given those bombs to these five nations—two of which were our bitter enemies just 70 years ago!

The crucial question is, *does the United States really have control over those bombs?*

How Secure Are These Weapons?

Time magazine said these weapons *technically* belong to Washington, but do they in reality? They remain under U.S. control unless permission is given to hand them over to the host nation in times of war. However, following a series of blunders over the years, the security of these nukes has been called into question.

“According to a Blue Ribbon Review set up by the U.S. Air Force in 2008, most U.S. nuclear weapons storage sites in Europe do not meet U.S. Defense Department security standards,” wrote Tom Sauer and Bob van der Zwaan in a May 2011 report for the Harvard Kennedy School, called “U.S. Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe After NATO’s Lisbon Summit: Why Their Withdrawal Is Desirable and Feasible.”

The Kleine Brogel Air Base in Belgium is one of the bases that hosts America’s tactical nuclear weapons. In 2001, this base was the target of an al Qaeda extremist named Nizar Trabelsi. In 2010, the same base was penetrated by peace activists. The activists climbed the perimeter fence and wandered around the base for more than an hour, videotaping their escapade. When they were finally caught, base security didn’t even confiscate the videotape!

It is appalling that the U.S. is so careless with something so deadly dangerous! This is the kind of mistake that will have terrible real-world consequences.

Do you think that the European nations that host these weapons are as indifferent about them as America is?

In a single lifetime, we have gone from denying Germany the right to ever militarize again—to letting it build nuclear warheads.

America *designed* those hundreds of bombs to mount to planes in their host country. In a Dec. 2, 2009, article titled “What to Do About Europe’s Secret Nukes?” *Time* wrote, “Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Dutch, Belgian, Italian and German pilots remain *ready to engage in nuclear war*” (emphasis mine throughout). That’s right, Germany and Italy—America’s bitter enemies in World War II—are ready to wage nuclear war with bombs that belong to the United States!

The NATO alliance was built during the Cold War primarily as a protection against the Soviet Union. NATO’s website says this about the alliance’s nuclear capacity: “Nuclear forces

See **EUROPE’S NUCLEAR SECRET** page 16 ➤



What Happens After a Superpower Dies?

The world is about to find out. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN a superpower dies? What happens when the geopolitical order that has stabilized the world for several decades crumbles?

We are all about to learn firsthand.

For most of the past century, the United States of America has been the world's single greatest guarantor of global stability. Without

American might in World Wars I and II, Britain, France and the rest of Europe would have been trampled under the boot of a German-led military takeover. After the Second World War, America stimulated the fastest period of growth in Europe's history, providing massive aid that propelled the ravaged continent toward cooperation and prosperity. America rebuilt and stabilized war-torn Asia, significantly helping Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, China, India, Taiwan and other neighboring

nations recover. Simultaneously, America checked the spread of communism in Eastern Europe and throughout Asia, countering Soviet aggression and eventually bringing down another totalitarian empire with globalist ambitions.

It's called *Pax Americana*: the period of relative world peace that dominant American power has produced. It prevailed in the Western Hemisphere for most of the 20th century. It reigned throughout the Western world since World War II in what is also



soldiers. The era of the United States is over.

You may realize that America just isn't what it used to be. But you probably do not grasp half the magnitude of this historical turning point.

America's critics and enemies are heartened. They are thrilled to watch America fade—and are working hard to erase its influence completely.

Remarkably, even *most Americans* are relieved that the U.S. is relinquishing its powerful role.

The big question now is, *what happens next?* The answer is about to force its way into the consciousness of every American—and people the world over.

Defining Moment

The decline of American power has been years, even decades, in the making. But this past November saw a sequence of events that effectively marked its end.

The stage was set with President Barack Obama's handling of the crisis in Syria. First he promised to attack the regime because Bashar Assad had used chemical weapons; then he hedged; then he accepted a sham "peace" plan that kept Assad in power and supposedly put the banned weapons under international control—a plan orchestrated by Russia.

Soon after, President Obama personally phoned Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, showing his desperation for a deal over Iran's nuclear program. (Read Gerald Flurry's article "The Most Shameful Phone Call in American History" in the December issue for his analysis: www.thetrumpet.com/go/11043.) This move sent shock waves through the international community: America has been the *number one constraint* on the world's biggest terror-sponsoring nation obtaining regional supremacy and nuclear power; Washington's decision to abdicate that responsibility utterly changes the landscape of the Middle East and beyond. Iran's primary neighboring enemies, Israel and Saudi Arabia, are beside themselves.

Finally came what Israeli journalist Caroline Glick called "the most significant international event since the collapse

of the Soviet Union in 1991"—Washington offered Tehran relief from the economic sanctions it is suffering for its nuclear program. What made this so significant? Glick explained: "The collapse of the Soviet Union signaled the rise of the United States as the sole global superpower. The developments in the six-party nuclear talks with Iran in Geneva last week signaled *the end of American world leadership*" (Nov. 14, 2013; emphasis added throughout).

At the Geneva talks, Iran received a breathtaking proposal: In order to get a reprieve from sanctions, all it had to do was tentatively promise to slow its nuclear activities for up to six months to allow for more negotiating. "Not stop or suspend them, mind you, much less dismantle them, but merely reduce their pace from run to jog when they're on Mile 23 of their nuclear marathon," Bret Stephens explained in the *Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 11, 2013). France's foreign minister called it a "sucker's deal" and backed out. Iran also rejected it, clearly convinced it could get an *even better* offer.

Thus, the deal fell through. But the damage to American prestige had been done.

Israel was practically screaming to the world that the agreement was insane. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it the "deal of the century" for Iran, and "a grievous historic error."

On top of that, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had actually *lied* to Israeli and Saudi officials about it, exaggerating what it required of Iran and downplaying the sanctions relief it provided. This deceit further eroded America's credibility, leaving Israel and Saudi Arabia convinced that they can no longer afford to trust the U.S.

What's worse, evidence emerged that President Obama had *already* started giving Iran economic relief upon Hassan Rouhani's election as president this past summer: His administration abruptly *stopped prosecuting* front companies that were violating sanctions by doing business with Iran. This means that after actively pressuring the United Nations to impose heavy sanctions on Iran until the UN finally agreed, the administration then *unilaterally* softened

feliculously referred to as "the long peace." Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States has been the sole superpower, again presiding over two decades free of any major wars between great powers.

But now, *Pax Americana* joins *Pax Britannica* and *Pax Romana*: It's history.

America's ability to influence other nations is in tatters. Its credibility has been shattered. Its will to cause political change in other nations is broken, particularly if doing so involves large deployments of

War weariness has accelerated and reinforced America's growing tendency to simply ignore the rest of the world and fix its attention on itself.

those sanctions *behind the UN's back!* This is absolutely incoherent foreign policy.

Washington's willingness to sell out its Middle Eastern allies in order to come to terms with Iran is pivotal. IT MARKS THE END OF U.S. INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. It will surely lead to Iran cementing its dominance. In addition, *it puts all of America's global alliances in doubt*, leaving Saudi Arabias and Israels the world over scrambling for alternative arrangements to guarantee their own security.

The fallout will be enormous.

The Arab Spring-Loaded Trap

Yet, in the face of this collapse, most Americans are unconcerned. They're not particularly sympathetic to or even interested in what is happening on the other side of the world. After 12 years of costly war in Iraq and Afghanistan—over 20 if you go back to the first Gulf War—few Americans want anything to do with Iran. In 2012, seven in ten Americans opposed U.S. military intervention, and that was *before* Iran's "moderate" new president caused the political class and media to swoon.

Americans mostly just want the world and its problems to go away. They have had enough.

This reality was undeniable this past September, when Secretary of State John Kerry tried to sell Americans on an intervention in Syria. The strike the administration was contemplating, he assured us, would be "VERY LIMITED, VERY TARGETED, VERY SHORT-TERM ... UNBELIEVABLY SMALL." That is all that Americans would have the stomach for. In fact, polling showed that they were opposed even to that: An *Economist*/YouGov poll found only 28 percent of Americans supported the U.S. participating in a coalition military strike on Assad's regime.

Sure, the nation looked pitifully weak when it reneged on its threat to make Assad pay for crossing its "red line" and then turned Syria over to the Russians. But most Americans were relieved anyway.

Sure, Iraq is turning into a violent jungle in our absence. In the first 10 months of 2013, over

7,000 Iraqi civilians were killed—mostly thanks to the resurgence of al Qaeda in Iraq. But most Americans are simply glad we're out of there.

Sure, Afghanistan will likely revert to Taliban rule once we've withdrawn. But we have exhausted enough lives and treasure in that miserable place. Long-term success is unattainable; they don't want us there anyway; why not just leave it to them to sort things out?

It's not difficult to understand the thinking: America has invested so much into these theaters over the past 12 years, and what do we have to show for it?

And the wreckage of American foreign policy lies scattered even further afield across the Middle East.

In Egypt, Washington's push to dethrone Hosni Mubarak opened the door for the Iranian-aligned Muslim Brotherhood to take over. Now the military has reasserted its power and is trying to keep a lid on the post-Mubarak turmoil. Meanwhile, Egypt's alliances with the U.S. and Israel lie in tatters.

In Libya, America's intervention to oust Muammar Qadhafi ended with extremists in power and a lethal terrorist attack on America's outpost in Benghazi. Libya is now ruined and lawless, aligned with Iran and violently hostile to America.

All these endeavors started with noble rhetoric about squashing extremism and nurturing the blossoms of democracy and peace. But Americans can't name *one place* where that promise has truly materialized. The U.S. has become Midas in reverse: Everything it touches turns to ash.

Now, *Americans are tired of failure*. The nation is \$17 trillion in debt (officially—not counting unfunded liabilities). Why *borrow money* to fight foreign wars that end badly, or that never end? We have enough problems at home. What are we even doing over there, when it's clear our presence is unwanted?

This is approximately the view of a great majority of Americans. A September 9 CNN/ORC International survey found that nearly two in three now say that the U.S. should be extremely reluctant to use military power worldwide. Only 34 percent

say America should be ready and willing to wage military campaigns.

In Americans' view, we have done our part. We are weary of intervention. We're broke. We're sick of fighting. We're tired of not seeing the benefits from all the effort and expenditure. "[T]he more humanitarian crises develop, the less we are convinced that we could make things better by intervening," Victor Davis Hanson wrote, "or, even if we could, that those whom we thought we were helping would actually believe that we did."

This war weariness has accelerated and reinforced America's growing tendency to simply *ignore* the rest of the world and fix its attention on itself. Do you see this trend reversing? The mood of the American public is clear. What American politician would go against that?

This is why you can be sure this is no anomaly. America's global role has changed for keeps.

A Pivot to Nowhere

America's impulse to retreat from the world is evident everywhere you look.

The Obama administration said in 2011 that it would pivot its attention away from the Middle East and toward Asia. Yet all its signals reveal its desire to withdraw from there as well.

Rather than boosting aid to the region as promised, U.S. foreign assistance to Asia for 2012-2013 dropped 19 percent from the 2009-2010 level, according to State Department figures. The main military component of the pivot was an agreement to deploy 2,500 U.S. marines to Australia's northernmost city of Darwin by 2016; so far, only 200 troops have arrived there for a six-month rotation. The president promised to increase the number, but many people have their doubts.

In October, President Obama canceled visits with four Asian countries and missed two regional summits because of the U.S. government shutdown. In addition, an American-Japanese military exercise in Japan was nixed. Reporting on the trend, Joseph de Courcy wrote, "The credibility of the U.S.'s pivot to Asia, like the credibility of its Middle East policies, is being openly

WITHDRAWN

American soldiers in Iraq hold a pull-out ceremony.



questioned. Even the economic element of the U.S.'s Asia pivot is looking unconvincing" (*Courcy's Intelligence Brief*, Oct. 10, 2013). After Mr. Obama canceled his trip, Singaporean strategist Barry Desker said a consensus is building among Asian leaders that "you're not going to have a significant shift of U.S. forces to this part of the world."

Another huge development occurred in October: The Pentagon quietly announced that all U.S. troops will leave the Transit Center in Manas, Kyrgyzstan, by July 2014. Since its establishment in 2001, this base has been a key installation for the U.S. military, with around 1,500 airmen who operate refueling aircraft and process all U.S. and coalition soldiers entering or leaving the Afghanistan theater. It was the largest manifestation of American power in Central Asia. Now it's about to disappear.

Why did Kyrgyzstan vote to kick the Americans out despite the huge profits it was making from Washington? *Russia*. The Russians offered Kyrgyzstan a \$1.1 billion arms package in exchange for the ouster and also wrote off a big chunk of the nation's debt. It's no coincidence that the Kyrgyz Parliament voted to end America's lease just a few days after Vladimir Putin visited. This was a big win for Moscow, which has been growing increasingly assertive in Central Asia.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also recently visited Central Asia, which analysts say marked a key moment in *China's* pivot to the region. Eurasian expert Alexandros Petersen called China's burgeoning focus on the area "one of the most profound geopolitical trends of the early 21st century." Both Moscow and Beijing are rapidly moving to fill the void the U.S. is leaving in this resource-rich region, and America is in no position to stop them. Does anyone really expect Washington to directly confront China, to whom it is \$1.3 trillion in debt? The best strategy America has devised is to encourage Japan to militarize so *it* can deal with Beijing.

Washington is taking a similar approach to instability in Europe: stepping back and hoping that an economically and militarily dominant Germany will be able

to hold down the fort.

And don't forget the contentious missile defense shield. For years, Russia fiercely opposed U.S. plans to complete the Europe-based defense system, especially its final phase that would deploy upgraded interceptors in Poland and the Czech Republic. At a meeting in March 2012, a live microphone picked up President Obama telling Russia's Dmitry Medvedev that he would have "more flexibility" to nix this final phase after his reelection. Sure enough, once he secured a second term, he quickly used that increased "flexibility"; in March 2013, Washington canceled that final phase. Many nations in the region were terrified at the U.S.'s capitulation to Russia.

In arena after arena, the post-American world is becoming reality.

Free-fall

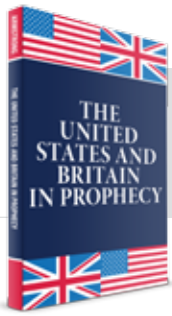
"American foreign policy is in unprecedented free-fall," wrote analyst Daniel Pipes, "with a feckless and distracted White House barely paying attention to the outside world, and when it does, acting in an inconsistent, weak and fantastical manner. If one were to discern something so grand as an Obama Doctrine, it would read: 'Snub friends, coddle opponents, devalue American interests, seek consensus, and act unpredictably'" (Nov. 12, 2013).

Domestically, Mr. Obama is amassing unprecedented powers for himself. But in the international arena, he has become the post-World War II era's weakest president. "Even the in-over-his-head Jimmy Carter was more of a factor in foreign affairs than

Barack Obama," *Forbes* wrote on October 30. "Diplomats are still astonished, for instance, at how little prep work Obama engages in before international conferences. He doesn't arrive with much of an agenda, nor does he interact with other leaders in advance to line up support. He more or less just shows up. This is deliberate. The president ... wants to reduce [America's] footprint on the world stage to something the size of Belgium's or Albania's." This is one goal that the president is achieving with conspicuous success.

Yes, America still possesses unmatched military might, but it has no will to use it. Rather than exercise enough power to stabilize nations and solidify lasting change, modern America treads gingerly. Washington's longing to appease the various bickering voices in the international community is undermined by its lack of will to stabilize trouble spots with force. The naive desire to avoid any criticism from the UN trumps the desire to defeat enemies. What was once decisiveness became apology. Now the apology has become retreat and retrenchment. America's will is inarguably *broken*.

People can criticize the Obama administration for its weak foreign policy. They can point out how America's standing in the world has plummeted during his presidency; how he surrendered Iraq and is surrendering Afghanistan; how he did nothing about Benghazi; how he crumpled over Syria. The truth is, though, that he is acting in approximate accordance with the increasingly isolationist view of more and more Americans. He



PROVE JESUS CHRIST'S PROPHECIES If the ancient tribe of Judah is now the modern Jews, then what about Israel's other 11 tribes? Either they ceased to exist (and God's promise to Abraham failed), or they exist somewhere on Earth today. Join millions of other readers who have requested **The United States and Britain in Prophecy**. It's yours for the asking—**FREE!**

is giving the American people essentially what most of them are asking for.

The end of the era of American-led peace has many people around the world elated and even many Americans relieved.

But what sort of era will come next?

What Happens After *Pax Americana*?

Before *Pax Americana* was *Pax Britannica*, the century that preceded World War I during which Britain ruled the seas and much of the world. The passing of the baton from one to the other was perhaps the smoothest, most seamless transition of superpower ever. In fact, historians have difficulty even pinpointing exactly when it occurred; some say it was in the middle of World War II when America's troop count exceeded that of the Brits. In many outposts of the British Empire around the world, America simply stepped in and took over, preserving order and stability with very little disruption.

"[I]n the future no one will bother to make a distinction between the British Empire-led and the American Republic-led periods of English-speaking dominance between the late-18th and the 21st centuries," wrote historian Andrew Roberts. "It will be recognized that in the majestic sweep of history they had so much in common—and enough that separated them from everyone else—that they ought to be regarded as a single historical entity..." (*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900*).

How smooth and seamless do you think the next transition of global dominance will be?

Look at the powers that are poised to take over in America's absence, and it quickly becomes clear: Two centuries of Anglo-American rule are about to be superseded by something very different.

Historically speaking, the fall of an empire is a dangerous time. As Roberts warned, "[T]he most costly wars in modern history have arisen whenever there is confusion about which is the world's preeminent power" (ibid).

World Politics Review, a

website intended to inform foreign-policy professionals on key international trends and events, ran an article on November 14 with this headline: "If America Doesn't Lead in the Middle East, Others Will." "The debate over whether America is the world's indispensable nation will continue, but when it comes to the Middle East, nobody is waiting for the answer," the article said. "Washington's gradual but steady retreat from its once-unabashed exercise of influence in the region has sparked A RUSH BY SECOND-TIER POWERS TO FILL THE VACUUM that has resulted.

"As the U.S. holds back, other nations are raising their profile The more passive the U.S. becomes, THE MORE ASSERTIVE OTHERS GROW." This is exactly the sort of competition that will increasingly dominate post-American global politics.

As far as global stability is concerned, America is shrinking to an Albania-size power at a terrible time. The Middle East is a terrible muddle. Iran's power is growing. Weapons of mass destruction are proliferating and will end up in the hands of more and more tyrants and terrorists. Islamism will spread in northern Africa. Volatility in Europe will rise, even as Germany's power grows. Contention over resources will fuel increasing tension among European and Asian nations. Arms races in multiple regions will continue to mushroom.

You can be certain that the number of crises is going to increase. The calls for action, for intervention, are bound to escalate. And because America is no longer the one to step up, the position of dominance is up for grabs, both within regions and globally. It will be ugly. We are leaving behind a comfortable era of Western dominance—and entering a new and uncertain era of violent competition for supremacy among remorseless foes.

All that "pax" is about to get the axe.

The Times of the Gentiles

The truly remarkable thing is, this cruel era was specifically prophesied by Jesus Christ.

Though this fact is ignored by many Christians today, the Bible is a book full of prophecy, from Genesis to Revelation. There is so much that it's not possible to

truly believe the Bible is the Word of God and not study prophecy.

During Christ's ministry, His disciples asked, "[W]hat will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" (Matthew 24:3; Revised Standard Version). Jesus didn't correct them and tell them that the world as we know it would never end. Instead, He responded by warning His disciples of specific events to beware of when the close of the age came (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). He concluded with the words, "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" (Luke 21:36).

Nearly one third of the world's population considers itself Christian. So it should hardly seem unusual or unorthodox to take Jesus at His word. Do you?

In one of these specific signs, Christ said that the people of "Jerusalem" would "fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: *and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES be fulfilled*" (verse 24).

Who are the Gentiles? If we want to do what Jesus Christ said and watch for this sign, we must know.

The common idea that any non-Jew is a Gentile is false. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis 49 lists the 12 tribes of Israel, and prophesies their fate in "the last days." This means that these 12 tribes must exist, today, as separate individual entities. The identity of the Jews—the descendants of Judah—is well known. But what about the other tribes?

Herbert W. Armstrong's *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves from the Bible that the modern identities of these tribes include the United States and Britain, as well as other English-speaking nations. If you have not proven this truth, it is critical that you read this book to prove it for yourself.

The nation of Israel split into two separate kingdoms after the death of King Solomon. The northern nation became known as Israel, and the southern as Judah. The kingdom of Israel went into captivity in

See **SUPERPOWER** page 36 ➤



OFFENSIVE Iranians celebrate “Quds Day,” which focuses on wresting Jerusalem from Israel.

Conquering the Holy Land

The cradle of civilization, the stage of the Crusades, the most contested territory on Earth—now that America is leaving, who will gain control? **BY JOEL HILLIKER AND CALLUM WOOD**

TO IMAGINE THE MIDDLE EAST devoid of American influence is no stretch because in many ways, it is already happening.

For some years now, threats of large-scale warfare in the world’s powder keg have been contained in no small part by the prospect of intervention from Washington. Amid a crowd of hostile, autocratic monarchies and Muslim states with over 60 times the population, small, isolated Israel has benefitted immeasurably from America guaranteeing its security. Alliances with major Arab nations and the presence of U.S. forces have helped preserve a Middle Eastern balance of power.

But as the stars and stripes fade, they are being replaced by the banners of radical Islam. And bloodshed is increasing from the mountains of Afghanistan to the coasts of North Africa.

Many specifics about what will occur

amid the tumult of a U.S.-free Middle East are uncertain, but we can *know* such a scenario is about to play out. Not only do current events indicate it, but also several key biblically prophesied, end-time events all happen in a Middle East *devoid of American influence*.

The King of the South

World Politics Review wrote this about the Middle East: “While the region has a number of nations with significant military capability, it does not have a functioning method for PRESERVING ORDER *without outside involvement*” (Oct. 22, 2013; emphasis added throughout).

With the U.S. ending its provision of the greatest part of that “outside involvement,” the *order* is breaking down. In Iraq, in Libya and Egypt in particular, ill-advised and poorly executed American intervention upended the old order; now the U.S. is pulling out and leaving a mess behind.

The region is ripe for conquest by other opportunistic powers. Within the neighborhood, the one best positioned to take advantage is *Iran*.

Iran has long lived uneasily in the Middle East, a Shiite Persian state in a Sunni Arab community. Historically, Iranians have felt superior and entitled to dominate surrounding peoples. At the same time, having suffered multiple invasions that shrunk its borders over the centuries, Iran also mistrusts them. These competing motivations have forged modern Persia’s national character.

In 1979, into this cocktail of nationalism and resentment, Ruhollah Khomeini added a potent ingredient: religious zealotry. He addressed several problems—Western meddling in Iranian politics; immorality among youth; national disunity; Iran’s ill-defined and anemic place in the world—by offering a single solution: Islam.

Khomeini proclaimed a vision of a “revolution without borders.”

“All indications point to Iran as the nation that produces the king of the south. Since the early 1990s, we have believed and taught that Iran would lead the radical Islamist world and be the king of the south. Today Iran is ‘king’ in the Middle East.” —GERALD FLURRY

The movement necessarily began within Iran, but Allah’s purpose on Earth could not be confined to a single country; thus Khomeini sought to transcend the Shiite-Sunni and Persian-Arab divides. “We don’t recognize Iran as ours, as all Muslim countries are a part of us,” he declared. He viewed pan-Islamism as a tool for breaking the West’s power.

The ayatollah never saw his dream of exporting the revolution fulfilled: Neighboring Arabs rejected his model of theocracy, and the world at large mostly treated Iran as a pariah.

Today, however, we are witnessing the ascendancy of the Iranian Revolution’s second generation. And absent the U.S., Iran is the strongest conventional power in the Persian Gulf. America’s withdrawal opens the door for the radicals to take the revolution to its next phase.

As Middle Eastern order has crumbled, Iran has gained a lot of practice at injecting its influence into the disarray. When the Islamic Republic sees unrest build, governments fall and disorder follow, it sees *opportunity*. It dispatches its agents and resources into the chaos to advance its interests. Through sponsoring terrorists, supplying arms, providing training, sending advanced troops and manipulating politics, it has stirred a lot of the turmoil in Afghanistan and Iraq; it is aggressively active within Libya and Egypt; it is deeply involved within warring Syria.

Iran’s terrorist proxies are entrenched throughout the region and beyond. Its sights are set squarely on the Jewish state, especially Jerusalem. It maintains close ties with Hamas in Gaza, right on Israel’s doorstep. It has a controlling influence over the Lebanese government via Hezbollah. Its rockets and missiles are perched on Israel’s northern border by the dozens of thousands, with Hezbollah ready to launch them when the moment is right.

And the Islamic Republic has still more weapons in its arsenal. It could effectively shut down Persian Gulf shipping lanes, spiking oil prices around the globe. It is nurturing an insurgency in Yemen to extend Shiite

influence there and nettle archenemy Saudi Arabia. In the spirit of Khomeini, it is forging links with al Qaeda and the Taliban, transcending sectarian differences for the sake of the greater Islamist cause.

And then there is its relentless march toward building nuclear weapons.

Since the inception of this magazine over two decades ago, the *Trumpet*’s editor in chief has pointed to Iran and its strategic aim to seize leadership of the radical Islamic camp and dominate the Middle East. He has repeatedly spoken of its apocalyptic messianic ambitions. He explicitly forecast how Iraq—formerly Iran’s number one enemy—would fall into its orbit of influence. He foretold how Egypt would be politically transformed, eventually also to align with Tehran. He specifically described how unrest in Libya fits with Iran’s larger military strategy.

All of his statements have been based on observing the scene in accordance with biblical prophecy, and they have been powerfully vindicated by events in recent years.

It all revolves around the prophecy of a “king of the south,” mentioned in Daniel 11:40.

“All indications point to Iran as the nation that produces the king of the south,” Gerald Flurry wrote in his booklet *The King of the South*. “Since the early 1990s, we have believed and taught that Iran would lead the radical Islamist world and be the king of the south. Today Iran is ‘king’ in the Middle East.”

In a Middle East without America, that statement is undeniable. And for two nations in particular, it is terrifying.

A Mysterious Alliance

The first of these nations is Saudi Arabia. One of its greatest fears is a strong Iran. The Saudis have been deeply troubled by the series of moves America has taken—beginning with the Iraq War in 2003 that eliminated Iran’s chief adversary, Saddam Hussein—that have actually served to strengthen its primary regional rival. Now, the Obama administration’s foreign policy has all but gift-wrapped the Mideast for Iran (“Why is Saudi Arabia getting so bold?” page 28).

In Saudi Arabia’s view, in order to protect its interests, it is already operating in a post-American Middle East. It is looking for alternatives, exploring options, strengthening its stature, reaching out to new allies—doing all it can to maintain its counterweight to Iran.

This is a perfect setup for the fulfillment of a prophecy the *Trumpet* has repeatedly highlighted. As Mr. Flurry wrote in his article “A Mysterious Prophecy,” “Germany is building an alliance now with the moderate Arabs that is paving the way for the Psalm 83 prophecy to be fulfilled. Saudi Arabia is also drawing closer to Germany to enhance its own security against Iran as America gets weaker and continues to withdraw from the Middle East” (May/June 2011; read this article at www.thetrumpet.com/go/8136). The groundwork for this Arab-Germanic coalition is being laid with growing openness.

Study the details of this prophecy and you realize that this alliance does not include Persia—nor Iraq, Egypt or other nations in the Iranian-led axis. You also see that though it will most certainly have a strong anti-Iranian bent, its *primary* purpose is more troublesome and sinister: It is to unite *against Israel*.

While Saudi Arabia may hate Israel today, it is not openly aggressive against it. But Psalm 83 says that is soon to change!

Jerusalem’s Split

The other nation acutely concerned about America’s disappearance and Iran’s rise is Israel. This sliver of a country, encompassed by enemies and pressed up against the Mediterranean Sea, has relied heavily on its alliance with America. Now its literal survival is in jeopardy.

The Islamic nations have never been able to solidly unite, and prophecy doesn’t specify that they will. But as Iranian-sponsored radicalism engulfs the region, these nations will rally around the one goal they all agree on: destroying the Jews.

States farther afield may be drawn into Iran’s orbit. The vast majority in the populations of northern Africa, for example, are Muslim: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Niger, Libya, Sudan, Egypt; some are

almost 100 percent so. And the radicalism here is growing.

The current balance of power in the Middle East is about to convulse. A wave of religious extremism is about to overwhelm the Jewish state, with Jerusalem at the center of the conflagration.

Notice the prophecy: “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh ... and THE CITY [JERUSALEM] 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).

Today, Israel controls all of Jerusalem. At the peak of the conflict with this Islamic power, the city will be split down the middle. Israel will lose East Jerusalem. This area, which includes the al-Aqsa plateau, or Temple Mount, is already the most hotly contested real estate in the world.

What happens next is stated explicitly in another prophecy.

Where Will Israel Look for Help?

Israel faces an imminent nuclear threat from Iran, whose leaders have openly and repeatedly stated their aim to wipe Israel off the map. Several Muslim states throughout the region are openly hostile toward Israel, and are backed by powerful sponsors elsewhere in the world. Anti-Israelism is rife within the United Nations and international community. The Jews are desperate for another potent ally to take America’s place.

Where will Israel turn? Russia, which supports Iran? China, which actively works against America and its allies, such as Israel? Britain? Canada? Who else has the political, economic and military strength Israel needs?

As Israel grows more anxious, a new arbiter of Mideast peace is emerging, even today: *Germany*.

Prophecy shows that, very soon, the Jews, facing annihilation and feeling helpless, will turn to their former archenemy *Germany* and to a European union for deliverance. This is another indication that by this point in events, the U.S. will be too crippled to be of any help. In every



DIRE STRAITS An Iranian ship participates in “Velayat-90” war games in the Strait of Hormuz.

prophecy from this point forward, America isn’t once mentioned. *It will not even be a factor in what plays out.*

Here is Hosea’s prophecy: “When Ephraim [Britain] saw his sickness, and Judah [Israel] saw his *wound*, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian [Germany], and [Judah] sent to [Assyrian] king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound” (Hosea 5:13).

What is Judah’s “wound”? As Mr. Flurry proves in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, it is the *peace process* that has shrunk the Jews’ territory and emboldened their enemies. It is their complete lack of faith in God and compulsive trust in untrustworthy men. It is a wound so deep it drives them into the arms of the very nation that perpetrated the grisly Holocaust! It is a wound that only God could heal.

And how will Europe then respond to Israel’s plea?

The fact is, Jews and Muslims are not the only ones who want Jerusalem. It is also the holiest site in CHRISTIANITY. By this time the German-led European Union, strongly influenced by the Vatican, will be a mighty military machine. It will begin exerting much greater pressure to bring “peace” to the region.

But tensions between Catholic Europe and the zealous and newly emboldened king of the south will finally snap. The Islamic coalition will sorely provoke Europe. “And AT THE TIME OF THE END shall the king of the south *push* at him [Europe] ...” (Daniel 11:40). The word *push* means to strike, to push with the horn, or

to wage war. It is a *violent* word! It describes a forceful, provocative push unlike any we have yet seen from an already pushy Iran. And it will occur at the “time of the end”—the time we live in today.

As Gerald Flurry wrote in 2011, “The king of the south is going to *push* at the king of the north, probably from its trade route power. That push will be a dramatic act of war! The Holy Roman Empire will respond with an all-out whirlwind attack—and Iran and radical Islam will fall immediately” (*Trumpet*, April 2011).

Daniel 11:40-43 describe the assault: “[A]nd the king of the north shall come against him LIKE A WHIRLWIND, with *chariots*, and with *horsemen*, and with *many ships* [probably launched from a European outpost in Cyprus]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall *overflow and pass over* [conquer and overwhelm]” (verse 40). The following verses say “many countries shall be overthrown,” including Egypt and other North African nations. The Islamic bloc, militarily inferior to Catholic Europe, will be obliterated.

But will this European incursion into the Holy Land finally secure peace for the Jews?

Jerusalem’s Fate

Daniel 11:41 describes the next move of this “king of the north”: “He shall enter also into the glorious land”—the area around Jerusalem. In that specific statement, there is no indication of force. The Israelis will most likely *invite Europe in* to maintain peace in the Holy City.

See **HOLY LAND** page 22 ➤



The World's Next Superpower

Nature abhors a power vacuum. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

THE 100-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1815 until World War I began in 1914 was one of Europe's greatest periods of peace ever. But consider what happened during those years: France invaded Spain; Russia fought Turkey; various German states fought with Denmark, Austria and France; Britain and Turkey fought Russia; and Greece fought Turkey. Those are just the "highlights"—and they don't include the numerous internal conflicts, uprisings, declarations of independence and other political unrest that occurred. Even Switzerland had a civil war.

That is what "peace" in Europe looked like before the latter half of the 20th century.

Europe's history since World War II has been unprecedented. The continent that had held the world's most advanced and deadly armies for hundreds of years was suddenly playing third fiddle to two superpowers: America and the Soviet Union. In that environment, the United States made a simple bargain with Western Europe: *You no longer need to maintain a world-class army; instead, we will protect you.* This deal helped bring an extraordinary level of stability and tranquility to a part of the world that has repeatedly convulsed with astonishing violence and destruction throughout its history.

Now, however, this unusual era is coming to an end. As we head into the post-American era, it is Europe that is picking up the mantle of "leader of the free world." Even now, Europe is stepping out of America's shadow and responding to threats in North Africa. And it is the only possible candidate to succeed America as the financial leader of the world.

"And it's about time, too," is a common reaction to this situation—especially in Europe. After all, today, Europe is viewed as the world's *soft power*. Much of the world sees Europe the same way Europe tends to view itself: as the sophisticated elder statesman. According to this view, Europe, with its centuries of experience, takes the prudent course of

action while the American cowboy blunders on ahead, destabilizing the world as he goes.

Others, however, take a different view: that Europe is a spent force, a continent of wimps, afraid of real action and doomed to demographic decline—*incapable* of effectively carrying on where America has left off.

Could Europe Really Succeed America?

The fact is, Europe is already preparing for the post-American world. In recent months it has finally begun to get serious about sorting out its own military.

In May, an official EU agency that analyzes defense and security issues published a landmark report. The basic premise was: *America is not going to protect us any more; how do we now defend ourselves?*

In October, the EU's foreign minister, Catherine Ashton, said America's retreat from the continent "means that Europe must assume greater responsibility for its own security and that of its neighborhood."

As it watches America withdraw, Berlin is now beginning to take the lead in reforming Europe's military. It has called for restructuring NATO around clusters of European militaries that work together. Although summits focusing on common security and defense tend to flop, Germany appears increasingly determined to weld Europe's militaries together, with or without the EU. It is already integrating parts of its neighbors' militaries into its own (article, page 26).

With such practices in place, the landscape of international intervention is beginning to shift. When terrorists began to run amok in Mali, Europe took the lead in dealing with them. Islamists have taken over the Central African Republic, and it is France that is sending troops into its former colony (article, page 27).

What if the events in the Balkans during the 1990s had happened today? America wouldn't get involved. Europe is having to take care of these situations on its own.

Or nearly on its own. France has deployed roughly 4,500 soldiers to Mali—not a huge number. It borrowed transport planes from the British, Danes, Belgians and Canadians, but that still wasn't enough to ferry the French troops in. Ultimately, it

still had to get help from America.

This is why Germany is pushing so hard for "islands of cooperation." Europe has a few key weaknesses, especially in logistics, that mean it currently struggles to stage a military mission without American help. Getting several nations to work together on a European transport fleet, for example, is the quickest solution.

A New Economic System

Europe is getting ready to take over the political and military reins that Washington is dropping. But the Continent is perhaps even better positioned to take over economic leadership.

Which currency could replace the failing dollar as the new global reserve currency? The only answer: whichever currency is being used by Germany.

China couldn't do it—its entire economic policy is fundamentally incompatible with its currency being the world's reserve. What else is the world going to use? Japan's yen, backed by a debt nearly 2½ times the size of its economy and a radical money-printing program? The Russian ruble? The Saudi riyal?

The euro is a mess right now, but there is no better candidate to replace the dollar.

China is already looking for a dollar replacement. As Xinhua, China's official news agency, recently headlined, "U.S. Fiscal Failure Warrants a De-Americanized World" (Oct. 13, 2013).

Europe invented its single currency with exactly that goal in mind. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing deplored the "exorbitant privilege" that currency-reserve status gave America. The euro was Europe's plan to grab that privilege for itself.

At present, the euro is in disarray mainly because it gets one thing fundamentally—and deliberately—wrong: A common currency cannot work without a robust political union. Once the Europeans overcome that hurdle, the reserve currency privilege is theirs for the taking.

The economies of northern Europe, especially Germany, are fundamentally strong. The Bundesbank has a long-standing reputation as a trustworthy and responsible



FUTURE SUPERPOWER?
Bundeswehr soldiers in front of the Reichstag, which has deployed its armies in two world wars.

central bank. It would be the last central bank anyone would expect to print money and devalue a currency. In banking, reliability is everything. Either by itself or through the European Central Bank (ECB), the Bundesbank could easily take the Federal Reserve's spot as the world's central bank.

All this puts Europe at the center of the post-American financial system. It will become the dominant economic power. Already the EU has a larger gross domestic product than the U.S. With America out of the picture, Europe would account for one third of the world's total economic output. The EU's combined GDP is twice that of China—and bigger than China's, Russia's and Japan's combined.

Who's Afraid of the EU?

These political, military and economic possibilities all lead us to an important question: So what? After all, who's afraid of the EU?

That very question is actually another reason why Europe will rise to preeminence as America declines. The world trusts Europe. The Europeans are reputed to be the great consensus builders. Government by committee goes nowhere fast and threatens no one. As a continent full of democracies that have not had to use major military power for 70 years, Europe is home to the world's good guys—or at least the world's non-threatening guys. This perception works to the Europeans' advantage.

But this charitable view ignores two supremely important points that *do* give rise to legitimate concern about what a world dominated by Europe will look like.

The first of these is *history*. True, Europe has been peaceful in the American-dominated world of the second half of the 20th century, but going back to World War II and before, its past loudly trumpets that this is an extreme exception. With America out of the way, all the factors that have kept Europe at peace will be gone. And for the first time in 70 years, Europe will have unmitigated authorization to conduct itself as a major military power.

There are many for whom the idea of Europe reverting to militaristic type is unthinkable. They believe the world today,

particularly Europe, has become far too civilized—perhaps even complacent and lethargic—for such a thing to occur.

This is a common delusion. Throughout history mankind has believed that we have solved war forever. Before Napoleon, professional armies were said to have made war so destructive that it had become obsolete. Before World War I, global commerce, international agreements and an increase in culture and sophistication supposedly meant war was history. Afterward, World War I was said to have been “the war to end all wars.”

In his book on the First World War titled *The World Crisis*, Winston Churchill warned about those who proclaimed that “[c]ivilization has climbed above such perils.” They argued that “[t]he interdependence of nations in trade and traffic, the sense of public law, the Hague Convention, Liberal principles, the Labour Party, high finance, Christian charity, common sense have rendered such nightmares *impossible*.

“Are you quite sure?” asked Churchill. “It would be a *pity* to be wrong. Such a mistake could only be made *once*—once for all” (emphasis added). Today, statesmen give almost an identical list of reasons why war between major powers is antiquated: globalization, nuclear weapons, etc. But after America is gone, Europe will be a military power in an altogether new world.

The Picture in Prophecy

The second major reason we should be concerned about the rise of Europe comes from Bible prophecy. It clearly warns about Europe's military and economic power—exactly the two areas where we see Europe

preparing to succeed the U.S.

One of the most chilling warnings in Scripture, repeated in several passages, concerns the end-time nations descended from the ancient tribes of Israel. These prophecies depict not just the *fall* of these nations, but the *captivity* of a great number of their citizens following a military defeat. Hosea 8:9; 9:3; 10:6; 11:11; Micah 5:6; 7:12; Zechariah 10:11, and other passages all show Israel taken captive by *Assyria*. This is not speaking of what happened historically, when the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C. All these books were written *long after* that captivity had occurred. They refer to a captivity to take place yet *in the future*.

Which modern nation is descended from ancient Assyria? Germany. (To prove this, request our free reprint article “The Remarkable Identity of the German People.”)

The Bible's warnings about a European power don't rest solely on proof that Germany is modern Assyria, however. Daniel 2 and 7 describe a succession of world-ruling empires. The final empire is plainly the Roman Empire. These prophecies state that this empire will remain on the scene, in one form or another, until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of this prophecy is corroborated by history: Sure enough, European powers have consistently resurrected that resilient Roman Empire.

Another proof is in Daniel 11. Here is a prophecy of Middle Eastern history so accurate that skeptics insist it must have been written *after* the events it describes. It prophesied that Alexander the Great's empire would split into four parts (verse 4). The chapter

With America out of the way, all the factors that have kept Europe at peace will be gone. And for the first time in 70 years, Europe will have unmitigated authorization to conduct itself as a major military power.

describes world events before the return of Christ in terms of this split. One of these powers is called the king of the north, the other the king of the south.

Who is the modern king of the north? Anciently it was Syria, which was swallowed up by Rome, the ancient counterpart to modern Europe.

With that background in place, this, then, is the real reason for concern over the rise of Europe after America: The Bible foretells that it is about to go on a rampage.

Blitzkrieg Conquests

Look at this extraordinary sequence of events prophesied in Daniel 11: It all starts with a Middle Eastern power “pushing” at Europe (verse 40). Without America’s protection, by this time Europe has been forced to build its own military and responds quickly. In a broad sense, this power is *already* pushing at Europe through the spread of radical Islam, and Europe is *already* responding. But Daniel is describing the violent culmination of that offensive.

But Europe doesn’t stop there. Now a military power with a major presence in the Middle East, it keeps going. Verse 41 states that it enters “the glorious land”—the same Promised Land that the Israelites inhabited anciently, currently inhabited by the Jews. This is a shocking, nation-destroying

double cross of the modern Jewish state, which had naively trusted Europe to broker peace in America’s absence.

Hosea 5:5-7 prophesy that Britain, America and Israel will all fall within a month—meaning that when Israel falls, Britain and America must fall at about the same time.

Before these bold, blitzkrieg military conquests, Europe, as the new leader of the world’s financial system, enforces a blockade of America. What’s left of the broken American economy is completely destroyed. Deuteronomy 28:52 prophesies of this economic siege. Isaiah 23 implies that China cooperates in it. (For more information on this particular prophecy, request our free book *Isaiah’s End-Time Prophecy*.)

Daniel 11:44 describes the German-led Europe seeing the nations of Asia amassing power. In a recent lecture, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry speculated that this prophecy could refer to Europe recognizing that Asian powers are about to conquer America. Rather than allow that—which would leave Europe *flanked* in both hemispheres by an Asian alliance—Europe makes the first move.

However it happens, prophecy is clear about a European conquest of the Anglo-American world. “In this fearful, awesome atomic age, World War III will start with nuclear devastation unleashed on London,

Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Pittsburgh, without warning!” wrote Herbert W. Armstrong in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Numerous scriptures describe the total destruction of our cities in nuclear fire (Isaiah 1:7 and Jeremiah 34:22, for example). Isaiah 6:11, as well as several scriptures in Jeremiah, warn of cities left “without inhabitant”—something that only became possible on a large scale with the advent of the nuclear bomb and the radiation it brings. Jeremiah 9:12 warns that “the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through.” That is what Britain and America will look like after this attack.

The ruined city of London will be a tourist attraction, where visitors from across Europe will come to marvel at what “the Lord [has done] unto this great city” (Jeremiah 22:7-8).

Now we enter the real post-American world—when the nation is *literally no more*. What does this world look like?

The European Power at Its Peak

Revelation 18 foretells that Europe will become incredibly prosperous at the head of the new economic system. It says that “the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Revelation 18:3). Verses 12 and 13 give a long list of its riches. At the end of the list is the most disturbing item: “slaves and souls of men.”

This is talking primarily about the *captives* from America, Britain and Israel.

Joel 3:3 describes the plight of these slaves. Their lives are so cheap that a male slave is traded for a trip to a prostitute, and a female slave is swapped for a bottle of wine.

This is forced labor on a *massive* scale—millions of people. Ezekiel 5 tells us that a mind-stretching *one third* of Britain and America’s current population will go into captivity (request our free booklet on Ezekiel for more information). That’s around 125 million slaves!

By this point, nuclear war will have wrecked the world’s climate. Crops will fail (Habakkuk 1:17). Famine and diseases

Partnering with Latin America

Europe’s cultural links to Latin America are strong. The two regions share a religion. They share languages. They share ancestors. Latin America’s military is full of secondhand European equipment.

Latin America will probably play a vital role in Europe’s prophesied “siege” of America. These nations’ participation in cutting off America’s resources will be essential—the blockade would be much less effective without them. Beyond that, the Bible gives very little in terms of specific prophecies. But Latin America, too, will be drawn into Europe’s global empire.



IL PAPA The pope is enormously popular in South America.

Africa's powerful neighbor

Germany and Iran “are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can,” wrote Gerald Flurry in our April 2013 issue. Since then, Europe has drastically stepped up its involvement in North Africa. Most notably, French troops helped retake Mali from radical Islam, and now they are looking to do the same in the Central African Republic (“North Africa’s Policeman,” page 27).

Why? Europe imports huge amounts of resources from North Africa. A European Union Institute for Security Studies report in May referred to it as Europe’s “zones of privileged interest”—its backyard—and proposed ways to project power there, independent of Washington.

North Africa is a key part of Europe’s confrontation with Iran. These two powers are already fighting for control of this real estate. Bible prophecy tells us that Europe will get

complete control of North Africa and probably have strong trade ties—at least—with the rest of the continent. Daniel 11:42-43 tell us that Europe will conquer Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia.

This conquest will mean that Africa’s vast natural resources will flow in great quantities to Europe. Revelation 18:12 begins by listing the “gold, and silver, and precious stones” this European power will have. It then includes “all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood.” Some of the riches on this list come primarily from Africa.

North Africa will also be a major part of Europe’s slave empire. Two countries will contain the bulk of Europe’s Hebrew slaves: Assyria and Egypt (Isaiah 11:11, 16; 27:13; Hosea 9:3; 11:11; Zechariah 10:10-11). Many of Europe’s captives will be forced to work in the heat of the African sun to bring this wealth back to Germany.

will be common. But the leaders of Europe will be living the high life. They will own the greater part of the world’s wealth, sitting atop the largest slave empire the world has ever known.

These leaders preside over a cruel dictatorship. The book of Revelation reveals that all those who do not accept the mark of the beast are put to death (Revelation 13:14-17). (Request our booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* for a biblical explanation of just what that mark is.) It is a medieval empire that holds the power of life and death over its citizens and intrudes into every aspect of their lives. For those living under its rule, it will be a dystopian nightmare. For its slaves, it will be much worse.

It is also a militaristic empire. It wiped out the Islamist power and then annihilated America. It is well aware of the prospect of another war and is arming itself accordingly. It has put on such an impressive display of raw power that the people of the world will ask, “Who is able to make war with the beast?” (Revelation 13:4).

The armed might of this empire may well come from something other than tanks, planes and aircraft carriers. These were the weapons of the *last war*. The Europeans may use new, more fearsome means of destruction.

The post-American world is dark indeed.

But it gets worse. Revelation 9:16 describes a massive Asian army assembling to oppose this European beast power; Europe then launches a preemptive attack. The result is a war that engulfs the world for an entire year—and threatens to wipe out all life on the planet! (Matthew 24:21-22). (Read more in “Czars and Emperors,” page 14.)

Why is the time of European hegemony so terrible? Is it because the Europeans are fundamentally bad people—doomed to wreck the Earth as soon as they take charge?

No. To understand *why* all this happens, we need to see the spiritual reality behind these events.

Why It All Must Happen

The 2½-year period of Europe’s mightiest conquests is the time of Satan’s wrath (Revelation 12:12). He is the spiritual power that will empower and lead this great military empire (Revelation 13:11). His demons will stir the nations to go to war (Revelation 16:16) and enslave each other.

God allows this to happen to punish rebellious and sinful mankind so people they will finally listen to Him and He can bless them.

The whole world is currently deceived by Satan the devil (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9). But God does not grant Satan unrestricted power over the Earth. For

TAKING CHARGE

A German Sachsen class air-defense frigate crosses the Suez Canal.



instance, God promised Abraham that his descendants would become great (America and Britain are among those descendants), and Satan was not been permitted to prevent that.

But after those promises to Abraham were fulfilled, modern Israel’s retention of those blessings was contingent upon its obedience to God. The nations of Israel have undeniably rebelled, so the blessings are drying up. Right now we are entering a period when Satan will be allowed almost unrestricted control over the Earth—a means that God is using to help mankind repent and thus prepare for the glorious future He has in store.

It is *Satan the devil*, then, who is the real cause of the suffering and misery that takes place during the time of Europe’s rule. But shortly after this time is over, the devil will be completely removed from the Earth, and mankind will finally accept God’s teachings on how to live a happy and abundant life.

Once that time comes, the Bible states that the European peoples will be of great benefit to the world. Isaiah 19:24 says that Israel, Egypt and Assyria—modern Germany—will work together, and those three will be “a blessing in the midst of the land.” Germany will once again be a major world power—only this time, it will be to the benefit of the whole world! ■



Czars and Emperors

If the U.S. vanished from Asia, consider the heavy-handed rulers who would fill the power void. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

WASHINGTON IS A WAR-monger, say a multiplying number of voices from weaker Asian nations that are joining in the chorus from China and Russia. The United States behaves imperialistically in their region, they say, so they want the Americans to pack up and leave the Eastern Hemisphere.

“[T]he United States ... is an empire in all but name, and ... American ‘national security’ interests have an inevitably imperial cast,” the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the country’s most powerful newspaper, wrote on Nov. 3, 2013.

A few years ago, Uzbek President Islam Karimov accused America of trying to “hijack stability” from Central Asia.

A little before that, a Taiwanese senior official criticized an economic deal Washington struck with Taipei by saying, “This is U.S. imperialism.”

Such statements are not uncommon. These voices are about to get their wish.

Despite the modern rhetoric, the United States is not warmongering. But if America were to vanish from the Asian dynamic, those who would fill the power vacuum would jolt the region’s collective memory into remembrance of what warmongering really means.

A Different Manner of Leadership

Consider Russia.

In *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote about the *other* holocaust of the 20th century: The imprisonment, debasement and usually murder of tens of millions of innocent Soviets by their own government during the reigns of Stalin and other leaders.

Beyond just documenting the savagery of the Russians in power during this dark era, Solzhenitsyn also pointed out how unrepentant

his nation had been for its atrocities. “[B]y 1966, eighty-six thousand Nazi criminals had been convicted in West Germany. ... During the same period, in our own country ... about *ten men* have been convicted. ... Why is Germany allowed to punish its evildoers and Russia is not? What kind of disastrous path lies ahead of us if we do not have the chance to purge ourselves of the putrefaction rotting inside our body?”

Solzhenitsyn rejected the notion that this savagery resulted from an anomalously dark chapter in Russian history that was the product of Stalin’s rule. He showed instead that the barbarism began before and ended after Stalin, and that the diseased spirit *lived on among many Russians*.

One of those in whom it remains is President Vladimir Putin. Today Putin sits at the helm of Russia’s FSB security agency, which the *Guardian* recently called an “immensely powerful modern-day KGB.” The KGB was the direct successor of the Cheka security agency—the system under which all those millions were brutalized and murdered. Putin joined the KGB in 1975 and rose quickly through its ranks by becoming a master of its power culture. Putin’s FSB was spawned from the same corrosive Cheka/KGB system. The FSB even continues to operate from the same Lubyanka building in central Moscow, the basement of which was home to countless violent Soviet-era detentions and interrogations.

In a clear sign of his long-term goals, Putin said in 2005 that the demise of the Soviet Union—the system responsible for the deaths of those innocent millions—“was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.” Another clear sign came in 2008 when Putin invaded the former Soviet nation of Georgia to yank a couple of its Russia-friendly states back into Moscow’s power.

Putin isn’t the only Russian who looks back on Soviet history through that rosy lens. Pravda, one of Russia’s most influential news sources, wrote in November that the Russian Revolution 70 years earlier “was for the first time bringing backward societies into the front line of industrial development, guaranteeing housing for free, free public utilities, free or heavily

subsidized communications, subsidized public transportation, free primary and secondary education, free higher education, free health care, free dental treatment, zero unemployment, safety on the streets, security of the state, social mobility, indexed pensions, guaranteed basic foodstuffs, leisure time activities, free sports facilities, free cultural facilities.”

The publication makes no mention of the fact that the state turning its citizens into its wards came at the cost of murdering millions of them.

If the U.S. exited the global stage, we could expect Putin to *rapidly* accelerate and intensify his efforts to undo that unequalled “geopolitical catastrophe.” We could expect Pravda readers and the bulk of Russians to rally behind him. Russia would immediately announce sovereignty over the wayward satellite states that were once in the Soviet fold (those at least that haven’t been assimilated into the European Union). In such a scenario, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia and pretty much any “-stan” nation to the north of Iran would be smart to go ahead and hoist the Russian flag over their capital buildings if they wanted to minimize the casualties.

In the Footsteps of the 20th Century’s Deadliest Dictator?

Which tyrant is responsible for the murder of the most people in the 20th century? It was not Hitler, Tojo or Stalin. It was Mao Tse-tung.

The Chinese Communist dictator summarized his leadership philosophy with a phrase that sounds like it’s lifted straight out of a mafia movie: “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” And Chairman Mao lived by that creed. Under his reign, between 65 and 75 million Chinese were murdered—starved, tortured, bullied to suicide, or executed as traitors.

Yet here is the most remarkable fact: For China’s ruling Communist Party, Mao remains *the most honored figure* today. His face is on every single bill in the Chinese currency; his portrait hangs on the gate of the Forbidden City on Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing; and, as NPR reported in 2011, the official verdict among



TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE
Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

modern Chinese is that Mao was 70 percent right and 30 percent wrong in his rule.

In March of 2013, Xi Jinping—the son of one of Chairman Mao’s high-ranking officers—achieved his lifelong goal of becoming president of the People’s Republic of China. Early in his presidency, Xi paid his respects at Mao’s old residences, and said, “The color of our red country will never change.” By emphasizing political continuity and by tapping into his father’s revolutionary legacy, Xi is boosting the Communist Party’s legitimacy—and thus his own.

“The term ‘Central Kingdom’ ... implies that China is superior to any other people and nation ‘under the heaven’ and that it thus occupies a ‘central’ position in the known universe.”

—PROF. JIAN CHEN

The leitmotif of his presidency so far has been to restore Communist Party control over all aspects of society. A key aspect of this drive has been suppressing dissent. Mr. Xi “has sprouted rhetoric reminiscent of Mao Tse-tung,” the *Christian Science Monitor* reported. “State Security officers round up human rights lawyers and social activists in an unusually harsh crackdown, and propaganda moguls squelch public debate of awkward issues” (July 26, 2013).

Consider this suppression of dissent alongside China’s ongoing iron-fisted rule of Tibet, the “Great Firewall of China,” and Xi’s recent signal of his intent to exert total control over China’s mammoth state-owned companies. Clearly, the Maoist spirit is very much alive in Beijing. Despite his shameless barbarity against the Chinese people, Chairman Mao is the patron saint of Xi Jinping’s China.

Mr. Xi’s evocation of Mao and his ideological assault on democratic values has disappointed some of China’s liberal intellectuals who fear an intensification of the Communist Party’s authoritarianism. But the dissenting voices are growing quieter.

The mantra of modern Chinese leaders,

media and educators is that China’s history makes it special, and that its people are heirs to a civilization nobler and more ancient than any other in the world. The lion’s share of Chinese people believe it; they see their nation’s place in the world as superior to all others. In *Mao’s China and the Cold War*, Cornell University Prof. Jian Chen discusses China’s self-given nickname: “[T]he term ‘Central Kingdom’ ... implies that China is superior to any other people and nation ‘under the heaven’ and that it thus occupies a ‘central’ position in the known universe.”

A growing number of Chinese openly acknowledge that their “Central Kingdom” is working to realize its ancient dreams of global hegemony. If circumstances were right, most would be willing to throw their support behind Mr. Xi to achieve this goal.

With the U.S. out of Asia, China would throw its weight—and its 1.35 billion people—even more firmly behind efforts to establish regional and then global dominance. It would immediately announce its sovereignty over the South-east Asian states and its island

See **CZARS** page 33 ►



NUCLEAR-CAPABLE

(Left) A German tech sergeant loads a Tornado aircraft at Holloman AFB in New Mexico. (Above) Four B61 nuclear bombs that can be mounted to German Tornado aircraft.

► EUROPE'S NUCLEAR SECRET from page 1

based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and the North American members of the alliance. The alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe” (April 24, 1999).

But now there are *new enemies* on the world scene—and the U.S. can't see who they are!

Think about the potential for a nuclear debacle. Little could stand in the way of those nations taking over those bombs and using them however they choose. Those weapons could conceivably be turned back on *America!*

Upgrades

Washington officials are planning to upgrade the B61 nuclear weapons that are stored in Europe. The new B61-12 will replace the older types 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 and B83. The new weapon is to replace bombs that are already 90 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima (*Der Spiegel*, Nov. 6, 2013). Hans Kristensen described it as an “all-in-one nuclear bomb on steroids.”

This new bomb is designed to be deployed *from German Tornado fighter planes*. The multinational version of the Joint Strike Fighter will also have inbuilt capabilities to carry and deliver these weapons. Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey have already committed to purchasing these aircraft. The new B61 bomb will be the most powerful and deadly nuclear weapon ever deployed in Germany and other nuclear sharing nations.

How naive is America to entrust this immense firepower to nations that so recently—and throughout history—have proved to be enemies of the free world!

Tactical weapons are usually carried by short-range delivery vehicles like cruise missiles or fighter/bomber aircraft with ranges under 850 miles. They are not capable of intercontinental launch—but they are small enough to be shipped wherever needed in the back of a truck!

Another horrific consideration to contemplate: These smaller devices are at risk of theft by rogue nations or terrorists. These are immensely powerful weapons! Can we really trust other nations with such firepower?

16 Right now, Germany seems to be an ally of the United States. But what if this nation—our archenemy in World

Wars I and II—turned against us in the next war?

We want to trust Germany, but history screams that we shouldn't! Yet, not only do we equip the Germans with our weapons, but we train their air force on American bases such as Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

What the U.S. is doing is absolutely *condemned* by the Bible. Why? Because it is trusting other nations rather than trusting God.

The Revival of an Old Empire

Here is why even the *Time* writer's worst scenario is nothing compared to what is about to actually happen.

America has forgotten what Hitler-led Germany and Mussolini-led Italy did in World War II. But this problem isn't just confined to World Wars I and II. The combination of Germany and Italy is really the *heart* of the “Holy” Roman Empire, which has risen up *six times* to cause bloodshed like no other empire in history! *SIX TIMES—so far!*

Germany's alliance with Italy against America and Britain in World War II, just seven decades ago, was the *sixth* resurrection of this centuries-long, destructive church-state combine called the “Holy” Roman Empire.

And now, *this empire is back*. The seventh *and last* revival of that empire has now formed. When the moment is right, it will once again rise up as a horribly destructive, *nuclear-armed* church-state combine that will wreak destruction and death like you can hardly believe!

All of this was prophesied in your Bible: the repeated resurrections of this empire, its sixth appearance in the Nazi-fascist alliance, its *current* rise in a German-led European alliance—even *how long* this final revival will last, and how it will end.

This is where biblical prophecy actually has *good news* for us: because this empire's last resurrection is going to conclude with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

Friend or Foe?

Boyden Gray, U.S. ambassador to the European Union, said that Germany is America's “most important ally.” Does his saying that make it so? Not according to Bible prophecy.

In the Bible, God condemns America and Britain (and the other modern descendants of ancient Israel) for forsaking Him

and for doting on their “lovers.” And today, what do we find ourselves doing? Arming two warlike nations, our historic enemies, with nuclear firepower! This is an appallingly dangerous mistake!

In the end-time book of Ezekiel, God says, “And Aholah [speaking of the modern nations of Israel] played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted” (Ezekiel 23:5, 9). This whole chapter concerns Israel, here called *Aholah*, and the Jews, called *Aholibah*, setting themselves up for one of the most shocking betrayals in history!

“She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men” (verse 12). This is a very militaristic country, a nation with impressive soldiers. An American ambassador might call them “our most important ally.”

“And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea. And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them” (verses 16-17). In our time, “the Babylonians” refers to the Holy Roman Empire, which has Germany, Italy and the Vatican at its core.

God has a strong view about cozying up to “lovers” like that. It’s a matter of trust. Washington has no trust *in God* for protection, so it is trusting *another nation*—in this case, one with a terrifying history! *We have put human beings ahead of God*. God condemns modern Israel—especially America, Britain and the Jews—because they have “FORGOTTEN ME” (verse 35). That is a serious mistake these nations are going to come to regret.

Rearming Germany

Near the close of World War II, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt presented a document promising they would *never* allow Germany to arm itself again. They were motivated by their recent experience and the long history of German warfare, which actually goes all the way back to ancient Assyria.

That promise has long been forgotten. Do you know that today, Germany is actually *building components* needed in nuclear weapons?

Prof. Michel Chossudovsky wrote an article published by Global Research on March 21, 2013, titled, “Belgium or Iran, Where’s the Nuclear Threat? Europe’s Five ‘Undeclared Nuclear Weapons States.’” In it he wrote, “While Germany is not categorized officially as a nuclear power, IT PRODUCES NUCLEAR WARHEADS FOR THE FRENCH NAVY. It stockpiles nuclear warheads (made in America) and it has the capabilities of delivering nuclear weapons. Moreover, the European Aeronautic Defense and

Space Company (EADS), a Franco-German-Spanish joint venture controlled by Deutsche Aerospace and the powerful

Daimler Group, is Europe’s second-largest military producer, supplying France’s M51 nuclear missile.”

That is astounding! In a single lifetime, we have gone from denying Germany the right to ever militarize again—TO LETTING IT BUILD NUCLEAR WARHEADS!

By starting World War II, Germany and Italy caused the deaths of some 50 million people! Now, because we think these nations have changed, we have *given them our nuclear bombs*. But have these nations really changed? Are we *absolutely sure* they will never repeat their past?

Many authors have shown that after World War II, the Allies spent just *two years* de-Nazifying Germany. Then we stopped and told the Germans to *de-Nazify themselves*. Now, based on our *assumption* that they completed the job, we risk nuclear annihilation.

The truth is that at the end of World War II, when they knew defeat was inevitable, Nazi leaders began to prepare to go *underground*. Major corporations like Messerschmitt and Volkswagen committed to hiring some of the top Nazi officials so they could continue their plan for German domination underground until World War III.

That is documented history! In the 1990s, U.S. intelligence declassified that information for all to see—after shamefully keeping it secret for 50 years!

When proof of this secret plan became public, Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress said, “The central question is whether it has been carried out.” We have shown repeatedly that it *was* carried out! There are elites within Germany who *never did give up* on the plan to conquer the world. And now, America has turned control of some incredibly powerful U.S. weaponry over to this nation!

This is an insane policy, even by normal standards of common sense. But God sees it for what it really is. He says America and Britain are worse than a prostitute: We are like a woman who has forsaken her husband and become a prostitute *who pays the customer to come to her* (Ezekiel 16:33-34). That’s how *abominable* this is to God!

The sobering reality is that *any one* of the countries that have those bombs could take control of these weapons by force and use them against the U.S. Two hundred nuclear bombs are sitting in European countries—enough to destroy the *world*—and the proliferation is spreading!

Matthew 24:21-22 encapsulate this terrifying reality. It says that, because of all the nuclear bombs and other weapons that are about to explode, *no flesh will be saved alive*—UNLESS JESUS CHRIST RETURNS!

But the awesome news is that Christ *will return!* He will let us experience the suffering we have brought upon ourselves because of our sins. But just as sure as those seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire have come on the scene exactly according to prophecy—and just as sure as the prophesied World War III is about to come—we can be absolutely confident that HE WILL RETURN.

When that happens, these bombs and all the destruction they wreak will be destroyed forever. Jesus Christ will bring the solution to this terrible problem. You can *prove* that truth straight from your own Bible.

Thank God for that endless hope! ■

Request Mr. Flurry's free reprint article "The Holy Roman Empire Is Back!"



To learn about God’s plan for Germany request our FREE booklet **Nahum—an End-Time Prophecy for Germany**. Request **Ezekiel—the End-Time Prophet** to understand the modern identity of the ancient Assyrians. Prove the identity of the United States, Britain and the Jewish nation by requesting **The United States and Britain in Prophecy**.

AMERICAN B61 THERMO- NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE

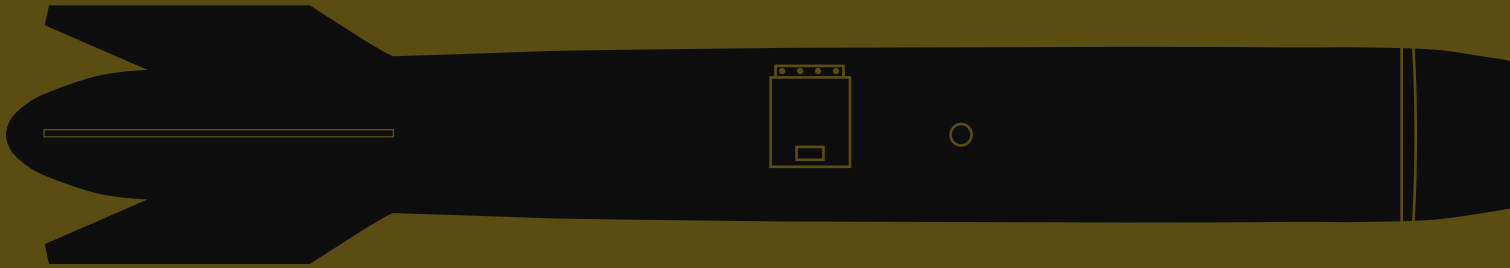
GROUND ZERO

One B61 air detonation
(at approximately 2,100 feet)



CAPABILITIES

Designed for quick deployment



11'8" (3.58m)

CASING

Gravity-drop. Lightweight.
Withstands supersonic speeds.

TYPE

Strategic/tactical.
Radiation implosion.

YIELD

Variable: 0.3 to 340 kilotons (17 times
more powerful than the Nagasaki bomb).

DEPLOYMENTS

An estimated
220 B61s in
four European
nations plus
Turkey

TURKEY

Incirlik Air Base
(Turkish)
B61s: 70 est.
[up to 90]
Delivery system:
50 est. American F-16s
20 est. Turkish F-16s

ITALY

Aviano Air Force Base
(American)
B61s: 50 est.
[up to 72]
Delivery system:
American F-16s

Ghedi Torre Air Base
(Italian)
B61s: 20 est.
Delivery system:
Italian PA200 Tornados

THE NETHERLANDS

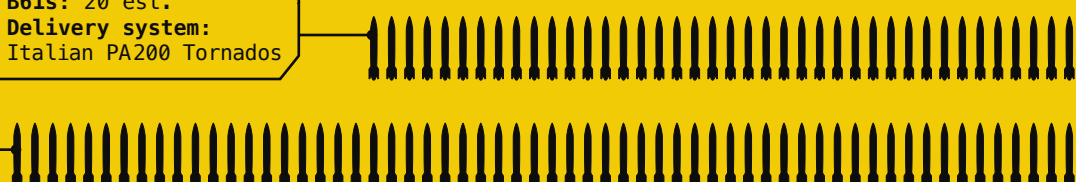
Völkkel Air Base (Dutch)
B61s: 20 est. [up to 44] Delivery system: Dutch F-16s

BELGIUM

Kleine Brogel Air Force Base (Belgian)
B61s: 20 est. [up to 44] Delivery system: Belgian F-16s

GERMANY

Buchel Air Force Base (German)
B61s: 20 est. [up to 44] Delivery system: German PA200 Tornados



Fireball radius 0.39 miles (0.47 miles²)

Extent of actual nuclear fireball

Air blast radius (20 psi) 1.22 miles (4.71 miles²)

Even robust concrete buildings collapse; nearly 100 percent fatality

Radiation radius 1.35 miles (5.75 miles²)

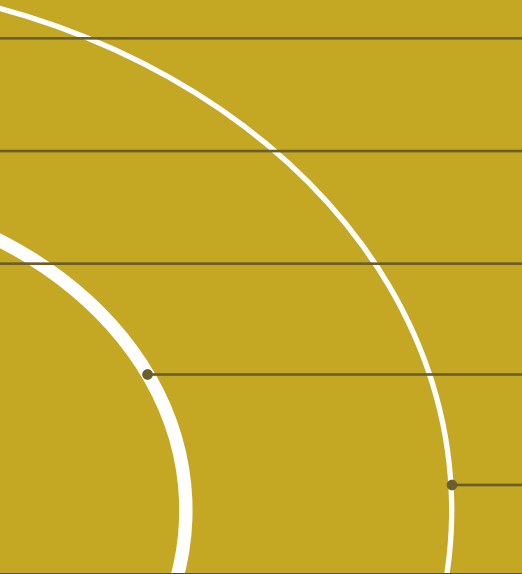
50 to 90 percent fatality from acute effects alone

Air blast radius (5 psi) 3.02 miles (28.62 miles²)

Most residential building collapse; widespread injuries/fatalities

Thermal radiation radius 4.90 miles (75.29 miles²)

Third-degree burns, which often require amputations



DELIVERY

Principal aircraft

F-16 Falcon

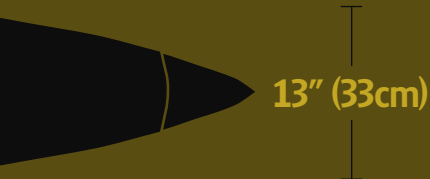


Combat radius: 340 miles
Total range: 2,620 miles
Top speed: 1,320 mph
Maximum load: 1 B61

PA 200 Tornado

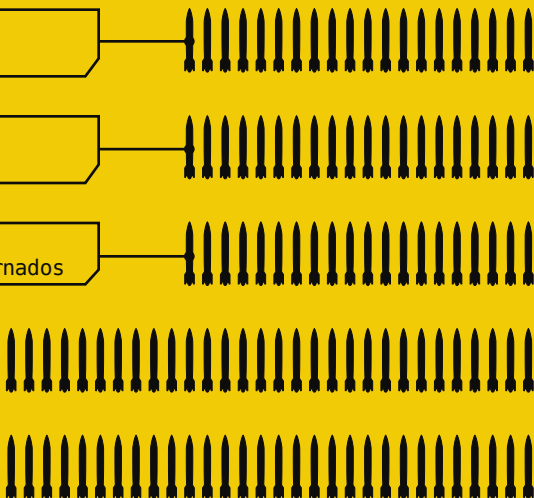


Combat radius: 870 miles
Total range: 3,890 miles
Top speed: 1,490 mph
Maximum load: 4 B61s



DELIVERY

Earmarked for planes in all host countries





How Did Family Get So Complicated?



Finally, the solution to our family problems is... childlessness? **BY DENNIS LEAP**

THIS PAST AUGUST, *TIME* MAGAZINE's editors reached into the controversy bag and ran a cover with the headline "The Childfree Life." The quip: "When having it all means not having children." Being a father of four daughters and grandfather of six, I was curious to discover what was up. I was deeply troubled by what I read. Let me explain.

I read the *Time* article "None Is Enough" several times to not only understand what was being said, but *why*. I mulled it over. I read similar articles. I read a book on the subject. It is now clear to me that people are not done attacking the traditional institution of marriage and family. People have already pretty effectively destroyed traditional marriage and family; however, a growing number of people want to ensure it is pulverized and blown away with the wind.

A New Female Archetype

The birthrate in America is the lowest in the nation's recorded history. Between 2007 and 2011 it declined 9 percent. Childlessness has risen across all racial and ethnic groups. Lauren Sandler, author of the *Time* article, points out that the rise in childlessness is "both dramatic and, in the scope of our history, quite sudden."

The nation's fertility rate has dipped to 1.89 children per woman, well below the 2.1-children-per-woman rate a nation needs for demographic stability. A large imbalance is developing between retirees and the potential number of young workers needed to support them. National prosperity will decline significantly if this trend continues.

Sandler's article gives her view of why this trend *will* continue. She attributes the drop in birth rate to the invention of a new female

"archetype"—a woman who chooses to remain childless.

This is a growing trend, Sandler says. She believes women are discovering fulfilling lives—without children. "Along the way, these women are inventing a new female archetype, one for whom having it all doesn't mean having a baby." Sandler shows little care for demographic destabilization. Her article is actually a diatribe against feminists who have chosen to have children, against women who embrace traditional motherhood, and against men who are concerned about demography and reject this new archetype.

Sandler criticizes Sheryl Sandberg's book *Lean In* because it suggests that ambitious women will have both careers and children. "It's great that we're in the midst of a cultural conversation about the individual choices and structural barriers that shape our lives," Sandler writes. "If you're a woman who's not in the mommy trenches, more often than not you're excluded from the discussion. ... With fertility treatment widely available, not to mention adoption, even clinically infertile women have more options than ever to become mothers, which increase the possibility that any woman who doesn't will be judged for her choice."

Sandler's article says little to nothing about demography—but much about judgment. Sandler demands that no one judge any woman aspiring to this new female archetype.

Victims of Choice

It is time for a reality check. Women have been demanding *choice* for decades. Society has given them their choice. Women have a choice with birth control, including abortion; women can choose to be

construction workers, doctors, lawyers, ministers, policemen, soldiers, senators and presidents; a woman can choose to have a career or stay at home; a woman can even choose to live on welfare; women can choose to marry a man or a woman; a woman can choose to have a child out of wedlock—or without even having sex.

Where has all this freedom of *choice* left the modern woman?

In 2012, *Psychology Today* reported that many young women who "have it all" experience a "deep sense of dissatisfaction," depression and confusion. Psychologist Barry Schwartz calls this phenomenon the "paradox of choice." He believes that many women become depressed, dissatisfied and confused because they have *too many* choices.

There is a fundamental lesson here.

Many young women who drive themselves to become doctors, lawyers or successful businesswomen—making fantastic salaries—still want marriage and motherhood. Avid feminists claim that young women feel that way because the overbearing *old patriarchal culture* expects them to. Actually there is another reason for this, which we will get to later.

Unfortunately, most young women who do get married and begin having children do not want to give up their career or salaries—they want to *have it all*. The outcome? Many women end up in a never-ending cycle: maintaining a career, taking care of a home, rearing children, and generating the emotional energy to sustain a well-oiled marriage. Such demands are practically impossible for any human being.

Yet who takes the blame when "having it all"—career, marriage and family—doesn't work? For the *new female*,

the answer is simple: It's the children. The solution: Don't have any!

Are Children the Problem?

Sandler cites the advantages as stated by a woman who is childless by choice. "I do get to do all sorts of things: buy an unnecessary beautiful object, plan trips with our aging parents, sleep in, spend a day without speaking to a single person, send care packages to nieces and nephews, enroll in language classes, [and] go out for drinks with a friend on the spur of the moment." On the subject of the demands of parenting, Sandler quotes another woman who said, "It takes all of you, I don't know that I want to give it all." One woman referred to raising children as "glamorous martyrdom."

Jessica Valenti's *Why Have Kids?* is considered to be one of the groundbreaking books of the new female archetype. Valenti states that her book is meant to anger people and incite discussion. The tone of the whole book is one of defiance. She does an effective job of portraying traditional marriage roles and parenting in the most negative of ways. She is definitely a feminist believer in the notion that raising children is "drudgery."

Valenti quotes one mother as saying, "Kids whine, they cry; they ruin movies and vacations. I once had to get off a train because my kid was crying so hard. I've exchanged words with an old lady at church who told me my kid needed to stop whispering and was rude. I've lost my temper in public." Who has the problem here: the mother or the children?

About her own child, Valenti states, "I don't want to be the center of her universe, and as much as I love Layla, I don't want her to be the center of mine. I'm a mother, but I'm other things, too, and my other desires, ambitions and beliefs are as much a part of me, maybe even more, than being a parent."

Reading and attempting to digest all of what I read from Sandler and Valenti, I had to ask myself, "How did family get so complicated?"

The Right Model of Family

Actually Jessica Valenti answered that question for me. She writes, "We need to do away with the idea that there is a 'natural' way to parent—whatever way we choose to parent is the natural way."

There it is. Marriage, the husband's role and the wife's role, family, the child's duty

toward his or her parents—all these basic concepts have gotten twisted, distorted and complicated because *everyone wants to do his or her own thing!*

The Prophet Samuel lived during one of the most difficult times in Israel's history. He summed up the problem of that time succinctly: "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25; English Standard Version).

The problem is the same today. To come out of confusion and to experience supreme happiness, humanity has to stop doing what is right in its own eyes.

Valenti, Sandler and the majority of people in Western society, and really throughout the world, *no longer believe in absolutes*. Few people accept that there is one absolute model of family that works.

"At the heart of the traditional family there has always been the belief that children need a mother and a father," Valenti writes, "and that those roles within the family unit are distinct and largely formed around gender difference. The mother is the caretaker, the father the breadwinner and disciplinarian. But today the Ameri-

(Exodus 20:1-17). This perfect law gives us the perfect model of family. Deep understanding of these laws shows us how to make family work.

God Is a Family

These highly intelligent, well-educated but seriously self-absorbed women are unapologetically blaming their dissatisfaction with life on marriage, motherhood and child rearing. The trend toward childlessness reveals a growing mindset in modern feminist-oriented society that is *proudly* self-centered and selfish. Of course, the problem is not just with women: Men and children are also self-absorbed, self-centered and selfish. This is a problem *all* men, women and children battle every day. Few face up to that battle, so we point fingers at each other. We all want to live life our own way.

This is not new. It has been this way since Adam and Eve rejected God's way in the Garden of Eden. Mankind is so absorbed with material things—having it all—that we have grown far from God and understanding His purpose for creating family.

God's purpose for man is truly astound-

You can be thrilled at being a husband and father, or a wife and mother—if you are willing to let God teach and guide you along the way.

can public no longer thinks, for the most part, that traditional gender roles and marriages are best." Valenti takes it for granted—and wants you to believe—that today's thinking is better. Is it?

As wise King Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). This includes mankind's propensity to experiment with all aspects of human life, even family. While new generations believe they can come up with something better, history often shows that something similar was tried before and it failed.

Today's thinking is *absolute* confusion. Because this kind of thinking won't change, our society is headed for disaster!

Laws exist that govern human life, including family life. If we keep these laws, we are guaranteed happiness. If we break these laws, they will break us.

These laws are in the Bible. They are summarized in the Ten Commandments

ing! *It is all about family.*

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). A man and a woman were created in *God's image and likeness* for a profound reason: God is recreating Himself through mankind. This is the breathtaking reality.

Yet, there was even more excitement for this man and woman. God told them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (verse 28). God

commanded Adam and Eve to reproduce themselves—to *begin a family* to rule the Earth.

But first, God united them in marriage (Genesis 2:24-25). It was God who instituted marriage and family—the roles of husband, father, wife, mother and even child.

What was God’s purpose in creating family this way?

“Now, incredible as it may sound to those who do not understand the revelation of God’s truth—and only an infinitesimal minority does—God is a Family!” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his groundbreaking book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. “And in man, God is reproducing His kind! Man has the supreme potentiality of being actually born into the very divine God Family.” Mr. Armstrong showed that God *designed* romance, sexual attraction, the desire to marry and have children, and the human family because that is what He wants for Himself: a huge family!

God instituted human marriage and family so men, women and children could be educated to enter into the God Family—so they could actually experience a type of the God Family in this mortal life. This fact elevates human marriage and family to a plane far above that of animals and angels. Human family is a God-plane relationship.

A full understanding of God’s purpose adds great weight to the role of a woman and motherhood. It also reveals the awesome responsibility of a husband and father. God created human children to grow and mature slowly, requiring family life. Animals do not have to be cared for by parents for nearly 20 years. A balanced, happy, successful child warrants the care of a faithfully wedded man and woman.

Family is not complicated when we build it God’s way. The real problem today is that people just don’t know how. You can build a wonderful family life! You can be thrilled at being a husband and father, or a wife and mother—if you are willing to let God teach and guide you along the way. Request your free copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. It is a book all about family—pure, simple and wonderfully natural. ■

► HOLY LAND from page 9

The European armies will march in and surround the area, perhaps in an apparent move to turn Jerusalem into an international city. The long-sought-for peace in the region will seem imminent.

Jesus Christ described this scene in Luke 21:20: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the DESOLATION thereof is nigh.” In Matthew’s and Mark’s accounts of this conversation, these European armies are called “the abomination of DESOLATION”—or, as Daniel put it, “the *abomination that maketh desolate*” (Daniel 11:31; 12:11). Mark says it will be “standing where it ought not” (Mark 13:14)—the Holy City, Jerusalem.

Those armies will be directed by a powerful church lusting to *possess* the holiest of cities. Thus, what will appear to be Jerusalem’s ultimate salvation will shortly become Israel’s deadliest holocaust!

Ezekiel 23 describes Europe’s terrible double cross—not only against Israel, but against Britain and America at the same time (Hosea 5:5). Understanding this prophecy will change your perspective on everything Europe does in its dealings with Israel, Britain and America today! Watch carefully, and see that Germany and Europe are not the trustworthy allies Israel, Britain and America believe they are.

This double cross sets off what Matthew describes as “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). It will be an ever escalating nuclear world war that would, if not stopped, culminate in the extermination of every person on Earth (verse 22).

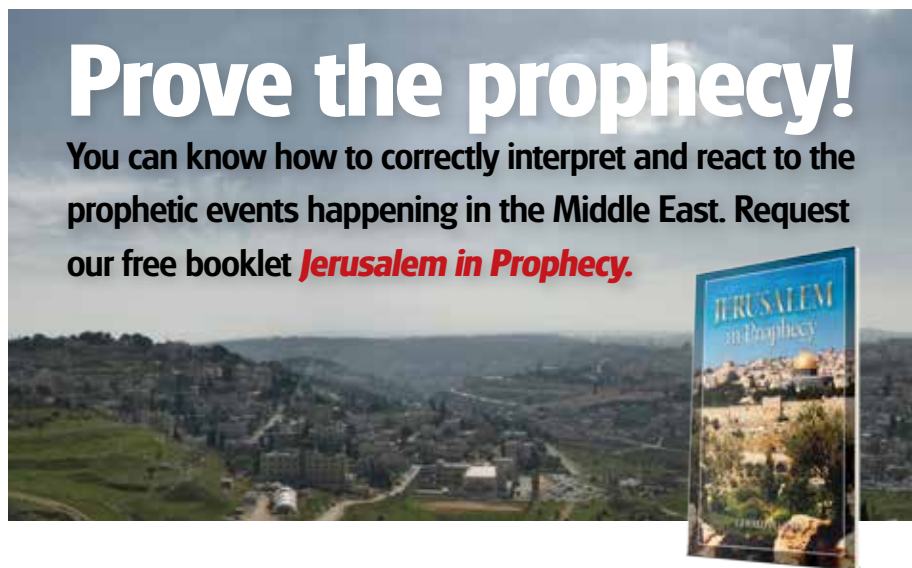
Realize that God will allow all this suffering! Why? As a tool to motivate mankind to finally *repent*—to deeply realize and to change from the error of our ways of living (Ezekiel 33:11). Realize too that, in His mercy, throughout this terrifying period, God will *protect* those who have *already turned to Him in repentance*. He never administers punishment without cause.

Again: Note the conspicuous absence in these prophecies. Hosea 5:13 doesn’t mention America; Daniel 11:41 doesn’t mention it; Christ doesn’t mention it in Luke 21. There is *no America* in end-time Middle Eastern biblical prophecy!

What Comes Next for the Middle East?

The immediate future of a Middle East without America will be tragic. The growing disorder is proving this already, but it is destined to grow many times worse.

Is there any hope ahead for the Middle East? The answer is a spectacular and awe-inspiring YES! There *is* a phenomenal future just ahead for the Jews, Persians, Arabs, and all mankind! After the violent climax of humanity’s worst world war, it is to the Mideast that *Jesus Christ will return*. The Mideast is where He will establish His rulership. The Mideast is where THE PEACE OF THE AGES will begin! Christ will establish His kingdom in Jerusalem. From there, healing, peace and beauty will spread throughout the world. The Middle East will be the foothills of world headquarters. And every year Arabs, Persians, Israelites and people of all nations will come up to Jerusalem to worship God in a Middle East FILLED with His glory! ■





Will Mankind Ever Reach the Stars?

BY RICHARD PALMER

IT IS, PERHAPS, MANKIND'S GREATEST dream. Has any technology captured the world's imagination as much as space travel? We didn't reach the moon until 1969. Before 1992, we knew of no planets outside of our solar system. Nothing made by man has ever visited another star. Yet so many books, movies, television shows and video games revolve around the idea of man traveling to the stars. We're fascinated with it!

The question is, can we ever make this dream reality?

Astronomers have now discovered thousands of planets outside the solar system. Our galaxy alone probably contains hundreds of billions of them. A recent study concluded that the Milky Way contains 8.8 billion Earth-size planets that orbit stars at a distance that would allow them to support life.

How long before we get to visit them?

Well, space is incredibly huge, and we

have made virtually no progress toward fulfilling our dream of zooming around the stars. Depending on your perspective, this is either fairly depressing or incredibly inspiring.

Voyager—Out of the Solar System?

The Voyager 1 probe has come closer to the stars than any other man-made object. On Sept. 12, 2013, NASA announced that the probe was the first man-made object to leave the solar system—at least, according to one definition of the solar system.

Actually, space probes have been “leaving the solar system for the first time” since 1983. The trouble is there are many different places you can draw an imaginary line and say *this marks the edge of the solar system*. By several of these definitions, Voyager isn't even close to leaving yet!

How long before you'll never see another headline that says, “Voyager leaves the solar system”? How long until we know Voyager

has really reached the stars (beyond our own)? *Thirty thousand years*. That's how long it will take, according to our best guess, before the probe passes through the Oort Cloud—a field of rocks, comets and other debris that orbits our sun and marks the outer limits of the sun's reach.

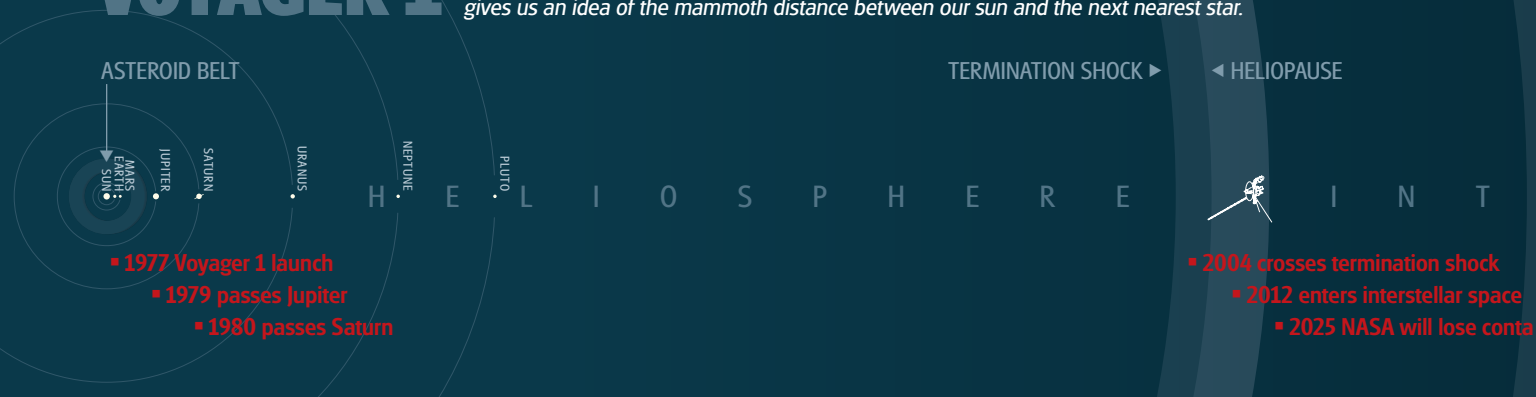
And to be extra sure, we should wait another 10,000 years before Voyager passes the final waymark that could be considered the edge of the solar system: the point at which the sun's gravity is no longer the dominant pull on the probe.

How long before Voyager 1 would accomplish the elusive goal of *interstellar* travel? Well, if we had pointed it in that direction, it would have reached the next-nearest star sometime around the year 77013.

It's not that Voyager is slow. It's one of the fastest-moving man-made objects ever—behind a few other space probes and a manhole cover that accidentally got shot toward orbit

VOYAGER 1

Despite the impossibilities of illustrating to scale, the journey of the Voyager 1 space probe gives us an idea of the mammoth distance between our sun and the next nearest star.



in a U.S. nuclear test.

Voyager 1 is traveling at 38,000 miles an hour. It covers 1 billion miles every three years. But that's *still* not fast enough to reach the stars!

Can We Go Faster?

For our science-fiction dreams to ever become reality, we will have to go *much* faster than 38,000 miles an hour. Is that possible with current technology?

Actually it is. The nuclear-launched manhole cover gives us a clue how. We've reached the limits of what is possible with chemical rockets—but we could knock it up a level with nuclear power.

The earliest—and perhaps most insane—idea for a nuclear-powered rocket was quite simple. During the 1950s and '60s, General Atomics designed a “so crazy it just might work” nuclear rocket called Project Orion. The rocket, fitted with heavy-duty shielding, would simply keep throwing nuclear bombs out the back, and ride the blast waves forward. By exploding one nuclear bomb every second, the rocket would accelerate to incredible speeds—around 20 million miles an hour. That's 500 times faster than Voyager.

There were drawbacks. It would take detonating 800 nuclear bombs to get into orbit. But this was seriously considered a viable way to launch a manned mission to Jupiter and Saturn. It was ultimately canceled since NASA had to focus on reaching the moon by the end of the 1960s.

However, even if the Orion ship were constructed, traveling at 20 million miles per hour would take 130 years to reach the nearest star. And at the end of its journey, the rocket would have no way to slow down. After over a

century of waiting, it would zoom through the star system in a matter of days.

Other nuclear-powered projects require technology we just don't have yet. For example, Project Daedalus, designed by the British Interplanetary Society in the 1970s, would reach another nearby star, Barnard's Star, in 50 years—though it, too, would have no way of slowing down. However, this ship was designed to use a type of helium mined from Jupiter—not something we'll be doing anytime soon.

But nuclear propulsion is not the only way. One elegant solution is for the spaceship to leave the propulsion system behind. High-powered lasers in space could focus on a ship with a very large sail. With enough power, these lasers could push the ship forward.

But we're talking a lot of power: space-based lasers consuming the equivalent of all the electricity currently generated by the human race. And it would have to be a big sail, too—close to the size of Poland. Even then, the mission would take decades—not the hours or minutes we see in science fiction.

In Our Mind's Eye

So far, we have merely discussed the propulsion system. We also have to overcome a host of other engineering problems. For example, our fast-moving, Jupiter-helium-powered vessel would need heavy shielding to prevent mere space dust from puncturing its hull. And we haven't even touched the logistics involved in a *manned* mission.

If there is somehow a way to go faster than the speed of light—and mankind could sustain the effort to build the necessary ship and overcome the other hurdles to manned interstellar spaceflight—we could finally reach our dream of visiting

the stars of our galaxy. And that is a big if.

Yet *even in science fiction*, we rarely get out of our own galaxy. In the most optimistic of sci-fi blockbusters, man usually sails among the stars—of his own galaxy. Even our *imagination*s only have us traveling one or two galaxies—out of an estimated 120 billion.

Why? Perhaps it's the distance: Our nearest galaxy is 2.5 million light years away. Orion—the nuclear-bomb-powered starship—would take 85 million years to get there. Maybe it's hard even for fiction writers to imagine bridging that gap.

Our galaxy contains, very roughly, 300 billion stars. The universe holds an estimated 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (1 septillion) stars. That's over 140 trillion stars for each person on the planet today. And that's our astronomers' current best guess, a guess that seems to jump upward every few years.

And that's just in the *observable* universe. What astronomers detect could be only a tiny fraction of everything that is out there. For all we know, the universe could be infinite.

Even in our wildest imaginations, we reach only a few of the stars. But all of them, or even 1 percent of them? Completely out of the question. Even in our heads we can't travel that far.

Is that it then? Is man a nonentity as far as the universe is concerned?

How We Will Reach the Stars

The Bible says otherwise. Throughout it, God indicates that man plays a central role not only on Earth, but in His *universe*-encompassing master plan. Romans 8:19-22 say that “the whole creation” groans and suffers as it waits for “the manifestation of

ct with Voyager 1

Traveling at 38,000 miles per hour and at a rate of 1 billion miles every three years, Voyager 1 will reach our next closest star, Proxima Centauri, in 75,000 years.

the sons of God.” The whole creation. All septillion stars? Really?

Hebrews 2:8 states that God has put “all things in subjection” under man. The Moffatt Bible translates “all things” as “the universe.” The verse goes on to say that God has left “nothing that is not put under him.”

“In other words, for those willing to believe what God says, He says that He has decreed the entire universe—with all its galaxies, its countless suns and planets—everything—will be put under man’s subjection” (Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Incredible Human Potential*).

That verse goes on to say, “But now we see not yet all things [the endless universe] put under him [man].”

Hebrews 2:8 is not an isolated scripture. Many other verses reveal that God’s plan for mankind includes the whole universe.

How can this be? Even if we invent some as yet completely unknown way of traveling faster than light, man can’t hope to have any impact on the universe.

The Bible gives us the answer: God is going to change man! It’s the only way these promises of traveling the universe can be carried out.

1 John 3:2 tells us, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, *we shall be like him*; for we shall see him as he is.” We will be like God is, having the same tremendous power, intellect and existence. Philippians 3:21 is more explicit: It states that God will “change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body....”

Again, this truth is found throughout the Bible—these are just two scriptures of many. And

it makes sense; there’s no other way God could possibly put the whole universe in subjection under man. It’s simply too vast.

“Our potential is to be born into the God Family, receiving total power!” Mr Armstrong continues in *The Incredible Human Potential*. “We are to be given jurisdiction over the entire universe!”

“What are we going to do then? These scriptures indicate we shall impart life to billions and billions of dead planets, as life has been imparted to this Earth. We shall create, as God directs and instructs. We shall rule through all eternity! Revelation 21 and 22 show there will then be no pain, no suffering, no evil, because we shall

have learned to choose God’s way of good. It will be an eternal life of accomplishment, constantly looking forward in super-joyous anticipation to new creative projects, and still looking back also on accomplishments with happiness and joy over what shall have been already accomplished.”

This is a future far greater and far bigger than anything imagined by man’s fiction writers.

The human mind can’t come close to understanding the vastness of space. But as we get better at it, we clearly see two things: how tiny and insignificant man is by himself—and just how huge and wonderful is the plan that God has for us!

The universe is waiting for you!

Find out what’s out there.

Our Awesome Universe Potential

Order it for free!





In the future, French Mirage fighters could be considered more European than French.

Unifying Europe's military—through the back door

FOR DECADES EUROPE HAS relied on America for its defense. Now that the U.S. no longer wants the job, Europe has to improve its military at the same time that nations face pressure to cut their budgets.

The solution: Join forces. Nations like **France** and **Poland** have suggested this for years, but the movement for a combined European military now has a new champion: **Germany**.

Berlin put forward a plan to rebuild NATO around several core nations at a meeting of NATO defense ministers on Oct. 22, 2013. It received broad support and could be adopted at a NATO meeting in 2014.

In some ways, the biggest news here is simply that Germany is pushing NATO to reform. "Perhaps the strangest thing about the proposal is its origin," wrote the Atlantic Council of Canada, an independent think tank focusing on NATO. Germany has never really been a leader within NATO. The think tank concluded, "This may just be the dawn of a new era for Germany in NATO, which, were it to commit itself

more fully to the alliance, would go a long way toward reinvigorating the alliance."

The plan itself is also significant. It would divide Europe's military into clusters. Individual nations would no longer have to maintain all parts of a balanced military, but would be free to specialize. Yet each combined cluster would possess all the necessary resources for a complete military.

Each cluster would be built around a "framework nation"—one of Europe's larger militaries—which would lead the cluster and provide a broad, balanced military as a foundation for other nations to build on. These framework nations would probably include France, the **United Kingdom**, Germany and **Italy**.

A similar system already works in **Afghanistan**. Germany runs the northern command and leads other nations, like the **Netherlands**. Germany's plan would take such cooperation to the next level, with nations pooling their military resources and jointly developing new weapons and technology.

The plan is strikingly

similar to one put forward earlier in October by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), a think tank closely associated with Germany's Christian Democratic Union. It called for Europe to form "islands" of defense cooperation. The *Trumpet* also reported on Germany's push for similar structures back in August 2013.

Rather than cede control

of their militaries to the EU, nations could instead share aspects of the military with two or three neighboring nations, gradually getting accustomed to the loss of sovereignty until they later give it over to a larger European entity, suggested the KAF.

The report made several specific recommendations, the most striking being that Germany should act as the "lead nation of a common air force with the Netherlands and the **Czech Republic**." It also suggested working with France and Poland to buy two joint-support ships, as well as working with the Netherlands and **Denmark** to upgrade some frigates.

For years, Germany has tried to stay away from anything that could look like military leadership. Now, pushed by the United States, Berlin is beginning to take the lead to improve Europe's military, both abroad and at home. ■

Germany invades Obsidia!

While **Germany** is pushing for a European military with new enthusiasm, it is also improving its own military. In early October 2013, 3,500 Bundeswehr soldiers using 700 air and ground military vehicles, with the aid of surveillance drones and elite special forces units, successfully invaded Obsidia.

Obsidia is a fictitious name of the city that served as a target for German forces during their most recent military exercise. German-Foreign-Policy.com wrote that the exercise "was aimed at training prospective general and admiral staff officers from the German Armed Forces Staff College and Army officer cadets" (Oct. 17, 2013).

The scope of Operation Obsidia was vast and complex, and went beyond just the "house by house" invasion by Bundeswehr soldiers. Prior to the invasion, human spies, various surveillance vehicles and even drones gathered vital strategic intelligence, which was then used to coordinate the ground assault. During the invasion, troops also practiced exercises in crowd and riot control.

Lt. Gen. Bruno Kasdord, inspector general of the Bundeswehr and a participant in Operation Obsidia, said German officers must be educated in the full "spectrum" of warfare so they can "be prepared for the challenges of the future."



Eurocopter Tiger



Migrants picked up by an Italian Coast Guard boat in October

North Africa's policeman

EUROPE IS INCREASING ITS control over the Mediterranean Sea through a new “big brother” surveillance program. The European Parliament approved the program for the Mediterranean Sea on Oct. 10, 2013, after an overcrowded boat full of migrants sank off the **Italian** island of Lampedusa, killing 359. The new program, EUROSUR, was marketed as the solution to the tragedy, but it has actually been in planning for several years.

The program establishes

drones and satellites to watch the Mediterranean, aided by offshore sensors and other intelligence equipment. Spiegel Online called it “precisely the kind of monitoring apparatus America’s NSA intelligence service might dream up.” Spiegel titled its article, “EU Plans Big Brother System in Mediterranean” (Oct. 11, 2013).

Officials estimate the program will cost €244 million (US\$311 million), but the Heinrich Böll Foundation claims this is hugely underestimated: It puts

the figure at €874 million (\$1.19 billion). Given the EU’s history of massively underestimating the cost of important projects, the latter figure is more likely to be correct. The lower figure, however, makes the scheme easier to sell to the public.

Mass immigration from Africa has also been used to sell the project to the public. But immigration is not truly what this is about. The EU is extending its control over the Mediterranean Sea and into North Africa.

Another program, thinly disguised as an anti-immigration effort, is EUBAM Libya. This group’s stated aim is to help **Libya** manage its border and train its customs officials. When up to full strength, it will have 111 EU staff, 54 local staff members and 54 bodyguards. While it will help prevent would-be emigrants from leaving Libya illegally, the *EU Observer* says its real purpose is to serve as “an EU intelligence asset.”

In April 2011, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that **Iran** was trying to gain power over the Mediterranean

and Red seas. In that article, he wrote that “**Germany** and the **Vatican** probably see Iran’s strategy better than any power outside the Middle East.” He warned that Europe would prepare to confront Iran. Two years later, he warned that “Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications.” He described how Europe and Iran were quietly vying for control of the region and the resources it contains.

Now we see the EU creating a new surveillance plan for the Mediterranean and EU intelligence-gathering initiatives sprouting in Libya. We see **France** fighting in **Mali** and preparing to deploy more troops to the **Central African Republic** (sidebar). Europe is awake to the threat radical Islam poses to the vital trade networks and resources in and around the Mediterranean. It also sees that it can no longer depend on the U.S. to contain that threat, so the EU is dealing with it personally. Expect such initiatives to grow in number and in scope. ■

Securing the Central African Republic

As the **Central African Republic** (CAR) faces an Islamic takeover, **France** plans to send more troops in and is pushing for UN intervention in its former colony.

Since the Islamic Seleka rebels took over CAR in March, conditions have deteriorated rapidly, with Muslims and Christians fighting each other. Only 15 percent of the country’s population is Muslim, but Seleka took control in March, putting **President Michel Djotodia** into power. (The man he replaced, **François Bozizé**, came to power in a coup in 2003, but went on to win presidential elections and even received military support from France.)

The Seleka rebels include many fighters from **Chad** and **Sudan**. Sudan has links to Chad’s rebel groups, making it the major foreign power behind the takeover. President Djotodia ordered the disbanding of the Seleka groups in September, but only after absorbing many of their fighters into the army.

France now fears that the Central African Republic could become a terrorist breeding ground, allowing radical Islam a safe haven in the heart of Africa. Sudan is currently **Iran**’s most important African partner. Iran’s Islamists could easily cross the border into the CAR and set up shop there, giving them easy access to oil and other resource-rich parts of Central



President Michel Djotodia

Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.

France wants to turn the African Union mission in the country into a UN peacekeeping force, supported by French troops. With troops deployed in **Mali**, France doesn’t want another war on its hands, so it is trying to get its African allies to do as much of the work as possible. It already has 450 soldiers in the country to protect the airport, and reports indicate Paris plans to nearly double this number.

Is the president purging the military of dissenters?

WHEN **President Obama** entered the Oval Office, he immediately fired **Gen. David McKiernan**. The president wanted “fresh thinking” and “fresh eyes” on Afghanistan. It was the first time a top general had been fired during wartime in more than 50 years.

McKiernan’s replacement, **Stanley McChrystal**, lasted a bit more than a year. He was fired for making disparaging comments, including that President Obama wasn’t really that interested or “engaged” in the war in Afghanistan.

Since then, President Obama has terminated close to 200 high-ranking military officers. This year alone, nine generals and flag officers have been fired or have been pressured to resign. *World Net Daily* calls this purge of top military brass an “extraordinary number.” This amounts to a major eradication of the leadership of the U.S. military.

In the North Africa region, three top commanders at the time of the Benghazi attack have been dismissed: U.S. Army **Gen. Carter Ham**, who headed the United States African Command; **Rear Adm. Charles Gaouette**, commander of the aircraft carriers in the Arabian Sea; and **Maj. Gen. Ralph Baker**, who commanded the Joint Task Force-Horn in Djibouti, Africa.

Several of the other six generals and flag officers fired were allegedly critical of other Obama policies such as military cuts, the removal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and America’s new policy on Iran. Others were allegedly fired for sexual misconduct, or adultery—dismissal for which has been increasingly rare since President

Bill Clinton’s affair.

What angers many observers even more is that while so many of America’s military leaders are being fired, the Obama administration has failed to hold a single Obama administration official accountable for a string of scandals: the Benghazi cover-up; the Fast and Furious scandal; the FBI admitting it uses surveillance drones over U.S. soil; the Justice Department secretly seizing the records of more than 20 Associated Press phone lines; the Justice Department illegally monitoring the phone lines and e-mails of Fox News reporter James Rosen; the Internal Revenue Service targeting the president’s political adversaries; the National Security Agency

conducting illegal, covert telephone and online surveillance programs on U.S. citizens, violating the Fourth Amendment; the NSA spying on America’s allies to the point of tapping the phones of heads of state. Additional revelations that the IRS targeted President Obama’s political adversaries add credence to the charges that a military purge could be occurring.

The atmosphere within the senior ranks is becoming so bad that retired Army **Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady** says members no longer feel prepared to fight or have the desire to win.

The *National Journal* reported November 1 that low morale isn’t the only problem. Resentment is so high that some soldiers have reportedly

considered—but dismissed—trying to “take out the president” and stage a coup.

Something deadly dangerous is happening in America. The Obama administration is showing itself extremely intolerant of dissent. And the president has made it clear that he will use the full force of government to attack opposition groups that defy his agenda.

In this poisonous climate, the United States military is being gutted and re-shaped. To learn the full breadth of the conspiracy underway against the U.S., request your free copy of *America Under Attack*. ■



Why is Saudi Arabia getting so bold?

On Oct. 17, 2013, **Saudi Arabia** was offered a highly coveted seat on the United Nations Security Council for the first time in its history. But the next day the Saudis rejected the offer. It was widely viewed as a slap at the **United States**, considered one of its strongest Western allies. What was Saudi Arabia so upset about, and why was it suddenly so bold?

The rise of **Iran** is Saudi Arabia’s most pressing concern. The Saudis have watched anxiously as Iran, a bitter enemy, has evaded punishment even while continuing to forge its nuclear program, fund terrorism and aggressively expand its influence throughout the region.

Now, they fear the United States is giving its blessing to the whole appalling process. There are signs America is giving in to Iran—its weakening resolve, its declining interest in the Middle East, its fading sense of responsibility to protect **Israel**.

An American reconciliation with Iran truly is a game-changer for Saudi Arabia. It absolutely shreds the U.S.-Saudi alliance. You can be sure the Saudis have been seeking other options. But what options do they have? This is a compelling question when viewed in light of biblical prophecy.

As the *Trumpet* has tracked for some time, **Germany** is preparing itself to confront Iran. An alliance with

Saudi Arabia is a key component in these preparations.

In a recent article, Gerald Flurry revealed Germany’s “whirlwind” strategy for attacking Iran. “Germany has *surrounded* Iran and radical Islam,” he wrote. “Soon that whirlwind is going to start rotating and whirling against the king of the south [an Iranian-led, radical Islamic alliance] like a well-armed—probably nuclear-armed—vortex!” (July 2013).

Bible prophecy also *specifically* forecasts a German-Saudi alliance. The *Trumpet* has forecast this union for years. You can read about it in Mr. Flurry’s article “A Mysterious Alliance” (thetrumpet.com/go/784).

Nations throughout the Middle East are having to recalibrate their thinking based on the probability of a U.S.-Iran reconciliation. This represents a transformative alienation of “moderate” Arab states like Saudi Arabia that are united against Iran. *And it is exactly these states that Germany is going after.*

This development aligns remarkably with the prophecy of Psalm 83.

Saudi Arabia’s very public rebuke of America is likely a strong indication of the confidence it has gained in its new European ally. It is hard to imagine the Saudis being so bold—if not for the support they are receiving from Germany.

Don't underrate al Shabaab

EVER SINCE THE FOUR-DAY siege of Kenya's Westgate Mall in September, Iranian-backed and al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab has continued making disturbing headlines internationally.

On Oct. 5, 2013, the terrorist group proved formidable enough to repel an elite team of U.S. Navy SEALs. In an attempt to capture the terrorist Ikrima—the go-between for al Shabaab commanders and various al Qaeda terrorist cells—the SEALs invaded al Shabaab's fortification in Barawe, a Somali port city that the group controls almost entirely and from which it earns annual trade revenue of about \$25 million. The SEALs underestimated al Shabaab's capabilities and were overwhelmed by the militants'

counteroffensive.

Al Shabaab is believed to be tied to the explosion that went off in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on October 13. This was a premature detonation of what would have been a makeshift, yet deadly, suicide bomb. It only killed its operators—two Somali men who were in Ethiopia illegally. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility and claimed that the intended target was the soccer World Cup qualifier between Ethiopia and Nigeria, held the next day.

In the midst of it all, al Shabaab Islamists have used the media to post video advertisements for recruiting militants, particularly from the United States and Britain. They produce an online magazine that boasts of their suicidal exploits



and explains their jihadist manifesto.

The Horn of Africa, specifically Ethiopia, is prophesied to ally with an Iranian-led, Islamic king of the south, and al Shabaab may contribute significantly to that end. As Islamic terror continues to grow across Africa and the Middle East, expect Europe's uneasiness to grow with it, until radical Islam is snuffed out in a prophesied "whirlwind" attack. ■

No prize for you

THE IBRAHIM PRIZE FOR Achievement in African Leadership is the biggest annual award in the world. Established in 2007, it rewards former African heads of state who were democratically elected, demonstrated exceptional leadership, exited office according to legally mandated term limits, and have left office within the last three years. The prize money is \$5 million paid over 10 years and a \$200,000 annual pension thereafter.

Sadly, however, Africa has no leaders worthy of the prize. On Oct. 14, 2013, the foundation announced that it found no head of state who qualified.

It was the fourth time in the award's seven years that a worthy leader has not been found.

The foundation also presented its 2013 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, which uses 94 indicators to measure the quality of governance in African countries. The index showed an overall deterioration in safety and the rule of law. "[I]f this deterioration is not turned around," the foundation noted, "it could signal an era where, despite fewer regional conflicts, we will see an increase in domestic social unrest across Africa."

Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." The people of Africa are suffering under a lot of corrupt rulership—as are people most everywhere else in the world. The Bible prophesies that this situation will change soon, however, when "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). ■

Typhoon levels the Philippines

Philippine officials believe as many as 4,000 people have died and 1,600 are missing after one of the most powerful typhoons ever to make landfall struck the Philippines. "I don't believe there is a single structure that is not destroyed or severely damaged in some way—every single building, every single house," said U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy after taking a helicopter flight over Tacloban, the largest city in Leyte province.

The superstorm hit on Nov. 8, 2013, with 147 mph winds and a 20-foot wall of seawater. It was likely the deadliest natural disaster in the Philippines' history. Authorities had evacuated some 800,000 citizens ahead of the storm, but the death toll still soared because many evacuation centers were not able to withstand the water surges and winds. Many who had taken refuge in these buildings drowned or were swept away. Relief efforts were hampered by the logistical challenges of reaching thousands of victims spread across hundreds of devastated islands.

For days after the storm passed, stunned survivors picked through the rubble of their homes, searched for loved ones, pleaded for food and wondered why such devastation was unleashed upon their nation. "I have no house, I have no clothes. I don't know how I



will restart my life, I am so confused," an unidentified woman told reporters on the scene.

Why is so much violent weather assailing the world? Those personally affected by the incomprehensible carnage need answers. You need answers. These answers can be found in our free booklet *Why 'Natural' Disasters*.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan

Moscow puts Soviet squeeze on neighbor nations

IT'S A ROUGH TIME TO BE A FORMER Soviet country. **Russian President Vladimir Putin** sees many of these nations giving in to Europe's economic overtures, so in a push to draw them back into Moscow's sphere, he is reverting to some strong-arm countermeasures. The trend is evident in **Russia's** recent dealings with **Lithuania, Ukraine, Armenia** and impoverished **Moldova**.

In October, the Kremlin banned Lithuania's milk and other dairy products, and temporarily doubled up customs inspections on all of its other exports. In August, Moscow abruptly halted all Ukrainian imports crossing the Russian border for tedious customs examinations. The Kremlin removed the cumbersome restrictions after a week, but one of Putin's aides said that they might be permanently reinstated if Ukraine enters trade deals with the EU. Such a decision, according to the aide, would be "suicidal" for Ukraine.

Armenia has long heavily depended on Moscow for security. **Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan** was apparently reminded of this fact during a September meeting with Putin.

He emerged from the talks announcing that his nation would ditch years' worth of efforts it had made toward joining the **EU's** Eastern Partnership program, and instead join the Eurasian Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Then there's Moldova. **Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin** recently said it would be "a grave mistake" for Moldova to try to build warmer ties with Europe. The impoverished nation is completely reliant on Russian gas for heat, and Rogozin threatened to cut off that supply, adding, "We hope that you will not freeze." Russian authorities then outlawed Moldovan wine, one of the nation's chief exports, and said they may ban apples and other produce as well. Rumors have circulated that tens of thousands of Moldovans who hold jobs in Russia may be kicked out, devastating the financial lives of myriad Moldovan families.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, the Western world rejoiced, heralding the event as a victory for liberty, a triumph for democracy, and evidence of the supremacy of capitalism over socialism. Vladimir Putin called it the "greatest

geopolitical catastrophe of the century." The aftermath of the collapse presented hardships, not just for Russia, but also for several of the former Soviet states that initially rejoiced at the union's demise. Those countries without energy to export suffered a colossal decline in standard of living, followed by a period of economic stagnation. The strain was enough to nudge some of these nations back into Russia's arms. The most notable reconciliation was the establishment of the **Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan** trade union. In April 2012, Putin called the creation of this union the *most meaningful geopolitical event* in Asia since the Soviet Union broke up.

Putin intends the partnership among these three countries to be a permanent feature within the sphere of the former Soviet Union. For former

Soviet states, it is an alternative to the European Union, and Putin is bent on absorbing other nations into the fold.

Under Putin's reign, as evidenced by the squeeze currently underway, Moscow is working to recreate the geography of the Soviet Union and to reassert Russia's influence in the region. The goal of reversing the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century" underpins almost every facet of the Kremlin's foreign policy. Putin recently called the reestablishment of the Soviet empire "inevitable." Bible prophecy corroborates this view—though the Asian bloc that is prophesied to congeal will be quite different from the Soviet Union, primarily in that it will include **China** and other East Asian nations. To understand more, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. ■



The renowned Crystal Palace

China plans to rebuild British landmark

The Crystal Palace, a symbol of **Great Britain's** power in the early-to mid-1900s, was once the largest glass structure ever built. In 1936, the massive glass edifice was destroyed due to a fire. Now, builders are planning to reconstruct the Crystal Palace, but they're not British builders.

Chinese investment firm Zhong Rong Group is planning to fund the project to reconstruct this icon of Britain's former greatness. **Ni Zhaoxing**, chairman of Zhong Rong, says he desires to "rebuild the splendid glory of the past."

It is a sad day for Great Britain when a foreign nation rebuilds a structure that once showcased the British Empire's splendor and ingenuity. The Crystal Palace project displays just how powerful and dominant **China** has become. While many nations are struggling to finance basic infrastructure, China is going into another country to build a nearly \$1 billion tourist attraction.

Mankind's Aversion Therapy Lesson

God's little understood plan for bringing salvation to humanity

GOD IS BATTLING TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM SATAN, right? 1 Timothy 2:4 says God “will have *all men* to be saved.” But few Christians realize there is a *time order* to God’s plan of salvation. And *today*, God is definitely not trying to save humanity.

Consider: *Billions* over the past 6,000 years have lived and died *never knowing Christ*. Billions of lives have been tragically cut short by war, violence, disease epidemics, starvation and malnutrition. Billions who have lived unfulfilled, unhappy lives. If God is trying to save the world *now*, He must be failing miserably. How could a just God allow so many to die without even having a *chance* for salvation? Yet, that is what mainstream religions would have you believe.

That is *not* God’s plan!

In Galatians 1:4, the Apostle Paul called our age “this present evil world.” The natural mind of man, Paul wrote in Romans 8:7, is hostile toward God. Elsewhere, Paul referred to Satan the devil as the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4). In Revelation 12:9,

the Apostle John said that Satan has “deceived the *whole world*.” If God is struggling against Satan to save this world *now*, He is *losing* the battle.

God is not losing the battle against Satan—*mankind is!* But God is *allowing it* so we will learn, *by our own tragic experience*, a lesson we will never forget.

God created man perfect physically (Genesis 1:31), yet unfinished *spiritually*. God offered to complete man’s spiritual creation by giving him His Holy Spirit to combine with man’s human spirit (Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11). But Adam rejected God’s Spirit when he followed his wife and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

This was not about two fruit trees—it was about two ways of life. The tree of life represented living God’s way of life as led by His Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). Obeying God and receiving His Holy Spirit would have given Adam the power to think like God and develop a loving relationship with his Creator and with fellowman. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented Satan’s way of life. Adam ate from it, and he and his offspring willingly subjected themselves to the seductive and deceitful spirit of Satan (Ephesians 2:2).

Adam could have received eternal life, not through an actual fruit tree but through the *Holy Spirit*, which that tree symbolized. Romans 8:10 even refers to God’s Spirit as *life*. This spirit-life comes only as a *gift* from God (Romans 6:23). But he rejected that gift and ate from the tree of *human* reasoning—which leads to death.

Genesis 3:22-24 explain the outcome of Adam’s rebellious decision: “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, *and live for ever* So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, *to keep the way of the tree of life*.”

Herbert W. Armstrong described this “sentence” in *Mystery of the Ages*. God said, in effect, “You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge—you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way—you have rebelled against my command and my government—you have chosen the ‘getting,’ ‘taking’ way of Satan. Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 years of being cut off from access to me and my Spirit After the world of your descendants has *written the lesson* in 6,000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death—after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen—I will supernaturally intervene. By supernatural divine power I shall then take over the government of the whole world. ... I will resurrect from death to mortal life all who have died uncalled during this present 6,000 years. Their judgment shall then come. And on repentance and faith, eternal life shall be offered them.”

Mr. Armstrong referred to this 6,000-year lesson man is recording by his own experience as *aversion therapy*: learning to abhor this “present evil world” we have chosen.

God compares the evils of our present generation to the days of Noah. Genesis 6:5 says every imagination of the thoughts of man “was only evil continually.” Jesus prophesied that those same immoral conditions would be widespread in this end time (Matthew 24:37). In Noah’s day, the masses mocked God’s warnings until the floodwaters came and “took them all away” (verse 39).

This will be the end result of man’s rebellion against God, which began in the Garden of Eden nearly 6,000 years ago. Once the Great Tribulation is upon us, mankind will *see* the culmination of his six-millennium experiment in rebellion. This self-inflicted horror is what it will take for mankind to finally turn to God in humility and sincere repentance.

But then Jesus will return, remove Satan from his throne, and rule *all nations* with God’s government of love. Then, finally, God *will* offer salvation to every human being who has ever lived.



PRINCIPLES OF LIVING
STEPHEN FLURRY



This was not about two fruit trees—it was about two ways of life.

Thousands of years of history

Three thousand years of history teaches that when Germany (Assyria) is united and strong, and when it is ruled by a particular type of leader, its natural tendency is to expand and conquer (“We’re All Falling in Love with Germany,” December). Long histories like this cannot be changed in one generation. *Dean*

No offense, but I think most people who agree with this article don’t know about the current German mentality. Yeah, it’s a shame what happened in history, and, yes, Germany did mistakes, but while you all are talking about “Germany” as one big thing, you forget what a country is made of and that the mentality matters. You can’t talk about a tendency for starting a war—that’s just ignorant and totally forgets that a country is a moving and changing structure. Besides, Germany lacks everything a war-preparing country could have. You wouldn’t even find more than 10 percent of their citizens calling themselves patriotic because everyone is ashamed of their terrible past. History teachers get more and more time to speak about the time of the Nazis and all those mistakes every year, and people there are so open-minded and harmless they probably would not even fight if Germany gets attacked. I was born and raised in Germany and I think most people should look on the inside of Germany before talking about a potentially war starter country. It also hurts me if you think our citizens and government are that stupid and angry to start a war, as we are loving the peace. *CL*

An American wake-up call

What a powerful and much needed article Mr. Flurry! (“The Most Shameful Phone Call in American History,” December). I hope and pray that many Americans will read this and wake up to what is happening in our country. It’s sad that more Americans don’t realize what dangerous times we live in! *Emily Gray—OHIO*

Wow! This is telling it like it is with no sugar coating. Thank you so very much for continuing to get God’s message out into the



world. There are some of us listening and responding and I, for one, am encouraged by your articles and books.

Marycatherine Rodgers—MICHIGAN

America needs Asia

Everyone in Asia knows that the Americans only re-pivoted into the Asian region in order to sell U.S.-made military weapons (“Is Japan’s Military Secret About to Come Out?” December) and then, because it is bankrupt, it will re-pivot out of Asia. The Americans are too bankrupt to police the whole world and therefore they are likely to only focus on the Middle East. America needs allies in the Asia who can be strong enough to hold their own in the region and be a real ally and Japan is one of the likely choices. *Louise O’Brien*

Glorious creation

As was written “how wonderful are thy works” (“Life—There’s a Lot More of It Than You Think!” December). I’m astonished that so few in this country know so little about this glorious creation that we are a part of. My father and great uncle taught me a lot about nature as God’s creation for man to dress. I’m grateful for the knowledge imparted to me by my family and understanding from God my Father. *Lorna Bishop—MISSOURI*

South Africa, NOT an exaggeration

I live here and can vouch for the fact that the writer of this article is not exaggerating (“South Africa: Where Corruption, Rape and Murder Are Normal,” December). We are so desensitized to the violence that it’s not even newsworthy anymore. I was victimized by the police for reporting the fact that my family and I were robbed at gunpoint, along with 30 other restaurant patrons and kept hostage for over an hour. Last year, 30 of this elite cop group were arrested, and between them have over 100 counts of murder being prepared. Perhaps I am not so crazy after all to be building a sailboat, our “family ark,” to sail away from it all. *Don Darkes—SOUTH AFRICA*

I am sick to my stomach after reading this article. I have lived in South Africa

all my life, and never has it been more obvious that this country is on the brink of extinction. There truly is nothing good left in this land, and getting out would be a huge blessing. I was crying whilst reading this article—there is so much suffering and people just turn a blind eye! Thank you for making people aware of what is going on. God’s Kingdom really can’t come soon enough. *Angelique—SOUTH AFRICA*

Thank you for sharing this! This is our everyday life in South Africa. It is hard, and so many of our families and friends die due to violence. The saddest part of it all is when you voice your concerns, you are branded as a racist. What’s more shocking is the fact that so many find “excuses” for these brutal acts of crime. But hopefully with more people like you, our voices will be heard and our plea for a savior country will be heard, not because we are white, but because we are human beings and part of this country. *Dorithea Burger—SOUTH AFRICA*

theTrumpet.com RECENT ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

The Only Thing Keeping the Dollar Alive



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A Rapid Increase in School Shootings in 2013



We have seen a rapid increase in school shooting in the U.S. last year in 2012.

thetrumpet.com/go/10345

Is President Obama Purging the Military of Dissenters?



thetrumpet.com/go/11091

China, Europe Agree on Currency Deal



It’s another jab to the greenback. thetrumpet.com/go/11063

► **CZARS** from page 15

neighbors. The charade of Taiwan's independence would come to an abrupt halt. And China would push into India and the rest of Middle Asia.

Land of the Rising Sun

Japan is notorious not only for wartime savagery, but also for failing to express much remorse for pitilessly invading its neighbors and for rewriting history to downplay the crimes.

In the Massacre of Nanking, China, for example, Japanese troops murdered over 200,000 Chinese civilians. The cruelty was known among the military's highest officers, including the chief commander of the invasion, Emperor Hirohito's uncle. These atrocities were committed with the royal stamp of approval for the purpose of burning fear into the hearts of those living in the cities and nations Japan planned to invade next.

Postwar Tokyo has apologized for instigating aggressive wars, but the apologies have been regularly undercut by revisionist statements from top politicians, especially Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. And Abe and those other politicians are wildly popular among the Japanese people.

As America says *sayonara* to Asia, expect Tokyo to quickly complete its return to full-fledged militarism with an added nuclear component, and to work aggressively toward establishing a new global order in the image of Japan.

Putin, Xi and Abe each harbor deep-rooted nationalism. All three seem to gaze back on violent chapters in their nations' history in a way that suggests a dark component in their leadership ambitions. In America's absence, it wouldn't take long for the peoples of Asia to see a widespread return to authoritarianism, and to see powerful countries dominating weaker ones with unrestrained force *because they can*. And these nations are immensely more powerful today than they were

during the 20th century. Just as with previous generations, the current leaders of Russia, China and Japan understand that this is how wars must be fought if they are to be of any

lasting benefit for a powerful nation.

A Group of Asian 'Kings'

The scenario of an America-free Asia will not remain hypothetical for much longer. We can already see tectonic geopolitical shifts that are rapidly turning it into a reality.

Beyond that, Bible prophecy confirms that the time will soon be here when the U.S. will be removed from the picture and Asian nations will rise up powerfully. Scripture makes plain that rather than go it alone, several Asian juggernauts will pool their resources, consolidate their power and form a military force of proportions the world has never seen.

Analysts occasionally make mention of the biblical word *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16, but it is rare to hear talk of *the kings of the East* discussed a few verses earlier in the chapter. And, though the details of how this Eastern superpower will form in the end time are still unknown, prophecy is unmistakably clear about the fact that *it will happen*.

Maybe Tokyo would be able to persuade nations like South Korea, Taiwan or India to form an alliance with Japan to counter the China-Russia axis. An alliance between Japan and nations like Korea or Taiwan is difficult to imagine, though, given the intense loathing those countries still harbor toward Tokyo because of the savagery they suffered at its hands during times of invasion. It is also possible that Russia and Japan could band together in an effort to counter China. But the strong implication of Bible prophecy is that even if some kind of Japan-led counter-alliance were formed, it would not be long before it joined China and Russia. Back in World War II, Japan was the only industrialized nation in Asia, so it was able to chart its own course. This time around, that advantage is removed.

It is significant that while Bible prophecy describes other end-time power blocs as being united under *one* leader or *one* lead nation (e.g. "king of the north," "king of the south"), the Eastern bloc is called the *kings*—plural—of the East. This implies that the powerful Eastern nations will retain their individual identity and sovereignty. They will be cooperating tightly with one another militarily and

economically, but will not be unified under one "king" the way Europe will.

Asian Axis Frightens Europe

Revelation 9:16 shows that the combined armies of these "kings of the east" will number a jaw-dropping 200 million soldiers. The jaw drops even further when we consider how many people were on the planet in A.D. 90 when God inspired the Apostle John to record that prophecy (Revelation 1:1). Population estimates calculated by author John Tanton show that at that time there would have been only a little over 150 million *total people* alive. That is convincing evidence that this prophecy came from the mind of an Almighty God who truly is able to foretell the future (e.g. Isaiah 55:11)—and that it is for *our day!*

Where could an army this gargantuan come from but an alliance of populous Asian nations? Depending on which countries you include, it is not difficult to reach combined populations of 2.5 to 4 billion people. Under extraordinary circumstances such as those in these end-time prophecies, it is not difficult to imagine one in 10 or 20 people going to war.

Threatened by this imposing military machine to its north and east, the mighty European forces will attack (Revelation 9:1-12). The Eastern hordes will counterattack (verses 13-21). These colossal clashes will lead to the bloodiest pages in mankind's strife-ridden history!

The violence and suffering will appear to be humanity's final chapter. But the Bible makes plain that it is actually only the last page of the *prologue* of mankind's exciting future!

Prophecies show that this nuclear World War III will be abruptly interrupted by the return of Jesus Christ. Though these combined armies will try to fight Christ, He will squelch the violence—and then force upon the Asians, Europeans and all men the peace that has always eluded us. At that time, chapter one of real life can finally begin.

The Bible is clear that the decline of American influence in Asia and the concomitant rise of the Oriental nations is another key step toward Christ's glorious return! ■

You can prove these forecasts from the Bible by requesting a free copy of ***Russia and China in Prophecy***.





British children to start school at 2?

BRITAIN'S EDUCATORS WANT children to spend less time with their families and more time at school.

A recent study found that children from poor homes were 19 months behind their richer peers by the time they started school at age 5. They're not ready to learn at school because of weak parenting, low educational attainment of parents, poor diet, poor housing and other factors. In extreme cases, children arrive at school not potty-trained, unable to talk properly and not even knowing their own names.

This new push for earlier schooling is proof that British families have already been broken.

Education Secretary Michael Gove and supporters say they are strong believers in the importance of family. But after seeing so many parents doing an appalling job, they want to bring up British children instead.

Almost all of Britain's problems—from its bloated welfare state and huge national debt to its obesity crisis—can be traced to a breakdown in families. ■

Food stamp spending spree

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS IN Louisiana thought they hit the jackpot October 11. A glitch caused their food stamp debit cards to show unlimited spending benefits. How did many of them react?

Shoppers descended on local Walmarts, pushing, shoving and fighting each other for carts

and stuffing in all they could. So many shoppers crammed into the stores that police had to be called in for crowd control.

Thousands of shoppers eagerly stole as much as they could. America's biggest retailer abetted them (although Walmart later agreed to pick up the tab), and the police did

nothing except ensure that the looting was orderly and efficient.

Something is terribly wrong with a society where so many people see absolutely no problem with stealing from those trying to help them—and steal as much as possible, casually, in broad daylight for the world to see. ■

Drug cartels contracting U.S. soldiers

RICH Mexican drug cartels buy pretty much anything they want, and now they are buying U.S. soldiers. In September 2013, 22-year-old Michael Apodaca, a former Army private first class at Fort Bliss, Texas, was sentenced to life in prison for a \$5,000 contract assassination he committed in 2009. In November, 29-year-old Army 1st Lt. Kevin Corley, based at Fort Carson, Colorado, agreed to a \$50,000 assassination contract for hits in Laredo, Texas. Corley recruited his own team of assassins for the job, and he even offered the cartel tactical training and stolen U.S. weaponry.

"It is quite worrisome to have individuals with specialized military training and combat experience being associated with the cartels," warns Stratfor's Fred Burton" (Fox News, Aug. 1, 2013). It is a warning echoed by the FBI, which notes that other U.S. law enforcement personnel are being recruited too.

Mexican cartels are spreading across America. And in many ways, they are a self-inflicted wound. Some of its own soldiers and law enforcement officers are helping them spread their addictions and violence. But most of all, Americans' voracious demand for illegal drugs is paying for their own self-destruction. Just like a drug addiction, America is killing itself with drug cartels, but it just can't stop.



Police and passengers at LAX after the fatal shooting on November 1.

Can shooters be stopped?

ON NOVEMBER 1, PAUL CIANCIA walked into Los Angeles International Airport.

He looked like any other passenger. He was an unemployed motorbike mechanic supposedly going to visit his sick father. His roommates didn't notice anything wrong. One of them actually drove

him to the airport. But it only took a moment for Ciancia to go from normal-appearing citizen to psychopathic murderer.

As he walked up to a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint, Ciancia opened a bag, pulled out a .223-caliber rifle and began shooting. The first agent he killed was an

unsuspecting behavior detection officer trained to spot suspicious people and activity.

Eventually, armed police officers brought Ciancia down, but not before he had murdered an agent and injured three more people. It could have been much worse. Ciancia had five clips of ammunition carrying over 100 bullets.

A note written by Ciancia said, among other things, that he wanted to prove how easy it is to get a gun into the airport.

Airport Police Chief Patrick Gannon said that TSA officers are not armed, but in light of this shooting that may need to change. But will arming TSA agents make airports safe? No matter the precautions or expenditures, it's impossible to completely protect against attacks that come out of the blue. ■

A Warning of Hope

There's a lot of bad news—but it is dwarfed by the vision of what lies beyond it. **BY MARK JENKINS**

THIS *TRUMPET* ISSUE HAS PAINTED A GRIM PICTURE: THE unparalleled decades of American dominance and prosperity are coming to a bitter end, and no one will escape the effects of the calamity. What's worse is that the nation's demise can no longer be stopped. Our readership has been warned of the impending disaster and also shown its inevitability. The U.S. will continue its downward spiral, and the nation will fall as the Gentiles exercise dominance over the entire Earth. That is the message the *Trumpet* delivers, supported by both world events and Bible prophecy.

Yet, the very fact that you are reading it should *fill* you with hope!

Though it is truly a time of despair, these crises signal the greatest event that will ever transpire on Earth, and God is showing these signs—this fantastic warning of hope—to you.

God gives the command to warn for a reason: He wants people to repent. In His loving mercy, He will do anything possible to spare us from the terrible times that are coming. A warning is the only hope anyone has of being spared—and it is a warning that the *Trumpet* MUST deliver.

The book of Jonah tells the story of a city named Nineveh that was about to be destroyed because of its sins. God sent a prophet, Jonah, to warn the city of coming destruction. Initially, Jonah fled from that duty. Who would want to carry such an unpopular message? But as this example shows, if God's warning is not given—if the messenger does not deliver the warning God gives him—he just might end up in the belly of a whale. God *requires* that His warning be delivered.

Imagine if God had allowed Jonah to shirk his duty. What if Jonah had just given a message that talked only about the glorious future ahead, without the warning? Nineveh would have been utterly destroyed. The people may have looked for the fabulous future God's prophet had told them about, but found only terrifying destruction.

But what amazing results Jonah's warning had. The entire city's inhabitants, under the direction of their leaders, humbled themselves in sackcloth and ashes, fasted before God, and truly repented. The city was spared the fate about which they had been warned. This was—and remains to this day—the only time in history that a Gentile city has repented before God. What an example of hope they left. What beautiful results God's warning brought about. (For more information, request a free copy of our booklet about Jonah.)

The nations today are in the same situation Nineveh faced nearly 2,800 years ago: filled with sin, and on the brink of destruction. The warning is being delivered. If even one nation would repent, God would spare it as surely as He did Nineveh.

There is, though, such a thing as *a point of no return*—and the U.S. has passed it. This nation has rejected the forgiveness that God offered. (You can read about this in our free booklet *Lamentations: The Point of No Return*.)

But what about *you*?



The Bible gives only one example like that of Nineveh, but it is *filled* with examples of *individual* repentance. If we look to God for deliverance, He can protect us just as surely as He protected Daniel from the jaws of the lions. He can bless us in our individual lives as He did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and so many others.

The Kingdom of God is coming. Prophecy gives us a vivid portrayal of how drastically different world conditions will be when God's laws are obeyed. Swords will be beaten into plowshares. There will be no more war, no more poverty. Children will play in the streets without fear. Deserts will blossom as the rose. Everyone will live the way of give, so competition, wrong business practices and other evils will be things of the past. Religious instruction will flow from Jerusalem, given by Jesus Christ Himself. Religious bickering will be eliminated, and the Church will finally have perfect unity. All nations will obey the King of kings.

At that point, there will no longer be a need for a warning.

But in order for this time of peace and prosperity to come, the sin that saturates the world today must be wiped away. Mankind must see what dreadful results our 6,000 years of self-rule have created. The evil must be removed for mankind to truly live the abundant life—for the godly way of life to cover the Earth.

The horrors of the Great Tribulation will lead into the millennial rule of Jesus Christ, the greatest time of peace and prosperity that has ever been. Until then, both the message of God's soon-coming Kingdom and the warning simply *must* go out, as they did in Jonah's day. This warning is filled with hope!

► **SUPERPOWER** from page 6

721 B.C. But books of the Bible written long after the fact contain warnings to *both* Israel and Judah of impending captivity.

What's the point in that? Why warn Israel several hundreds of years *after* the event?

Jeremiah 5:11-15, for example, specifically mentions both Israel and Judah, and warns Israel that it will be taken captive by "a nation whose language you know not." This passage is clearly not using *Israel* as a generic term for the Jews: Israel and Judah are mentioned separately. Jeremiah 11:10, 17; 12:14; 13:11-14; 19:3; 30:3; 32:30-32; 33:4, 14 all give similar warnings. Yet the book was written 100 years *after* Israel went into captivity. The minor prophets contain similar messages. Even the prophets who lived *after* Judah returned from Babylon warned of a *future captivity* for Israel and Judah.

Why? The book of Jeremiah explicitly states that it was written for "the latter days" (Jeremiah 30:1-3, 24). The only explanation is that Israel would come out of captivity, and **AGAIN BE CONQUERED IN THE END TIME.**

Christ prophesied that we are about to enter a time when America's and Britain's global influence will be snuffed out, and Gentile powers—that is, non-Israelite nations, specified in other prophecies—will wreak unimaginable havoc on the Earth. Jerusalem, the literal city located in modern-day Judah, will be "trodden down of the Gentiles." Revelation 11:2 also shows how the Gentiles shall "tread under foot" the "holy city" for 42 months, or 3½ years. But Bible prophecy also uses Jerusalem, the capital of ancient Israel, to symbolize *all* of modern Israel—chiefly the Americans and the British.

This seismic shift in geopolitical momentum—away from America and toward a clutch of non-Israelite, Gentile powers, accompanied by an escalation in brutal violence and war—is actually good news, ultimately. It is one of the signs Jesus Christ gave of His imminent return!

The darkness and evil that are about to flood this globe presage the most wonderful news in human history!

In this issue, the *Trumpet* illuminates this sign: the geopolitical shift in favor of this world's growing Gentile powers. We will look squarely at where the reshaping of the Middle East is leading (page 7). We will examine what we can expect a post-American Europe to look like in the time ahead (page 10). We will expose how the Asian landscape will be transformed when that continent's native powers return to dominance (page 14). We will take an unblinking look at just what this world should expect when the early indications we see today explode into their full scope. We will see how all of these events are already lining up perfectly to unfold in precise accordance with the Bible's prophetic outline.

And we will discuss the hope of physical protection God affords those who put their trust in Him—and the far greater hope of a new world, governed by God, which will begin when the darkness has passed (page 35).

But what darkness! Soon we will look back upon the problems making headlines today and recognize that they were merely, as Jesus Christ termed it, "the *beginning* of sorrows."

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The time for complacency is past.

The times of the Gentiles are upon us. ■

THE KEY OF DAVID

ALL TIMES ARE A.M. LOCAL TIME UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

Direct TV

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

Dish Network

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

Nationwide Cable

CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPMH 5:00, Fri
Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun
Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri; KAZT 8:00, Sun

Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun
Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun
Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun
Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun
Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun
Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun
San Diego TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri
Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun
Sun City/Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri
Grand Junction KCJT 8:30, Sun
Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXI-LP 6:00, Fri
Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri
Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri
Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun
West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

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

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

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

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am Sat (Olelo)

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

Chan. 333 3:30 am, Sun The Discovery

Channel

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPFI/KBEO 10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPFI 10:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU

9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 12.2

9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KPFX 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirkville KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30, Sun

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

Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

Presque Isle WBPO 9:30, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBOT 9:30, Sun

Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri

Lansing WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/

WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH

8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun

Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT

8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30, Sun

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun

Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun

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



Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun
Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun
Helena KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun
Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun
North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun WPXN 6:00, Fri
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WBU 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, 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 WBW 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun

Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WOPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSB 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSB 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXJ 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTNB-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun

Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Pasco KEPR 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPO 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun
Winton WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/ WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun
Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun
Riverton 10:30, Sun

Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCQO 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CII Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

LATIN AMERICA

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

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

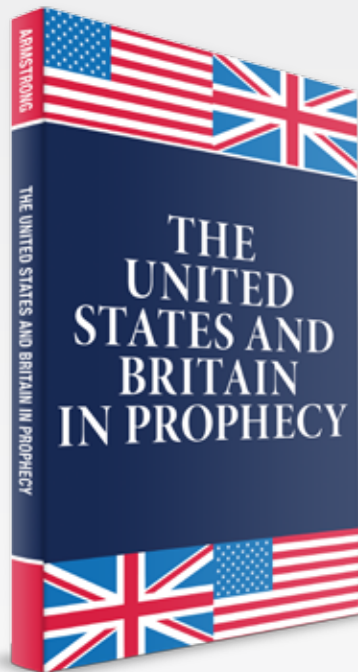
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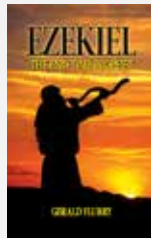
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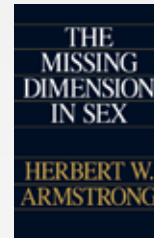
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