



FROM THE EDITOR **GERALD FLURRY**

Mars Landing: A Preview of Your Incredible Potential!

See images from Mars for what they truly are:
a preview of your future mission.

THE WORLD HAS BEEN DAZZLED BY IMAGES FROM MARS. AMERICA'S Perseverance rover is traveling across the Martian surface and sending back some of the best pictures, video and even audio that we have ever had from that planet. The mission also includes test-flying a remote helicopter and gathering rock and soil samples that scientists hope to bring back to Earth later this decade. This truly is an amazing and stunning achievement!

These scientists are searching for signs of past life on Mars. But the overwhelming reality, confirmed by the work of this rover, is that this planet is dead and in a state of decay.

The contrast with the planet we inhabit is unmistakable: Earth is *full of life!* Mars and every other planet are decayed wastelands.

Here is a most exciting truth, revealed in your Bible: The condition of these planets is closely linked with your incredible human potential!

As impressive and inspiring as the Mars landing is, this biblical truth makes it a million times more so. Let me tell you why.

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Cause of Decay

What *caused* the state of decay on Mars and the other planets? The Bible tells us.

God created angels, and they were present when He created the Earth and the universe. These “sons of God shouted for joy” over this creation (Job 38:4-7). God sent Lucifer and one third of the angels to Earth to administer His law and beautify and build. This planet was to be a training ground for far greater future projects.

But some time later—unrevealed in Scripture but perhaps millions of years—a great many angels, led by the greatest angel of all, Lucifer, rebelled against their Creator and launched a *war* against Him (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-17; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-9). It was the most destructive war ever, and it left Earth, the moon, Mars, the other planets and apparently the rest of the universe that God had created perfect in a state of desolation!

This history can be proved from the Bible. Herbert W. Armstrong explained all this clearly in his book *The Incredible Human Potential* (request your free copy). In that book, he wrote, “Apparently all such planets in the entire universe NOW are waste and empty—decayed (*tohu* and *bohu*)—like the Earth was, as described in Genesis 1:2. But God did not create them in such conditions of decay—like our moon. Decay is *not* an original created condition—it is a condition *resulting from a process* of deterioration. Evidently if the now-fallen angels had maintained the Earth in its original beautiful condition, improved it, carried out God’s instructions, and obeyed His government, they would have been offered the awesome potential of populating and carrying out a tremendous creative program throughout the entire universe. When they turned traitor on Earth, their sin must have also brought simultaneously physical destruction to the other planets throughout the universe, which were potentially and conditionally put in subjection to them.”

Now here is something cosmically inspiring: THAT WAR IS THE VERY REASON YOU WERE CREATED!

Mr. Armstrong continued: “As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy, He must have realized that since the highest, most perfect

being within His almighty power to create had turned to rebellion, it left God Himself as the only being who *would not* and *cannot* sin.” This is a profound statement. God realized that only beings with His own perfect character could rule this planet and the universe. So He decided on a different plan—a spectacular plan to *re-create Himself*.

THAT WAS THE BASIS OF HIS CREATING HUMAN BEINGS. You need to study this book to fully understand. It will show you that these statements fit perfectly into the master plan of the Bible.

The angels had destroyed the surface of the Earth, so God renewed it (Psalm 104:30; Genesis 1:2-25) to prepare it for His new creation. Then He made human beings—in His own image and likeness (verse 26)—and put the material creation under our subjection (verses 27-31). It was a means of preparing us for much more ambitious plans to come.

Yes, God created mankind with the destiny to *remove* the decay from Mars and the universe. You have a direct connection to the universe! He wants us to help make the universe look like Earth, like the beautiful Garden of Eden! That is man’s destiny, and you can prove it from the Bible.

A Coming Birth!

The Apostle Paul understood this truth. Notice what he wrote in Romans 8:18-19: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Revised Standard Version).

Why would the creation wait for the sons of God—here referring to human beings—to be glorified? “For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because THE CREATION ITSELF WILL BE SET FREE FROM ITS BONDAGE TO DECAY and obtain the glorious liberty of the children [sons] of God” (verses 20-21; RSV). The Earth and universe must be “set free from its bondage to decay.”

When we see pictures of the moon and Mars, WE SEE THIS “BONDAGE TO DECAY.” It is

obvious that the universe needs desperately to be set free. God created life on Earth—human beings—for that purpose, to make it flourish with new beauty and life!

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (verses 22-23; RSV).

God personifies the Earth and universe as in a state of “labor pains” just before God gives *birth* to the sons of God! The word *adoption* is an absolutely wrong translation. The translators couldn’t believe that mankind is to be *born* into the Family of God—of which human birth is a type. This truth is so incredible that men refuse to believe God! We will not be *adopted* by God—we are going to be *born* into His Family, and you can prove it.

No wonder the word *hope* is used five times in verses 24-25! How awesome this truth is! And God is inviting *you* to be part of this magnificent universe-building program. Can you believe your Bible? You can if you study *The Incredible Human Potential* with it and let God build your faith.

Focus on the Creator

Why do scientists want to reach Mars? It gets back to one overall question: *Is there life there?*

But they are asking the wrong question! They should ask, “WHY ARE MARS AND THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE THERE?” This question leads us to the Creator! Scientists are focused on the *creation*, not the Creator. And though it may be done in ignorance, it amounts to an exercise in futility and rebellion against God.

The Apostle Paul encountered scholars who were asking the wrong question and whose focus was warped. He wrote about them in Romans 1:24-25: “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! Amen” (RSV).

The word *creature* means *things* or *beings*.

Those ancient scholars and our modern scientists do not worship God, so they worship themselves or other human beings and the rest of God’s creation, like Mars. Most people—including most religious people—worship science, scientists and the universe, not God. How disgusting and shallow men are when they worship *things* and *beings*—the creation—and not the Creator of those things and beings. We ask, “Is there life on Mars?” But we should ask, “Is there a Creator of Mars?”

Scientists can see that Mars and the universe are waste and in a state of decay. Some dream of somehow escaping Earth and introducing life to Mars. Can they do that? Look at what human beings have done to this planet. We are about to destroy all human life on *Earth*! Even if we “escaped,” we would bring rebellious, destructive human nature with us! Even if we found life on Mars, we would just destroy it in the end!

SCIENTISTS ARE LOOKING FOR LIFE ON MARS. THEY OUGHT TO BE LEARNING HOW TO SAVE LIFE ON EARTH! Our number one problem is human survival!

We have done to Earth what Satan did to the universe—only worse! Why is that the case? Because he is “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

We can only make Mars flourish with beauty and life if we first allow God to *change our human nature*!

Sons of God

Angels have a fiery splendor that would make us faint if we saw them. Yet God never said to any of the angels, “You are my son” (Hebrews 1:5). They are not on the God level. God never intended that they be born sons of God.

Your potential is so much greater than that of the dazzling angels! Are you grateful for that?

“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak” (Hebrews 2:5). God is going to remake the Earth and universe. He isn’t putting that “world to come” under the angels—but He is putting it in subjection to men and women who enter His Family! This shows that God is working to build His very character—which alone can rule the universe—in human beings.

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (verse 6). This quotes Psalm 8:4-6, where David looked up at what he could see of the universe and asked God why He was so mindful of human beings.

Most of us don’t grasp the deep meaning of this verse. God is obviously concerned about the universe. But *His main focus is on His masterpiece of creation: man!* God is “mindful”—His mind is full—of mankind and our potential! The universe would be of little value to God without His Family to rule it.

“Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put *all things* [Moffatt translates the Hebrew word for ‘all things’ as *the universe* in Hebrews 1:3] in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see NOT YET all things put under him” (Hebrews 2:7-8). God is going to put Mars and the universe under man’s rule—He just hasn’t done so YET. What jaw-dropping potential—higher than angels!

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (verse 10). God perfects us through suffering. We experience trials to help change our human nature,

to help prepare us for our mind-boggling future. The Creator became a human being and conquered human nature, never sinning even once. And He will empower you and me to conquer sinful human nature as well.

Verse 11 says that He is not ashamed to call human beings who do so His *brothers!* The angels were never called the brothers of Christ in this way, because they were never sons in God’s Family.

Our Universe Dream

This world is about to enter a very dark age. Actually, you could say Earth has been in the dark ages throughout man’s history. God is letting the trauma intensify until we finally realize how inept we really are.

In this convulsing world, we need our universe dream. We need to see the stupendous possibility and the eternal majesty God is offering human beings.

People are intrigued and inspired by the Mars landings. But most will have only a few fleeting moments of inspiration, then the hope will fade. Please don’t let this happen to you. Your potential beyond those pictures is breathtaking and inspiring beyond anything you have ever known. See those Mars pictures for what they truly are: a window into the greatest hope you can ever imagine! Nothing can stimulate our imagination like comprehending our universe potential! ■

There’s Intelligent Life Alright

Curiosity, NASA’s miraculous Mars rover, has already revealed a remarkable discovery.

NASA landed a nuclear-powered robot car with a rock-zapping laser on the surface of another planet using a sky crane. It sounds like science fiction. It’s actually science history. It happened for the first time in 2012, and then again on February 18 this year. This kind of mission is almost becoming routine. And the most recent one carried a helicopter.

There is intelligent life after all—it’s here on Earth.

NASA’s Perseverance traveled 293 million miles, the equivalent of driving around the Earth’s equator nearly 12,000 times. As it neared Mars, it was traveling at 12,500 miles an hour—fast enough to fly from London to New York in just over 15 minutes. Entering the Martian atmosphere, its heat shield was blasted with temperatures higher than 2,600 degrees Fahrenheit.

To land safely, Perseverance had to decelerate from 12,500 miles an hour to a standstill in seven minutes—without damaging its robotic

arm, spectrometer, cameras, weather station, ground-penetrating radar, laser or other equipment. Radio signals from Perseverance take 11 minutes to reach Earth, so the landing had to be completely automated. Scientists wouldn't even know that Perseverance had hit the atmosphere until four minutes after it had already touched down—or crashed.

The atmosphere slowed the rover down to “only” 1,000 miles per hour. Then the craft deployed its parachute. Still traveling faster than the speed of sound, the 70-foot-wide chute deployed, slowing the streaking craft down to 200 miles per hour.

The Perseverance rover also had to select its own landing site—with no time to get any

input from humans. Its target, the Jezero crater, has not hosted a Mars rover before—it's too rocky for one to land. As Perseverance got closer to the ground for the boulders and cliffs to become visible, computers scanned and found a patch of ground smooth enough for it land.

Once the rover was 6,900 feet above its selected landing zone, it jettisoned, and then dodged, the parachute and fired up its eight rockets—slowing its descent further. But the rover couldn't land using the rockets: The dust cloud would have damaged its instruments. Instead, a sky crane held aloft by rockets floated above the ground and lowered Perseverance down by tethers onto the Martian surface. ■

Intelligence Can't Solve Man's Problems

The Mars mission brings to mind both the dramatic strengths and the tragic weaknesses of our human minds.

Consider the paradox here: The human mind can surmount thousands of technical problems and land a perfectly functioning, high-tech, remotely controlled robot on another planet.

Why, then, cannot humanity's best minds solve poverty? And end war? Surely getting along with one another can't be much more complicated than vaporizing Martian rocks with lasers?

Actually it is.

Man “is limited in knowledge to that which may be transmitted into the brain through the physical senses of sight, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his magazine the *Plain Truth*, predecessor of the *Trumpet*. “Man's most serious problems are *spiritual* in nature. But man is naturally confined to thinking solely in terms of the physical and material. He cannot grasp or comprehend spiritual problems or spiritual knowledge” (September 1980).

On a physical level, man has “a God-type mind,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said in October 2004. It's a “mind power that

ought to just stagger us in wonder and awe.”

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “The human mind's capacity for material accomplishment seems unlimited.” As God looked down on mankind working together at the tower of Babel in antiquity, He said, “nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”

But God had to *stop* mankind at Babel. He effectively jammed their communications and decentralized them. Why? Because when man uses his brilliant mind and his five senses, he only brings himself closer to destroying others and himself. Without the vital spiritual dimension of knowledge, man can build towers and rockets—but *he cannot bring peace*. He cannot stop crime, hatred, perversion or hopelessness. He hasn't even really gotten a handle on famine, epidemics or poverty.

With that spiritual dimension missing, mankind's amazing physical accomplishments have just meant more wars with increasingly destructive weapons.

The wonderful news is that human nature *will* change!

First, man will need to learn just how deficient, how incomplete, his mind is without the spiritual dimension from God. Then God will make it so that “the earth shall be full of the

knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

When mankind is willing to listen, God will show the world the way to peace. He will give us the spiritual answers to our problems and the will to provide the crucial component that is so conspicuously absent from intelligent life here

on Earth: His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:11-14).

Man already has a God-type mind on the physical level. God plans on adding to that, giving man a God-type mind on the spiritual level, as well. He wants to create *His perfect mind* in mankind! ■

RICHARD PALMER

Why Are the Wealthy ‘Woke’?

Big business backs Biden, the super-rich support socialism, and CEOs want to change the world. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

WHAT DO NIKE, PEPSI, LEGO, DISNEY, L’Oreal, KFC, Pfizer, Comcast, FedEx, Home Depot, Verizon, Google, Starbucks, Papa Johns, Coca-Cola, Morgan Stanley and Deloitte all have in common? They are giant, hard-to-ignore businesses. What’s more: They have all supported Black Lives Matter, the LGBT movement or the racial justice movement—or all three.

Meanwhile, their executives travel the world in private jets, lecturing people about the dangers of climate change. Organizations such as Davos and the World Economic Forum promote programs of thinly disguised communism. Billionaires donate to radical politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

If you want to avoid giving your dollars to companies that support radical-left causes, good luck. More and more big businesses and big businessmen are pushing the woke agenda.

Aren’t corporations supposedly right wing? Why have so many moved so far left?

The impact of big business and big businessmen on our society is enormous. They are playing a leading role in driving the world down this road.

The Bible has a lot to say about the decline in modern society’s moral standards. It discusses

our politics and politicians. Thus, it is unsurprising that it also has a lot to say about our modern businessmen.

Money

Part of the reason for this political shift left in the business realm is self-interest. In general, businesses try to appeal to the relatively young. If young people have a job, they likely have more disposable income than a pensioner, and if they become loyal to your brand at age 20, they have many years of purchasing ahead. The 2020 Pew Party Identification Survey of 12,000 registered voters found that 54 percent of millennials (ages 24 to 39) lean Democrat, whereas only 38 percent lean Republican.

It’s no coincidence, then, that businesses that have shifted furthest to the left have the youngest customers. For example, people under age 34 make up 43 percent of Nike’s business; 89 percent of Starbucks customers are under age 40.

Businesses also tend to appeal to urban consumers. Those in big cities visit Starbucks more often. And 62 percent of urban-registered voters lean Democrat, compared to just 31 percent Republican. The *New Republic* wrote that businesses shifting left are “just

opening their eyes to how important political involvement is to their profits” (April 30, 2018).

Young, urban workers are not just target customers, they are also target employees. Businesses competing to hire young people entering the workforce shift politically left to increase their appeal.

But some brands, like Gillette, have moved left even against the preferences of their target consumers. Why?

Appeasement

Leftists are working hard to politicize the marketplace, aggressively targeting businesses that transgress their standards. In today’s political climate, those on the right have little interest in persecuting businesses. So for businesses, it’s the left they need to appease. They aren’t so keen on left-wing ideas such as high taxation—so they promote the ideas that hurt them little.

“Corporate activism on social issues isn’t in tension with corporate self-interest on tax policy and corporate stinginess in paychecks,” wrote Ross Douthat in the *New York Times*. “Rather, the activism increasingly exists to protect the self-interest and the stinginess—to justify the ways of CEOs to cultural power brokers, so that those same power brokers will leave them alone (and forgive their support for Trump’s economic agenda) in realms that matter more to the corporate bottom line” (Feb. 28, 2018).

Douthat called the new state of affairs “the Peace of Palo Alto, in which a certain kind of virtue-signaling on progressive social causes, a certain degree of performative wokeness, is offered to liberalism and the activist left preemptively, in the hopes that having corporate America take their side in the culture wars will blunt efforts to tax or regulate our new monopolies too heavily.”

Does all this sound a bit too cynical? Consider the left-wing causes big business supports. When did you last see one of these companies stand up for LGBT rights *in Iran*? Or to speak out against slavery *in China*? Doing the latter would hurt their supply chains. So Nike, Apple and Coca-Cola lobbied Congress to allow them to continue to use Chinese

concentration camp inmates. Pharmaceutical giant Gilead sponsors homosexual pride parades—while charging over \$2,000 a month for an anti-HIV drug. *Signaling* their support for the LGBT movement is much cheaper than lowering the price of a drug that would predominantly help those in that community.

Look at just how targeted these supposedly altruistic social efforts are, and it’s not hard to recognize the monetary motivation behind them.

Big Regulation

There’s another reason for big business to support radical-leftist causes: Big business and the radical left both love big government.

Left-wing politicians continually publicize the fiction that business hates regulation. True, your local accountant, baker, electrician, hardware store owner and restaurateur all hate regulation. But not big business. Why? Big businesses can afford to hire lobbyists to *shape* regulations. They can hire experts that help them ensure compliance with the most complex and labyrinthine of red tape. And if a government regulator comes after them, they can hire lawyers and buy influence to push back. But all these options are far out of reach for small businesses. Regulation also stops potential competitors before they ever get started.

The upshot is, the more regulation, the less competitive the market becomes for the corporate giants. So even in countries known for being “free market” and “free enterprise,” big business is devoted to big government.

The total money spent by registered lobbyists rose from \$2.4 billion in 1988 to a peak of \$3.5 billion in 2009 during Barack Obama’s first year in office (figures adjusted for inflation). And this was just the official, registered spending.

On average, an estimated \$3.7 million is spent lobbying *each* member of Congress *each year*.

This lobbying creates a lucrative revolving door. Ex-political advisers can make a lot of money selling their services to businesses, helping them navigate the laws they just created. Here’s one case in point: Jake Sullivan helped President Obama negotiate the Iran deal. He then got a job helping big business

trade with Iran, using his intimate knowledge of the deal he helped craft. Now, Sullivan is back in politics as President Joe Biden's national security adviser.

At times, industries lobby to have regulations put in place that serve no benefit to customers, but which earn businesses tremendous profit. As the government encroaches deeper into more and more areas of our lives, more of these businesses stand to benefit.

Faking a Popular Movement

But not all business support for the leftist agenda comes from cynical self-interest. Many, especially among the super-rich, appear to be true believers. So they bring to bear their wealth, influence and experience in shaping governmental policy.

Roslyn Fuller tracked how this works for her article "The Billionaire Takeover of Civil Society" (Spiked, January 29). She zoomed in on one individual: Ebay billionaire Pierre Omidyar. He funds a huge network of nonprofits, none of which give any clear indication of being related to Omidyar or to each other. They have names like the Democracy Fund, Healthy Democracy and the MacArthur Foundation.

Fuller wrote, "If one accepts what 'givers,' like Omidyar et al, say, it becomes apparent that rather than participating in traditional acts of charity, like founding a hospital for the needy, they are attempting to engage in 'social engineering'—that is, using their resources to artificially change the structure of society to what they think it should be. If successful, this would amount to an extreme circumvention of democracy, utilizing money not just to win elections, but to substitute paid or subsidized content for actual support, and thereby flip an entire political culture on to a different track by amplifying some voices and drowning out others."

One group that receives funding from Omidyar, the Sunrise Movement, describes its plan to "take over the entire United States and all the institutions in it." It "moved activists into 'dorm-style Sunrise Movement Houses for three to six months' in order to create leaders who had a deep level of commitment 'for

everything that would come afterwards'" (ibid). These leaders are trained to turn more people to the cause until they reach a critical mass.

"On one level, it is great that young people are taking part in politics," Fuller wrote. "But on another level it is incredibly fake. The youthful participants aren't so much being empowered as instrumentalized. After all, they are part of the portfolio of an investment fund that is using them to 'shift power,' with part of the strategy being to shame politicians for not being nice enough to hysterical children."

But Omidyar doesn't just fund activist groups. He funnels money into "research organizations" that describe themselves as "independent" or "nonprofit." You presume them to be groups of scientists doing studies, but look deeper and you find that they are firms full of public relations managers and strategy directors.

Some of these "research organizations" produce "sample op-eds" that you can use to write your own, complete with facts and stats backing up the point you want to make. No wonder so much of the media sounds the same.

In addition to this, these different groups work together. For example, a billionaire-funded "independent research institute" publishes a study on "fake news." The study recommends an "independent" fact-checking group. It turns out that the fact-checker is funded by the same billionaire—a fact it does not disclose.

The desire to reshape society is now commonly talked about by the super-rich. The World Economic Forum famously started talking about the "Great Reset." Klaus Schwab, one man pushing hard for this "reset," writes in *COVID-19: The Great Reset*: "At the time of writing (June 2020), the pandemic continues to worsen globally. Many of us are pondering when things will return to normal. The short response is: never. Nothing will ever return to the 'broken' sense of normalcy that prevailed prior to the crisis because the coronavirus pandemic marks a fundamental inflection point in our global trajectory." This man sees the disruption to all of our lives this past year as progress toward some twisted socialist utopia.

Backing Biden

It's no surprise to see many in business acting on their commitment to reshaping society by backing Joe Biden for United States president. In October 2020, CNBC wrote that the Democrats had "crushed" Republicans in fund-raising, "fueled, at least in part, by Wall Street executives."

In *Time's* shocking admission of election interference, "The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election," the author described the role big business played in the most recent elections: "There was a conspiracy unfolding behind the scenes, one that both curtailed the protests and coordinated the resistance from CEOs. Both surprises were the result of an informal alliance between left-wing activists and business titans. The pact was formalized in a terse, little-noticed joint statement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO published on Election Day. Both sides would come to see it as a sort of implicit bargain—inspired by the summer's massive, sometimes destructive racial-justice protests—in which the forces of labor came together with the forces of capital to keep the peace and oppose Trump's assault on democracy" (February 4).

Business leaders were worried about "economy-disrupting civil disorder," wrote *Time*. They reached out to radical left-wing groups to ensure the mob got what it wanted.

This approach kicked into overdrive after the January 6 "insurrection." Stripe stopped processing payments for the campaign. American Express and JPMorgan Chase said they would no longer donate to candidates who supported the "insurrection" or voted against confirming President Biden's victory in the Electoral College. An insider reported that Goldman Sachs had a similar, but quieter, policy. Deutsche Bank announced plans to distance itself from President Trump.

Then, as Biden chose his administration, his links with the radical left and big business became even clearer.

BlackRock manages more assets than anyone in the world: the equivalent of \$8.7 trillion. *Bloomberg* characterizes it as the "fourth

branch of government." As the government prints money to keep the economy afloat, BlackRock is an essential partner, managing that cash.

The company has a revolving door relationship with the Obama-Biden administration. BlackRock investment executive Brian Deese was a senior adviser to President Obama. He now leads the National Economic Council under Mr. Biden. Adewale Adeyemo was Obama's senior international economics adviser, then chief of staff to BlackRock's chief executive and is now deputy treasury secretary for Mr. Biden. Michael Pyle who worked in the Obama administration, has become BlackRock's global chief investment strategist and will now be chief economic adviser to Vice President Kamala Harris. More than a dozen people went from the Obama administration to BlackRock.

No business has ever had this level of influence in the United States Treasury, not even Goldman Sachs.

Even some on the left are concerned with the level of power BlackRock now has. "BlackRock needs to be broken up and regulated," director of research at the American Economic Liberties Project Matt Stoller said. "BlackRock CEO Larry Fink knows this, so he's been storing hack Democrats on ice so they can go into the Biden administration and make sure that doesn't happen."

BlackRock chairman Larry Fink is an enthusiastic Democrat. In January 2017, he sent an open letter to over 1,000 CEOs urging them to "respond to broader social challenges." He encouraged them to follow the examples of businesses that cut ties with the National Rifle Association and praised examples like Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods, which responded to a mass shooting by quickly announcing policies against selling guns to customers under 21.

As a business, BlackRock will support radical-left projects when it suits them. They made a big show of their plan to stop investing in any company that makes more than 25 percent of its revenue from coal. They are less proud of the fact they are the world's largest investor in

fossil fuels—due to their heavy investment in the oil industry (though, interestingly enough, not in the Keystone Pipeline).

But these close ties to government have also brought Fink great returns. Since 2004, his company has hired at least 84 former government or central bank officials. That is how you become the fourth branch of government.

And once you're in, all kinds of doors open up. Ex-BlackRock executives are big fans of trade with China. And with Biden in office, BlackRock is readying some major deals with Beijing.

All Forecast

The radical left has the support of big government, big media, Big Tech and also big business. The *Trumpet* has written extensively about how the Bible prophesied the rise of the radical left. So it's not surprising that these same scriptures have a lot to say about the wealthy.

Many of these prophecies are in the book of Amos, which is an end-time book for the people descended from ancient Israel, most notably America. The *Anchor Bible Dictionary* states, "Amos decried the social injustice, the oppression of the poor, and the lack of any moral or ethical values on the part of the rich and powerful. According to Amos, the spokesman of [God], Israel was a violent, oppressive and exploitative society. The poor had to sell themselves into slavery to pay off trivial debts (2:6; 8:6). The rich falsified weights and measures (8:5) and traded dishonestly (8:6). Even the courts, the last bastion of hope for the poor, were corrupt. Judges were bribed to cheat the poor out of what little they had (2:7; 5:10, 12). In fact, Israel was no longer capable of acting with justice (3:10; cf. 5:7, 24; 6:12). Truth and honesty were now hated (5:10)."

How much of this appalling behavior do we see today? Businesses manipulate the system to get ahead. Our entire economic system is built on encouraging people to buy what they cannot afford and to ensnare themselves in debt.

Meanwhile society goes deeper and deeper into practices abhorred by God. Isaiah 57:5

describes our people today: "Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?"

"Anciently the Israelites sometimes physically sacrificed their own children," writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry. "Today we sacrifice our youth *spiritually* when we give them no uplifting vision. We sacrifice them to sexual lust and fornication. The Internet alone does \$10 billion to \$13 billion worth of business in pornography every year *just in America!* It is the most profitable online business. We also sacrifice our children to demoniac music, drugs and greed. In the nations of Israel, this is done even before our youth are taught to use their minds! They get so hooked on coveting that they never even learn about the wondrous potential of our God-like minds!" (*Isaiah's End-Time Vision*).

Mr. Flurry wrote this before the LGBT movement really took off. Now businesses are going along with or supporting a movement that destroys our children's future. It fills them with warped ideas about marriage and family, destroying their potential to have a happy life and making it much harder for them to have a relationship with their heavenly Father.

2 Kings 14:26 prophesies of the same time period as the book of Amos. It states that "the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel."

How did the wealthy respond to this affliction? God condemned them as those who "lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: *but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph*" (Amos 6:4-6). The modern descendants of Joseph in Britain and America are being afflicted. But the wealthy are comfortable and unconcerned.

God doesn't merely condemn those who actively support this affliction; He condemns

those who tolerate it, who go along for the sake of a quiet life or for the sake of protecting their business. This is a warning to all of us. A great many distractions and pleasures are available even to those who are not super-rich. Any of us can get caught up in self-interest and not be grieved for the destruction going on around us.

But some of Amos's warnings are directed *specifically* at the super-rich. Amos 3:15 is directed at those with "winter houses" and "summer houses" and "houses of ivory"—those with a number of luxurious properties.

In Amos, God exposes a system that is corrupt on every level. It exposes a false religion, flawed politics, corrupt judges, and an economic system content to use that corruption to make money.

The only solution, God says, is to tear it all down. Amos 6:7 says that "they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed."

Our society, too, is on the brink of being torn down—unless we make major changes. There is no soundness in it anywhere.

But Amos also contains a picture of a new society about to be set up: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt" (Amos 9:13). This future society will be fabulously wealthy. But unlike the wealth that came before, it is based not on extortion, but on obedience to God and His law.

The few verses at the end of Amos give us a different picture. This isn't someone idly consumed in pleasure. While the book of Amos condemns those who get rich on the backs of others, ultimately it gives us a picture of the hard labor of the individual farmer bringing him bountiful rewards.

This is the only solution for us today: an entirely new society and system. In some ways, the super-rich are right to see the need for a change from the system as it is today. But it won't come about by their doing. The book of Amos shows us that it will take God's intervention in world affairs to set it up. ■

The Economy of Tomorrow's World

Revolution is coming! **BY PHILIP NICE**

THROUGH THE RAFTERS, AND WHERE THE rafters will be, daylight is fading. You chisel one last mortise, then box up your saws, squares and drills to tidy up and protect against tomorrow's morning dew. No need to protect against anything else. Good thing, since you've never owned anything with a lock or key.

From the other side of the walls, and where the walls will be, comes the buzz of voices. The young family whose home you are timber-framing is setting supper on a stack of beams along with father, mother, brothers,

sisters, nieces, nephews and cousins who have walked over from their homesteads to help build this one.

Your own homestead needs your attention, so it is a sacrifice to be here instead. But there was a need, you could help, you said you would, so here you are. In fact, even though you could be done by now, you are putting in extra time, effort and materials just to give that roof a couple more centuries of durability and a bit more beautiful geometry. You are not charging extra: In fact, you're not even telling them. It's

enough satisfaction to make this house everything it can be for this family and to be part of what it represents in the larger sense: the hard work, discipline, fairness, generosity, camaraderie and family that went into building the place where this family and generations unborn will live most of their lives and build most of their character.

After the patriarch gives thanks and everyone says “Amen,” the buzz begins: spoons clinking on dishes, ice tinkling in pitchers, bubbling voices, bursting laughter—talking about the day, talking about people, talking about creation, talking about the Creator. It’s a starry night. It’s a good meal. It’s good to be alive, here, doing this. You love this family. You love this work. Everyone loves home. And you are a home builder.

Foundation

In a way, this jobsite is a fiction. Homes are not built like this. They are built by development groups, bank stockholders, investment funds, government agencies, title companies, sales firms, roving work crews and manufacturers, and inhabited by a series of mortgage debtors in an impersonal process through which each entity gives as little as possible and takes as much as possible. In fact, this fundamental attitude of *selfishness* saturates the human nature of every person in every sector of every economy in every country of every era. Our very *nature* is self-oriented, self-conscious, self-esteeming, self-serving, self-defending, self-aggrandizing, self-enriching and, ultimately, self-destructive. It is also destructive toward others. Selfish nature is in you and me, when we are building a home, when we are inside our homes, when we leave home. It is the foundation of our finances, our commerce, our economies, our governments, our health, our entertainments, our work and every part of our everyday lives. The human condition is built on selfish human nature.

But why *shouldn’t* the same human beings on the same land with the same resources experience work, commerce and life in a way that is positive, virtuous, unoppressed, sharing and inspiring rather than negative, bleak, pointless and terminal?

We should. But it requires a change in our spirit, our attitude, our motivation and the nature that human beings have had from the beginning.

Changing human nature cannot be done by human government. It would require a government with spectacular power, power to not only construct the universe but to create the human body, the human brain, the human spirit, the human power of choice and human relationships. It would require the very Creator of human beings ruling the creation directly and guiding, correcting and helping human beings to choose to give instead of choosing to get.

It would require replacing the very foundation of society with a new one: the literal government of God on Earth.

Laws

Human government is built on human nature. God’s government is built on God’s nature. God is love (1 John 4:8). Apart from God, human beings are incapable of generating or even understanding real love. But God describes to human beings His loving nature and how to apply it. These descriptions are called laws. Like the laws of physics a builder employs to build a solid house, these spiritual laws come from the Creator, never change based on human ideas, and always produce good results.

In the government of God, the two main principles of that constitutional law are love toward God and love toward fellow man (Matthew 22:36-40). These two legal principles then subdivide into 10 fundamental laws: the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Many people know about God, know about these laws and presume that they are in general compliance with most of them—or that Jesus Christ abolished them. They fail to understand that He did not abolish cause and effect, and that the effect—our crumbling world—is caused by people breaking these laws of “spiritual physics.”

But what would happen if the Creator took over all day-to-day executive, legislative, judicial, local, national and international governance and taught and enforced these laws?

People would truly obey the Ten Commandments, not only strictly by the letter but also in their spirit and intent. They would learn to willingly choose to have no other gods, including their own will, before God. They would make no idols, including money and goods. They would highly honor the very name and authority of God. They would keep the day of the week God made for worshiping Him. They would keep the first four commandments of showing love toward their Creator, along with the last six commandments of showing love toward other people. Each son and daughter would honor his or her father and mother, learning from them, living near them and caring for them. Providing financially for them would be a given. Surrounded by family and fulfilling the crucial teaching role of an elder, old age would be perhaps the best part of life! People would not kill: No fear or resources would be diverted toward preventing war, murder, harm or hatred. All spouses would devote themselves completely to their husband or wife. Among the benefits of these safe, trusting, happy marriages would be prosperity within families and in society. People raised properly would not steal. They would fear and scorn the idea of even giving the buyer, seller, worker or employer less than 100 percent. People would tell the full truth in all their transactions, eliminating the enormous economic effects of lying. People would not covet. They would be free of that enslaving mentality, free of wasted time, free of lives that go unfulfilled even when a person gets what he coveted. People would care far less about *what they own* and far more about *who they are*.

Under God's government, the individual would pay no income tax, business tax, sales tax, property tax, health-care tax or death tax. Instead, he would pay his first tithe (10 percent of his profits) and offerings of his own determination (Deuteronomy 14:22; Exodus 23:14-16). This would produce the spiritual blessing of developing humble, loving, giving character, which would facilitate further blessings by God, the least of which would be financial abundance.

Under God's government, the individual would pay no interest and charge no interest.

This would limit much of the power money would otherwise have. People would be free of credit card debt, vehicle debt, student debt, commercial debt, mortgage debt and national debt. Yet loans would still exist. They would be interest-free; provided by family, friends and neighbors; and used for a loan's actual purpose: to truly help someone who truly needs money and will truly do everything he can to repay (see Deuteronomy 15). Every seventh year would bring a year of release in which everyone cancels all short-term debts. Every 50th year, people would experience not a depression but a jubilee (Leviticus 25).

These foundational laws of prosperity reveal an amazing truth about the prosperous economy of God's government: It's not *about* prosperity. Proverbs 3:9-10 describe abundance that would be literally uncontainable. But for all your owning, earning, acquiring, creating, helping, beautifying and building, what would matter most to you would be family, giving, character, your relationships with others, your relationship with your Creator.

Real Estate

Why should this be hypothetical? It shouldn't be—and it won't be. This is actually a *nonfiction* description of the economy of the World Tomorrow!

The Bible prophesies that this will be the basic picture of life on Earth not far from now. Jesus Christ will return, He will establish His government, and His subjects will learn to keep the laws God has made in everything from land management to electromagnetism to worship. No one will be left out: Each person will have the same power of choice to receive these blessings and far more. Their selfish nature will begin changing, and scenes of sharing, giving, communing, obeying and building will be unfolding at farms, ranches, gardens, barns, stables, workshops, harbors, stores, libraries, parks and neighborhoods from mountainsides to hills to river valleys to savannas to rainforests to canyons to shorelines, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, having life, liberty and the pursuit of his incredible human potential.

The ruler of this soon-coming government said in Luke 16:10: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.” The “least,” in this case, will be incredible prosperity and meaningful lives. What is the “much”? Hebrews 2:8 reveals the answer: The Creator of all material things wants to build the character

of human beings to the point that He can give us *all material things*. Scenes of obedience, family, community, productivity, generosity sacrifice, laughter, meaning, purpose and love won’t be confined to an otherworldly timber-frame residential construction site. In fact, they will not be confined to this world. ■

Transgenderism and the Pursuit of Happiness

Why are mental health problems so common among gender-dysphoric people? Only by correctly answering that question can we find a solution.

BY JOEL HILLIKER AND JOSUÉ MICHELS

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GROWING UP IN A SOCIETY where homosexuality, pansexuality, transgenderism and gender fluidity not only have their place but are celebrated. And these young people are getting the message.

A Gallup poll in February reported that of all American adults, 5.6 percent say they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. That represents a 60 percent jump in less than a decade. And the biggest part of that jump happened in Generation Z. Among those born between 1997 and 2002, a jaw-dropping 16 percent categorize themselves as not heterosexual. Among these young adults, that’s 1 out of every 6.

And if radicals get their way—and they *are* getting their way—more and more children far younger than their 20s will be asking about gender and considering surgical destruction of their sex. They insist that this will make these children happier and more fulfilled.

One of these radicals could well be President Joe Biden’s choice for assistant secretary for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, where the motto is “Improving the health, safety and well-being of America.” His name is Rachel Levine, and if confirmed he would be the first openly transgender person

to be appointed to a president-nominated, Senate-confirmed federal office in history. But we are not sure what he thinks about surgically removing and altering the sex organs of children—because he won’t say.

At Levine’s confirmation hearing in February, Sen. Rand Paul questioned Levine on whether children should be able to bypass their parents and, through medical professionals, interventions and surgery, try to change their sex. Levine’s answer was an evasion that amounted to: *Confirm me as assistant secretary and then I’ll gladly answer*. After follow-up questions, Levine remained stubbornly elusive.

Yet in reporting on this exchange, mainstream media sources didn’t criticize Levine for his equivocating—they criticized Senator Paul for asking the question. For example, here’s how ABC News, the Daily Beast and the *Washington Post* portrayed it: “First Transgender Nominee Deflects Inflammatory Questions From GOP Senator,” “Rand Paul Launches Into Transphobic Rant Against Trans Nominee” and “Rand Paul’s Ignorant Questioning of Rachel Levine Showed Why We Need Her in Government.”

Should *children* be able to *decide for themselves* whether to have irreversible surgical

and hormonal treatments that destroy healthy body parts? Mainstream news executives and their journalists say you're a bigot for asking the question!

This is just one example of a broad effort to hide the ugly truth about transgenderism. There is a reason Levine wouldn't answer that question. It's because transgender activists know that the *less* the public understands about these procedures, the better. The *more* you know about these procedures, the more appalled you will be.

Trampling the Truth

Here are some facts. It is a scientific fact that people are biologically male or female. It is a scientific fact that biological sex comes with physiological and even mental and emotional predispositions. But science can tell you *nothing* about a man feeling that he is actually a woman. There is no scientific explanation for that.

Transgender activists say gender is an “artificial construct.” Yet at the same time, they say the entire society must pivot for someone who is exhibiting stereotypical and even cartoonish expressions of his “authentic gender identity”—if it is different from his actual, scientific gender identity. They say a person's “real self” is separate from his or her physical body. Then they say that the person's body must be surgically transformed to make the person “whole.” They say that even children must take puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgical procedures to match the physical body to the idea in the mind.

This thinking is obviously and blatantly anti-science. But if you try to talk about scientific facts, you are labeled an intolerant, discriminating bigot.

Here are more facts these activists portray as “transphobic.” Science shows that among children who struggle with gender dysphoria, 80 percent of girls and 95 percent of boys will reconcile with their biological sex if they are allowed to go through puberty. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have been shown to damage cardiovascular health, bone density and reproductive functions. *Nearly half* of people who identify as transgender experience

anxiety disorders or depression. An estimated *41 percent* have tried to kill themselves. And more and more people who suffer the misery of surgery *come to regret having done so*. Some even undergo surgery to *undo* that surgery and try to un-destroy their sex. Becoming transgender has not helped these people “be who they really are,” and it certainly has not led to happiness. Yet these are voices this movement doesn't want you to hear.

We can't ignore such voices. We need to understand the truth about transgenderism. This isn't just a matter of accepting a handful of people whose thinking doesn't match their biology. This has huge ramifications in every aspect of modern life. It raises not just economic questions in areas like public bathrooms, gym facilities, prisons and homeless shelters—not just educational questions like what the state is force-feeding your kindergartner's mind—but also questions about freedom of speech and freedom of religion, questions about whether you can be fined or jailed for being anything less than fully supportive of this movement, or whether you are free to live by the dictates of your own conscience.

Society can't afford to accept this lightly. It needs answers.

Diagnosing the Cause

Prof. Miroslav Djordjevic is a leading surgeon in an unusual field: genital reconstruction. For years he has been voicing his concern about rising requests for surgeries to undo prior gender transition surgeries. He says people wishing to undergo the transformation should receive better counsel. He says these decisions are being driven by the effort to be politically correct, rather than to be *actually* correct—to do what is in each individual's best interest. He says institutions must overcome fears of political correctness and conduct more research into the serious questions raised by gender-reassignment surgery.

Studies of this subject are rare, but *stories* of many unhappy transgender people are out there. For example, Ryan T. Anderson's book *When Harry Became Sally*—an important book on the subject that Amazon pulled from its

offerings in February with no explanation—has an entire chapter titled “Detransitioners Tell Their Stories,” and it is heartbreaking. Many people describe growing up dissatisfied or questioning their sexual orientation early in life. They tried different forms of sexual experimentation, but they did not find happiness.

Then they were offered a more radical solution: surgically changing their gender.

People have faith in the wonders of modern medicine. They think changing their sex is not only possible but fairly straightforward. But the reality is, biological differences between men and women are extensive and complex. Hormone blockers can prevent a boy’s voice from getting deeper or a girl’s hips from getting wider; hormone treatment can shrink a man’s testicles or cause a woman to grow facial hair. Surgery can remove body parts specific to male or female, and it can attach artificial body parts. *But no treatment or procedure can turn a man into a woman or a woman into a man.*

The *scientific fact* is that your biological sex is not “assigned at birth,” as trans activists insist. It is embedded into your DNA *from conception*, and it affects every system in your body.

Many individuals who undergo these procedures often find themselves requiring substantially more medical attention afterward. Many say the doctors who advised them led them astray. And rather than becoming happier, they often become *unhappier*. In many cases they become suicidal.

Mental health problems among transgenders are already terribly common: *Almost every second transgender person* battles some anxiety disorder or depression, and suicide attempts are nearly *nine times higher* than among “cisgender” Americans. But those who have had transition surgery are *19 times likelier* than the average person to DIE BY SUICIDE! This alone shows that the problem goes far beyond simply needing better counsel regarding surgery. Something is dangerously wrong.

Is It Society’s Fault?

Those promoting transgenderism will say that what is “dangerously wrong” is society’s hostility to transgenderism. For example, a 2016

Psychology Today article discussing transgenders’ mental health problems explained: “It has nearly everything to do with *the way they are treated*” (emphasis added throughout).

The only solution, they say, is to TRANSFORM SOCIETY. We must make society wholeheartedly embrace transgender people and any and all forms of gender dysphoria, so that everyone—no matter how they view themselves, what they want to look like, which bathroom or locker room they want to visit, which sport they want to play—is universally considered perfectly healthy and normal. To suggest that the individual might need to adjust his or her thinking is bigoted and unloving. If everyone in society simply accepts everyone and everything, and loves everyone and everything, then the mental health problems, depression and suicidal tendencies experienced by transgender individuals will vanish. These people can only find happiness when society embraces this movement and grants its every conceivable request.

Virtually overnight, the elites in American society—and British, and elsewhere—the politicians, media and educators—have determined that *this* is how we will solve this problem. This is the message we will send to individuals who are dissatisfied with their biological sex: *If you are unhappy because your body doesn’t match your thinking, then we must change your body. And if you change your body and you’re still unhappy, then we must change society. You are unhappy because society refuses to accept you and love you for who you are!*

It is impossible to overstate the radical implications of the assumptions underlying this train of thought.

For starters, this thinking encourages many thousands more people to pursue transgenderism. It encourages thousands to pursue medical transitioning treatments—puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgery.

But far more radically, IT FORCES SOCIETY TO COMPLETELY REMAKE ITSELF. In order to prioritize what is supposed to be the path to happiness for these individuals, we *must* establish transgender restrooms. We *must* require medical insurance to pay for transitioning

treatments. We *must* allow biologically born men to play sports against women. We *must* replace some of our public-school curriculum with transgender instruction, to liberate the next generation from discrimination and bias. We *must* strip authority from parents who would discourage gender fluidity in their children. We *must* make it criminal to “misgender” someone. We *must* prioritize the transgender agenda over privacy, public safety and religious freedom. And anyone who disagrees can be publicly shamed, if not legally punished.

Then, the reasoning goes, we will have a truly fair, equitable, accepting, loving and happy world!

Common Sense

Guided by this reasoning, educators are encouraging our elementary schoolchildren to question their biological sex. When any child decides to identify as a transgender, their peers are admonished to support them.

What happens, then, when the transgender child has trouble with other kids, or is unhappy, or feels isolated or lonely? Increasingly, the blame is put on society and on the other kids.

What does *common sense* tell you about this trend?

Encouraging gender dysphoria in a child does not make that child happier. Again, nine in ten children who have those feelings outgrow them and come to accept their biological sex if they are just allowed to develop normally.

Convincing a child that his *feeling* of gender confusion is correct—that there is something wrong, and it must be changed—will not make that child happy. Convincing him further that any trouble with other kids (which every kid has) is a result of the other kids’ bigotry—this will not make that child happy. It will only feed that child’s sense of grievance, victimhood and martyrdom.

More broadly, installing transgender restrooms in every building in America will not lead transgender people from depression into happiness. Winning wrestling matches and powerlifting completions against women is unlikely to give transgenders a genuine sense of accomplishment. Preventing any and

all critical discussion about this movement will not give them the reassurance they need for life.

No matter how accepted or how powerful this movement becomes, it will not lead to happiness. Already we see that every concession society makes to this movement’s demands only leads to 10 more demands.

Here is the truth: The notion that *sex changes* and *societal transformation* will solve the depression, misery and heartache of this troubled group of people is a DANGEROUS LIE. It is a lie being promoted at tremendous cost. It is *increasing* the agitation and unhappiness of so many who identify as transgender. Society is paying the cost in public safety, parental authority, freedom of speech and religious liberty.

And beyond that, it is coming at the expense of TRUTH ITSELF.

The Emperor’s New Clothes

Dr. Paul McHugh was chair of psychiatry at John Hopkins Medical School and psychiatrist in chief at John Hopkins Hospital in the late 1970s. He grew concerned about the results of sex-reassignment surgeries and, in 1979, stopped them at that facility. He said it was “fundamentally cooperating with a mental illness,” and said psychiatrists could better help people by “trying to fix their minds and not their genitalia.”

Dr. McHugh says today’s gender-reassignment debate is today’s *Emperor’s New Clothes*. That’s the Hans Christian Anderson folktale about the emperor who commissioned weavers to make him the finest clothes money can buy. But the weavers are con men. They say they’re making luxurious, beautiful clothes—but explain that the fabric is invisible to anyone unfit for his position or hopelessly stupid. For days, they pretend to weave, but there’s no thread on the looms. The emperor’s noblemen, fearing they might be the only one who can’t see them and not wanting to appear stupid or unfit for office, all pretend to see the clothes. And of course, the emperor does the same. So he ends up being paraded out into the streets wearing nothing at all! The townsfolk

uncomfortably go along with the charade because no one wants to be considered stupid. But finally a little child blurts out the obvious truth: The emperor is naked!

“Onlookers to the contemporary transgender parade” know that they would be condemned for holding heretical opinions, Dr. McHugh says, so they ignore clear facts and simply shut their mouths. He says, “I am ever trying to be the boy among the bystanders who points to what’s real. I do so not only because truth matters, but also because OVERLOOKED AMID THE HOOPLA ... STAND MANY VICTIMS.”

MANY VICTIMS.

Those victims include parents who want to spare their children the miseries involved in trying to transition—who are bullied into encouraging these problems. They include teens being swept up into a lifestyle that leads to terrible side effects. They include transgenders being lied to about the cause of their unhappiness and about the solution.

Lies cannot produce true happiness. Yet the transgender movement is waging an ASSAULT ON TRUTH *unprecedented in human history*. It has come to consider *biological reality* a mere “social construct,” while exalting gender disorientation within 2-year-old children as “fixed truth.”

How dangerous this assault on truth is! There’s something big going on here, something with the most twisted of consequences and the youngest of victims. Insist on the facts. Have a willingness to fight for them. You’re going to need it.

The Path to Happiness

Can a person who is conflicted over his or her sexuality achieve real happiness? Leading advocates of the transgender movement, who identify as transgender themselves, are wrestling with this question.

A transgender *New York Times* opinion writer admitted that upcoming genital surgery wouldn’t bring happiness. “This is what I want,” the author wrote, “but there is no guarantee it will make me happier. In fact, I don’t expect it to. That shouldn’t disqualify me from getting it.” This author considers being a transgender

the worst thing that ever happened in life (next to being born as a boy) and says nothing will change that. The author gives no solution and puts all blame on being born in the wrong body.

Transgender proponents say transgenderism—and remaking our entire society—leads to happiness. That is proving to be obviously and terribly false. Their solutions misplace the real *cause* of the unhappiness.

Still, the underlying desire of every person, including transgenders, is happiness. Yet few people have ever found true happiness. Why?

The Bible reveals the cause of these problems—and the solution.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). The solutions people pursue seem right to them. But it turns out that perceptions can be deceiving. Often it isn’t until we see the failed results of our efforts that we realize we saw only part of the picture, or we misdiagnosed the problem. All too often, society refuses to even acknowledge the disastrous results of its own policies and continues to double down on its mistakes.

Jeremiah 17:9 says the human heart is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” That heart can lead us wildly astray through selfish motives, impure desires and various forms of self-deception.

What is the solution? It always comes back to *trusting God*. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7). When we stop trying to devise our own solutions, and we fear God and do as He says, then we are on the right track. That is the *beginning* of knowledge.

“The fear of the Lord is the *beginning of wisdom*: a good understanding have all they that *do his commandments* ...” (Psalm 111:10).

God has actually spelled out the way that leads to success in life: that is, His law. The Ten Commandments, the statutes and judgments: Put God first, don’t kill or hate, avoid sexual sins, don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t covet, honor your parents, keep the Sabbath, and so on. People dismiss it as simplistic or archaic, but it actually yields the outcome that everyone wants!

As Proverbs 29:18 states, “[H]e that *keepeth the law*, HAPPY IS HE.” That is the purpose for which God gave His law: to show human beings the path to happiness!

Do you want to be happy? Is your life plagued by discouragement, doubt, depression, loneliness, even suicidal thoughts? Then put God to the test. He promises that if you obey Him, it will transform your life in the most beautiful way imaginable. If you keep the law, you will be happy!

There is no other path to happiness!

Mankind has rebelled against God’s law since the Garden of Eden. That is why we live in a world of increasing misery and depression.

Some of the laws God gave us relate to family. They govern marriage, how a man should treat his wife and a wife her husband, what their roles are, their responsibilities toward their children, and the children’s responsibility toward them. There is a profound reason why God established family and created those laws: Not only do they lead to happiness in our physical lives, they also point to an even more important spiritual reality. God created family to point to His wonderful spiritual Family. In His great mercy, God grants everyone, on the condition of repentance, access into this spiritual Family. (This truth is proved in *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s free book *The God Family Vision*.)

The God who created male and female (Genesis 1:27) did so with deliberate intent and purpose, and gave laws to ensure we respect that. Among them is this clear command in Deuteronomy 22:5: “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

God gave us those laws for a wonderful purpose, but because of ignorance, or flat-out rebellion, people have broken them with impunity. And generations have suffered for it. In recent decades, mankind has attacked these family laws on an epic scale with unprecedented aggression. Misery and unhappiness are mounting higher and higher as a result.

Bible prophecy reveals that this lawless course will culminate in an unbearable climax of human suffering! Sadly, only then will mankind become humble and willing to be taught by God.

You, individually, however, can take a different course. You can turn your personal life around if you turn to God in repentance. You can reject the path that society has taken, learn about the laws that govern family, and reap the marvelous fruits. Obey those laws, and *you can be happy!* ■

Putin and the ‘Greatest Catastrophe’

Putin is hammering the former Soviet nations back into Russian control.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

THE 20TH CENTURY WAS BLIGHTED BY MAJOR catastrophes: World War I. World War II, India-Pakistan carnage, dissolution of the British Empire, the Holodomor, the Holocaust, genocides, mass murder by Communist

regimes, and the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons that can annihilate all human life.

Which of these was the worst? Here is the answer, from a 2005 address by Russian

President Vladimir Putin: “The breakup of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century.”

Wait a minute. The *breakup* of the regime notorious for oppression, dehumanization, purges and prison camps? The regime whose horrendous industrial policies killed dozens of millions of its own people? The regime that killed millions more by intentionally creating the worst man-made famine in world history? The regime whose KGB agents “disappeared” anyone suspected of disloyalty to the party?

Given all the suffering under that despotic system, many would say the *creation* of the Soviet Union was among the greatest catastrophes of the 20th century.

But Putin views its peaceful dissolution as the catastrophic 20th century’s *greatest catastrophe*.

The former KGB lieutenant colonel has made clear what he misses is not the politics or economics of the USSR. What he misses is the power and prestige. He looks back fondly on the era when Russia and 14 other nations were forged under the Soviet hammer into one massive, nuclear-armed superpower—all under the control of the Russian leader.

In the years since he spoke those revealing words, Putin has channeled much of Russia’s might into hammering those nations back together. He is working not only to reverse that “catastrophe” but to create something even mightier than the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at its mightiest.

GEORGIA: First Strikes of the Hammer

At the end of 2003, the former Soviet nation of Georgia took a sharp turn away from Russia and toward the West with its Rose Revolution. And in 2006, about a year after Putin’s landmark speech, President Mikheil Saakashvili signaled his intent to make Georgia a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

For Putin, this was unthinkable.

NATO was formed primarily to resist the Soviet Union. If Georgia joined and hosted NATO forces, Russia’s lucrative oil assets on the Caspian Sea would be at serious risk. He issued a statement saying efforts by NATO to absorb Georgia “would be taken in Russia as

Moving Fences

In the 13 years since Putin’s forces erected miles of fencing around South Ossetia and Abkhazia and made them de facto Russian territories, they have engaged in 155 instances of “borderization,” a creeping form of invasion. They move the fences.

The Heritage Foundation wrote, “In some cases, Georgians have gone to bed in free Georgia only to wake up in occupied Georgia after Russia constructed a fence around their homes.”

The victims face a loathsome choice: Either flee the properties that their families have developed for generations, or stay caged inside Russian territory, subject to surveillance, harassment and possible arrest.

“[W]e can’t even go out to our own gardens, as [the Russians] are there,” Liziko Gakheladze, a former resident of Gugutiantkari, Georgia, said in a 2019 interview with Rustavi 2. “So people are leaving.”

a direct threat to the security of our country.”

Putin struck back against Georgia’s accession to NATO by boosting support for the pro-Russian Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Together these two regions constitute about 20 percent of Georgia’s internationally recognized territory. Thanks largely to Russian support, they were already semiautonomous and adamantly anti-NATO.

In 2006, the Georgian government aimed to reassert control over the regions. Conflicts between Georgian soldiers and South Ossetian and Abkhazian separatists raged for months and exploded in August 2008, when intense fighting erupted in Tskhinvali, South Ossetia’s primary city.

Putin seized the opportunity.

Russian forces invaded Georgia with overwhelming force. Within five days, they had pushed Georgian soldiers out of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Russia then recognized the

independence of both regions, effectively chiseling them off of Georgia. He then asserted de facto control over them.

Georgia, along with the United States and the European Union, protested the Russian move as blatantly illegal. But the deed was done.

In less than a week, Putin had welded about one fifth of Georgia's total territory back into Russia. He had undone one aspect of that "catastrophe."

Ukraine: Reforging Crimea

Meanwhile, the important former Soviet nation of Ukraine, where millions were starved and otherwise killed by the Soviet regime in the 20th century, began the 21st century by drawing nearer to the EU. In 2013, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was expected to sign the Association Agreement, a major leap toward economic and political integration of Ukraine with Europe. But on Nov. 21, 2013, his government surprised the world by declaring that the deal was off.

What caused this last-minute U-turn?

The world discovered that days before, Yanukovich had secretly met with Putin. Putin had pressured him into breaking with Europe in favor of aligning with Russia.

Many Ukrainians were furious at the prospect of returning to Ukraine's former master during Soviet times. Half a million protested in the streets for weeks, demanding that Yanukovich step down. In February 2014, the protests became violent, killing 67 people. Yanukovich fled the presidential palace and eventually went into exile in Russia.

Meanwhile, unmarked troops appeared in Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and worked with pro-Russia militias to seize two airports, a coast guard base and numerous civilian government buildings, including the parliament building, over which they raised the Russian flag.

These were widely suspected and later confirmed as Russian Special Forces. But Putin's government officially denied involvement.

On March 11, 2014, as Russian operatives grew increasingly aggressive in Crimea, the region's supreme council announced that

it would hold a referendum on whether the people of the region wanted to join Russia. But the referendum was not only constitutionally illegal, it was also essentially held at the business end of a Kalashnikov.

"Would any referendum be considered legitimate if run by well-trained masked gunmen?" Kiev-based political activist Taras Revunets told the *Trumpet* at the time.

The referendum was a sham. But for Putin, it worked. The official results showed 97 percent of Crimeans favored joining the nation that had just invaded their country. On March 18, a treaty was signed officially incorporating Crimea into the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, swaths of eastern Ukraine were also pushed into a state of protracted conflict that is still ongoing as pro-Russia forces—and actual Russian forces—battle Ukrainian government troops. International pressure, especially after an airliner was accidentally shot down, killing all 298 aboard, did nothing to dissuade Putin. The result has been de facto control over eastern Ukraine by Russia.

Once again, Putin hammered some of the most strategically vital pieces of the old Soviet machine back into Russia. He reversed another key area of the "catastrophe."

Belarus: Heated to Forging Temperature

In Belarus, a former Soviet country of 9.5 million people wedged between Russia and Europe, Putin has used a lower level of heat—so far.

Even when Russia was mired in political and economic dysfunction in the 1990s, Belarus aligned with it. Russia persuaded Belarus to join the Commonwealth of Independent States and the "Union of Belarus and Russia," the stated purpose of which was nothing less than unifying "the peoples of the two countries into a democratic state ruled by law."

After Putin took over on the last day of the 20th century, he turned up the heat on Belarus. Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. military grew active in post-Soviet nations. NATO planned to deploy missile defense systems in Eastern Europe. Most East European nations were shifting their policies in favor of Europe. These developments imbued

Belarus, a pro-Russia buffer with Europe, with extreme strategic value. Over the past 20 years, Putin has boosted integration in all areas, focusing especially on military. Russia and Belarus regularly conduct joint war games, and Russia operates permanent military facilities in Belarus. Putin has also brought Belarus into the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a major weapon of Russian power.

Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko has delayed full integration for years. But in August 2020, he faced heated protests over an election he had rigged. Putin ensured that he stayed in power, leaving him deeply beholden to Putin.

Putin has applied heat to Belarus for years, bringing it up to forging temperature. He could now pound it in as an official part of Russia almost at will.

Armenia and Azerbaijan: Applying Heat and Pressure

Last September, a vicious war erupted between the former Soviet countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

Russia has a mutual-defense agreement with Armenia, but Putin said the alliance did not cover the disputed region. His government worked with both sides, attempting to broker a peace deal. The efforts stalled until November 9, when a missile struck an open area in Azerbaijan's capital. No one was killed by the strike, and no one took responsibility for launching it. But many viewed it as a threat by Putin to use military force if the two nations didn't stop fighting. The message was received. Within hours, the violence that had resulted in 5,000 deaths ended.

The final terms required Armenia to cede most of the disputed territory to Azerbaijan, which the Azerbaijanis cast as a victory. But they too had to make a concession—not to Armenia but to Putin: As part of the peace terms, almost 2,000 Russian “peacekeeper” soldiers were sent into Azerbaijan, where they will remain, apparently, indefinitely.

This marked the first time Russian forces have established a foothold in the nation and constituted a considerable victory for Putin.

And he didn't stop there. His government also announced plans to expand its Armenian base and deploy troops near the border with Azerbaijan. The Armenian government, surely having felt cheated by Russia, nevertheless said it welcomed the plans.

Richard Giragosian, an analyst based in Yerevan, Armenia, told the *New York Times*, “The future security of Nagorno-Karabakh now depends on Russian peacekeepers, which gives Moscow the leverage they lacked.”

Meanwhile, Putin's shrewd diplomacy in this conflict also enabled him to reduce the influence of Turkey in the region.

Two more former Soviet nations are clamped in Putin's tongs and gradually being hammered more deeply into the Russian sphere.

Putin is also applying varying degrees of heat and applying more Russian power over the former Soviet states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. At this point, only the Baltic nations—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are refusing such efforts.

This trend of Russia in resurgence would be significant enough just as a geopolitical development with the potential to change the global balance of power. But there is even more at play here.

The ‘Prince’ of Russia

Just after Russia invaded Georgia, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said the move marked the start of a “dangerous new era” in world history. In our October 2008 issue, he wrote: “This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower, and there will be more!”

Mr. Flurry's forecast was proved right with Russia's history-altering attack on Ukraine six years later, and it is continuing to prove accurate with Russia achieving success through more subtle means in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus.

Mr. Flurry has called attention to Vladimir Putin and his growing power over the years, because Bible prophecy describes a multinational Asian alliance that will form in the years ahead. Around A.D. 90, the Apostle John was inspired to write: “And the number of the army

of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them” (Revelation 9:16). This is a military force of 200 million soldiers, which is about 15 times larger than the largest force ever assembled in human history.

The Scriptures provide several key details about this colossus. Revelation 16:12 calls it “the kings of the east,” showing it to be a group of multiple, mainly Asian, nations.

In connection with this eastern power, prophecies in Ezekiel 38 and 39 discuss a “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Young’s Literal Translation). *Meshech* and *Tubal* are ancient names designating the modern Russian cities of Moscow and Tobolsk. And *Rosh* is a variation of an ancient name for Russia, as shown in Bible commentaries, such as the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary*.

In his 2017 booklet *The Prophesied ‘Prince of Russia,’* Mr. Flurry explains that the “prince” discussed in these passages is none other than Vladimir Putin. Mr. Flurry writes: “The use of all three names [Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk] shows that this is an individual ruler of *all* the peoples of Russia, from the west to the east. The reference to the cities of Moscow and Tobolsk helps us see how vast Russian territory is in these latter days. This giant swath of land

indicates the prince will probably conquer more nations of the former Soviet Union.”

In the years since that was written, Putin has hammered several former Soviet territories and nations deeper into his control. And his forge is getting hotter.

Mr. Flurry explains that Putin’s leadership of Russia, including his reforging of the Soviet Union, shows that a time of worldwide trouble is fast approaching. It will be a catastrophe far worse than any during the 20th or any other century in history. But he emphasizes that there is also great hope welded into these prophecies. He writes that the fact Putin is now leading the nation proves that the most hope-filled event in mankind’s history is close. “Mr. Putin’s warfare is going to lead directly into the Second Coming of Christ. ... Vladimir Putin is a sign, literally a *sign*, that Jesus Christ is about to return!” he writes. “This is one of the most inspiring messages in the Bible.

“What we are seeing in Russia ultimately leads to the transition from man ruling man to *God* ruling man! And it is almost here! It is just a few short years away. ...

“We have to realize that this is all GOOD NEWS because Jesus Christ is going to return to this Earth at the very end of the coming world war.” ■

The Interview That Shook the Royal Family

An American who became a duchess is now attacking the pillar institution of Britain that she joined. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

RACISM IN THE ROYAL FAMILY LEFT MEGHAN, the duchess of Sussex, on the brink of suicide. That’s the impression given by a two-hour interview the duke and duchess held with Oprah Winfrey.

The interview, which aired in America on

March 7, shocked the world with its accusations of racism at the heart of the British royal family. Meghan gave the impression that the only reason her son, Archie, was not a prince was because of his skin color. She said she was distressed by the “idea of the first member of

color in this family not being titled in the same way that other grandchildren would be.” In fact, the royals hated the idea of a black prince so much that Archie would receive no security protection.

Harry and Meghan claimed that things were so bad it almost killed her. Meghan said she reached the point that “I just didn’t want to be alive anymore.” She approached the royal family for help, she said, but received nothing: “I was told I couldn’t; it wouldn’t be good for the institution.”

Harry said he was worried she would end up dead. “My biggest concern was history repeating itself, and I’ve said that before on numerous occasions, very publicly,” he said. “And when I’m talking about history repeating itself, I’m talking about my mother.” Actually, he feels Meghan’s situation was worse than Diana’s, the princess of Wales. It was “far more dangerous, because then you add race in and you add social media in.”

The claims were appalling, condemning and explosive. And they perfectly match a narrative adored by leftist media. And so, they were treated as irrefutable fact and broadly trumpeted.

Demonstrable Lies

The *New York Times* declared, “Meghan and Harry’s Interview Shows the Monarchy Must Go” (March 9). It claimed that the interview showed “that the British monarchy is a toxic den of backbiting and racism.” “You cannot turn a bottle of poison into a refreshing drink, no matter how much sugar you pour into it,” it said.

“Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle: How Two Black Women Took Down Whatever Fantasies Remained About the British Monarchy,” was the *Washington Post*’s take. “Markle laid bare her own traumas to illuminate dark truths about Britain, the royals—but also more generally about life in a predominantly white institution with a racist past,” it wrote. “Racism continues to seep through every facet of British royal life” (March 8).

Politicians and celebrities enthusiastically supported the ex-royal couple. Hillary Clinton

said that the “cruelty” of the British press “in going after Meghan was just outrageous.” Joe Biden praised the “courage” of the duchess of Sussex. Beyoncé said, “We are all strengthened and inspired by you.”

Those who took the opposite view were quickly canceled. Talk show host Piers Morgan lost his job after he said he didn’t believe the duchess. Executive director of the Society of Editors Ian Murray was forced to resign after he defended the British press from charges that its coverage of Meghan was racist.

All this despite the fact that the accusations of racism are demonstrably false. The rules over who is or isn’t a prince were set down by King George V over a hundred years ago. Harry’s children would not be princes until the Queen died no matter whom he married. The couple couldn’t even keep their own story straight on this subject. The supposedly racist member of the royal family is kept unnamed, so he cannot defend himself. Meghan said this individual had “several conversations” with Prince Harry while she was pregnant about the baby’s skin color. Harry talked about *one* conversation that took place before he and Meghan were married.

Beyond that, to bolster accusations that the British are racist, Oprah’s production team had to resort to fraud. One third of the headlines they showed to prove this racism came from outside the United Kingdom. Many of the others had been doctored to make them appear racist when they were not.

The Lord Lieutenant of London—a black man who was appointed by the Queen—wrote an article saying that “In my years of working closely” with the royal family “I have never once encountered the slightest hint of racism. Indeed, in all they do, they strive to repair rifts, not create them” (March 10).

Don’t expect this perspective to receive any mainstream attention. The media had their narrative, and they are running with it.

Embracing Radicalism

Harry and Meghan’s departure from the royal family last year helped open the door for the radical Black Lives Matter movement to spread

to the United Kingdom. In the wake of “Megxit,” “experts” in race and gender studies flooded the airways to explain that the couple’s decision was a reaction to societal racism. *Good Morning Britain*, *This Morning*, *Newsnight*, *Question Time* and many more programs hosted discussions on the nation’s sins against the biracial duchess of Sussex.

In our March 2020 issue, we wrote: “This seems a real turning point for race relations in Britain. Never had the idea that Britain is fundamentally, institutionally racist received so much airtime. ... There has been a public backlash against all these claims, so it is too soon to know where this is leading. But if Meghan’s ‘abdication crisis’ sows seeds of racial division that take root, this could cause huge damage to the country for a long time to come” (“Royal Family Divides Britain,” *theTrumpet.com/21866*).

Within months, Black Lives Matter protesters were vandalizing statues on Britain’s streets. Their radical criticisms of men like Winston Churchill were increasingly embraced by universities, schools and museums across the country.

Once out of the country, the couple publicly supported Black Lives Matter. In a July 1, 2020, video message, on what would have been his mother’s 59th birthday, Harry said Britain was racist and that racism is “endemic” in our societies. “My wife said recently that our generation and the ones before us haven’t done enough to right the wrongs of the past,” he said. “I, too, am sorry.”

Days later, he joined Alicia Wallace—a “queer black feminist woman” and “anti-capitalism advocate,” as she describes herself—and others to lament the racism inherent in the British Commonwealth. He said that for the Commonwealth there is “no way that we can move forward unless we acknowledge the past” and that there is “so much more still to do” in order to “right those wrongs.” He talked about the “institutional and systemic racism” in the organization. “For the first time ever, thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement ... this is the moment when people are starting to be listened to,” he said.

Remember, this is not the British Empire he was talking about, which has been subject to a storm of controversy for some years. The Commonwealth is a free association of democratic nations that anyone can leave at any time. The secretary general is a black woman. It hadn’t received any significant bad press—until Harry trashed it.

Meanwhile, the organization he is supporting, Black Lives Matter, is a radical Marxist group fundamentally opposed to Western civilization. The BLM website once stated that they “disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family.” Their leaders encourage people to resist “white capitalism.”

Considering this is the way the royal couple thinks, it’s no surprise they have embedded themselves in America’s radical-left movement. The *Daily Mail* wrote last year that the Sussexes got advice on their break with the royal family from former President Barack Obama and his wife. The Sussexes “wanted to mimic the way they had managed to build a successful, but dignified, life for themselves after the White House,” it wrote (Jan. 10, 2020). Meghan went on to share a stage with Mrs. Obama during a three-day virtual leadership summit called “Girl-Up.”

President Obama played a huge role in shifting America to the left. His presidency accentuated major divisions in American society. And it appears he and his wife played a significant role in dividing Harry from the rest of the royal family.

Harry and Meghan’s former head of communication, Sara Latham, was a senior adviser on Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. Mrs. Clinton herself visited the two of them at their home near Windsor Castle on Nov. 12, 2019. Later that month, the Sussexes left for Canada for a six-week holiday to contemplate their future.

In the lead-up to the United States election, they released a video all but telling people to vote Democrat. It has since been revealed that Meghan had a meeting with California Governor Gavin Newsom. One of the celebrities tweeting her support of Meghan was Meena Harris—Kamala’s niece.

Such politicking is anathema to the royals in London. And now the divide seems set to get even worse.

Why This Matters

Whether they believe it or not, Britain's family has a history with God. God promised King David that he would always have a descendant ruling over part of the biblical nation of Israel. This promise is behind the extraordinary staying power of Britain's royal family. In his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong proved that Britain's royal family is descended from King David.

What happens around the throne in England matters. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes, "There is a direct connection between the unrighteousness surrounding David's throne in England and the death of America and Britain! ... Just how important is that throne to us today? Our job is to tell the nations of Israel that they have David's throne and that their fate is directly tied to the righteousness or unrighteousness of that throne! Ignorance is no excuse" (*Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*).

You can see this truth reflected in the fallout of the Meghan saga. Her accusations have supercharged the idea that British society is fundamentally racist and shattered much of what remains of the tattered reputation of the royal family.

Since Mr. Flurry wrote that, God has given important new truth about the throne. Mr. Flurry wrote in 2018 that this new truth "was a signal of terrible things to come upon Britain, as well as a sharp decline of America and Judah. It was also an indication that we would see a rapid decline in Britain's royal family" (*The New Throne of David*).

Look at the decline that has hit the royal family since. As these latest accusations echo around the world, they could precipitate countries quitting the Commonwealth, or rejecting the Queen as head of state.

Historian Andrew Roberts warned that we could see years of continuous opposition from the Sussexes. "Today, palace officials will be understandably concerned that the Harry and Meghan show, transferred to California, will be consistently directed against the House of Windsor, with more revelations, more accusations and a lifetime of private conversations being slowly revealed. ... Going down 'The Diana Route' of covert, undeclared-but-obvious opposition to the House of Windsor will be easy for the Sussexes, as they will be financially independent with their Netflix, Spotify and possible Disney deals, while their status as victims of the sinister, racist palace will make them virtually untouchable in the American media."

What we are seeing in Britain are symptoms of a profound change in the royal family. And the effects are being felt around the world.

Expect the Black Lives Matter movement to intensify in the UK. If the royal family is racist, then Britain truly is institutionally racist and in radical need of change. Expect the popularity of royals like heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles to continue to fall. Expect anti-establishmentarianism to retreat. Expect Britain's standing in the world to suffer.

All this will happen directly because of this change to Britain's royal family.

It's a change you need to understand. The Bible warns of mountains of bad news ahead for the royals, Britons and the world. But this change also reveals a real and living hope for all. You can read about this change in our free book *The New Throne of David*. ■

Biden Middle East Policy: Pushing the World Toward Christ's Return

Closely watch events in this tinderbox region. **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

WHEN WILL JESUS CHRIST RETURN? THE answer is inside mankind's instruction manual, the Holy Bible. While the Bible says that the masses will be caught unaware, you don't have to be. You can understand the surprisingly detailed events that the Bible prophesies will lead directly to the return of Jesus Christ. In fact, your life depends on it.

One strikingly detailed prophecy is found in Daniel 11. Many specifics in this prophecy have already been fulfilled, but much of it remains to be fulfilled in our lifetime. God inspired Daniel to prophesy the precise timeline of events that will take place directly preceding and culminating in Christ's return.

Daniel 11:40 reads, "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."

This verse describes a provocative push by one world power, "the king of the south," which motivates a forceful response by a far stronger world power, "the king of the north." From this verse onward, Daniel 11 describes a cascade of events leading to world war and finally the return of Jesus Christ.

The countdown begins with a powerful push by the king of the south.

Islamist King of the South

For over 30 years, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has forecast that radical Islam,

led by Iran, will fulfill the role of the prophesied king of the south, and that a 10-nation European bloc led by Germany will fulfill the role of the king of the north.

By understanding Daniel's prophecy of the king of the south, Mr. Flurry forecast in 2001 that America would fail in Afghanistan, Iran's neighbor to the east. He repeatedly emphasized that it was Iran, not al Qaeda, that was the real head of the terrorist snake. As of 2015, al Qaeda had moved its global headquarters to Tehran, where it operates under Iran's watchful eye.

In 1994, Mr. Flurry forecast that Iran would dominate Saddam's Hussein's Iraq, Iran's neighbor to the west. When the United States invaded Iraq with over 100,000 troops in 2003, Mr. Flurry doubled down, saying that Iran would emerge the victor. In February 2015, he foretold that the Islamic State's demise in Iraq would allow Iran to fully dominate the nation through its Shiite militias. This has all transpired.

Mr. Flurry also forecast in 1994 that Egypt would become part of the king of the south alliance, headed by Iran. He based this on the statement in Daniel 11:42-43 that the king of the north will target Egypt right alongside Iran, implying a strong alliance between Egypt and Iran. In light of that, Mr. Flurry prophesied that the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood movement would likely rise up to dominate Egyptian politics. This happened in 2011 with the election of Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi as Egypt's president: He quickly began turning the nation toward Iran.

Morsi was soon ousted from power by Egypt's current general-turned-president. Still, Mr. Flurry has maintained that this is a temporary reality, and that Egypt will revert to being an Iranian ally.

Three decades of accurate forecasting by Mr. Flurry and Iran's continuing rise prove that Iran's radical Islamist alliance fulfills the role of the king of the south. And Iran's aggressive foreign policy will be the *push* that tumbles the world into war—and starts the clock that counts down to Christ's return.

Barack Obama and Radical Islam

Understanding Iran's role in prophesied events reveals the enormous danger of America's Middle East policy under Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

For eight years, Obama sought to fundamentally change America, including its alliances. He viewed most of the world's problems as the legacy of white-man's colonialism. The current nations of the Middle East were created largely by imperialist powers following World War I, powers that subsumed the will of the inhabitants to that of British and French leaders. Later, the U.S. became the dominant power intruding into the Middle East and, according to this worldview, caused only evil.

During President Obama's first term, when Islamic extremism was still a major issue, he engaged the Middle East with a message of popular will, where no outside power, especially the nation he led, had the right to interfere. "I've come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world," he stated in a major 2009 speech in Egypt, "one based on mutual interest and mutual respect, and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition."

Absent from the audience that day was Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a long-time American ally, whose strong-arm tactics had kept at bay Islamist forces like the Muslim Brotherhood for decades. Present instead were members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Obama was rejecting America's traditional

ally and endorsing the Muslim Brotherhood's position.

Two years later, Egypt erupted in a massive popular movement that the well-organized Muslim Brotherhood—sponsor of Hamas and leader of Sunni Islamism worldwide—took advantage of. It ended in Mubarak's resignation (at Obama's urging) and the election of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood to power.

But even more dangerous in that speech was this statement from President Obama: "No single nation should pick and choose which nations hold nuclear weapons." This was four years before he announced that the U.S. was engaging in nuclear talks with Iran. Yet his intention was already clear.

"In other words," Mr. Flurry wrote, "he believes America by itself should not prevent another nation from getting nuclear bombs—a signal to the world that America the superpower is dead! *That means America has no right to forcefully stop Iran's nuclear program, even though Iran is the number one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world by far!*" (*Trumpet*, August 2009).

Not only did the Obama administration do nothing to stop Iran from attaining nuclear weapons, it actually drafted a deal to legitimize its path to nuclear power and provided massive, immediate financial incentives that probably saved Iranian radicals from losing power. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal was implemented on Jan. 16, 2016, a year before Obama left office.

This history is important because it shows two main strategies of Obama's Middle East policy: First, strengthen popular Islamist movements at the expense of anti-Islamist strongman autocratic rulers. Second, empower the radical regime of Iran.

In biblical prophecy terms, Barack Obama's policy was to strengthen radical Islam, led by Iran—the *king of the south!*

Empowering the King

The Jewish state was deeply concerned by Obama's Cairo speech. The president's favorability among Israelis plunged to an unprecedented 4 percent. It was clear to Israelis that a

policy of empowering Iran and other Islamist movements directly threatened Israel, enemy No. 1 for Muslim extremists.

For four decades, successive U.S. administrations had made support for Israel the cornerstone of the nation's Middle East policy. This reflected the will of the American people, who share the values of democracy and Judeo-Christian beliefs with Israelis. It also made sense strategically. Supporting Israel provided what has been likened to a large aircraft carrier at the center of the world's discontent.

This advantage grew even more valuable after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, when the U.S. allowed the nation's shah to be deposed and replaced by ayatollahs who regularly preach, "Death to America" (and "Death to Israel"). American policy also created alliances with Arab leaders who restrained radical Islam within their populations. This contained the fight within the Middle East and mostly away from America and its allies.

Barack Obama reversed all these policy advancements. Why?

Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to the U.S. during Obama's first term, writes in his book *Ally*, "More than policy ... Barack Obama was about *ideology*, and a worldview often at variance with Israel's" (emphasis added).

Obama publicly said America would have it both ways: It would use Israel as a security ally, but it would hold it at arm's distance diplomatically and embrace its Islamist rivals. But the truth was clear: Obama was breaking the alliance with Israel.

"Unlike in the West, where security is measured in tanks, jets and guns, security in this part of the world is largely a product of impressions," Oren writes. "A friend who stands by his friends on some issues but not on others is, in Middle Eastern eyes, not really a friend" (ibid).

Because of his worldview and ideology, Obama favored populist Islamist uprisings over autocratic allies, took America away from standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel, and signaled to the world that Iran could pursue nuclear weapons. All three of these

massive shifts in America's Middle East policy came within the first six months of his first term.

Over the next 7½ years, Arab autocrats weakened as popular Islamist uprisings surged. Israel was targeted and maligned and the Iranian regime was strengthened and emboldened. In terms of Bible prophecy, Obama was empowering the king of the south to push harder and harder.

Restraining the King

Judging by the fruits, Obama's Middle East policy severely weakened Israel's position and strengthened Islamist powers led by Iran.

But something happened at the end of 2016 that unexpectedly and abruptly stopped this trend: the election of Donald J. Trump. Most importantly for Obama's ideological goals for the Middle East, President Trump's main campaign promise regarding foreign policy was to end the "dreadful Iran nuclear deal."

That deal with Iran and several other nations was the main mechanism Obama was using to break America away from its traditional allies and to enrich Iran through international recognition, access to open markets, and outright massive cash payments. Meanwhile, Iran was not bound to stop developing ballistic missile technology, which could carry a warhead as far as Europe. (To learn why Obama would empower Iran in this way, read "The Barack Obama Mystery" at theTrumpet.com/22704.)

However, even with the fawning support of the mainstream media, the nuclear deal was deeply unpopular with Americans. People asked, *Why are we giving Iran a bunch of money for just waiting longer to build nuclear bombs? Why are we suddenly negotiating with terrorists, let alone the world's biggest state sponsor of terrorism? Why are we abandoning Israel, one of our closest allies in the world?*

Those ordinary Americans, whom the pro-Obama media couldn't convince, came out and voted for Donald Trump—by the tens of millions.

President Trump delivered a foreign policy opposite of Obama's. Where Obama

strengthened Iran, Trump sanctioned it. Where Obama provided Middle Eastern nations with motivation (fear) to support Iran, Trump supplied incentives to sign peace deals with Israel. Where Obama allowed American servicemen to be humiliated, deployed to bases they shared with Iranian troops, and targeted, Trump ordered the killing of the leader of their international terrorist programs. Where Obama sidelined autocrats in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood, Trump strengthened them, including Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and the Gulf monarchies. Where Obama pushed Israel away, Trump was the most pro-Israel president in U.S. history, recognizing the Golan Heights, declaring that Israeli construction in the West Bank was not against international law, and moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

In terms of Bible prophecy, the four years of the Trump administration were a restraining of the king of the south—temporarily.

All Obama's Men

For the international community, a lot was riding on the 2020 American election. In the Middle East, there was little doubt how high the stakes were. If President Trump lost, America would revert to Barack Obama's destructive policies. If he won, there would be hope for containing and perhaps even replacing Iran's radical Islamist terrorist-sponsoring regime.

This is what President Trump desired, and even why he reached out for backchannel talks with Iran at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. However, Iran rebuffed the talks. It turned out that Iran's foreign minister was already conducting clandestine talks with other Americans.

The *Washington Times* reported on February 21 that officials from the former Obama administration, such as former Secretary of State John Kerry and Obama's chief Iran deal negotiator Robert Malley, were in regular talks with the Iranians while President Trump was in office and while they held no official authority to deal with foreign governments. Their message was: *Hold out. Don't negotiate with Trump. We will make your life easier when we return to power.*

“What I'd like to see with Iran, I'd like to see them call me,” President Trump told reporters on May 9, 2019. “You know, John Kerry speaks to them a lot. John Kerry tells them not to call. [He] has many meetings and many phone calls, and he's telling them what to do.” Obama was doing nothing less than running a shadow government. His men were conducting a clandestine foreign policy with Iran—actively colluding with the enemy of the United States—in order to undermine the president.

Well, return to power they did. Now Kerry is in President Biden's cabinet, as is Malley, who has returned to his post as chief envoy to Iran. And they are going right to work empowering Iran and attacking Iran's chief Arab adversary, Saudi Arabia.

Watch Out, Saudi Arabia

In his final year in office, President Obama outraged the Saudis by calling on them to “share the neighborhood” with Iran. Such smooth-sounding words were typical from Mr. Obama. But he had just dropped more than \$100 billion in the lap of their chief enemy just across the Arabian Gulf.

Now that Team Obama is back, they are using American power more forcefully against Saudi Arabia.

During his campaign, Joe Biden spoke of the need to make the Saudi kingdom “pay the price” for human rights abuses and “make them in fact the pariah that they are.” In his first week in office, he reversed the designation of the Iranian-backed Houthis as a terrorist group and announced that the U.S. was ending its support for the Saudi-led campaign against the Houthis. His administration annulled weapons deals the U.S. had signed with Saudi Arabia and enabled Iran to export weapons to the Houthis by ending United Nations snapback sanctions.

The Biden administration has also gone after Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. His father appointed him in 2017, replacing Muhammad bin Nayef, who had a strong relationship with Obama's Central Intelligence Agency. But Salman is firmer against Iran and has aligned Saudi Arabia with

Israel by assenting to Israel's peace deals with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Now, the Biden administration is trying to take him out by claiming that he "approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey, to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi."

"By damaging [the crown prince] in this way, the Biden administration has empowered his Muslim Brotherhood enemies who want to bring him down and return Saudi Arabia to an even more repressive ethos—as well as enmity against the West. What perversity is this?" wrote Melanie Phillips on March 1. "America will again shockingly become what it became under President Obama—anti-anti-Islamist. Which, whether the Biden administration wants this to happen or not, will put it on the side of the Islamic fanatics, whether the Sunni Muslim Brothers or the Shia 'Twelvers' who are all at war with the West."

In terms of Bible prophecy, Biden is using American power to remove all opposition that threatens the supremacy of the king of the south.

Who Will Stop Iran?

Until President Obama, America sought to contain Iran's conquest of the region. With America switching sides, former U.S. allies are left with two choices: Go the way of Mubarak, who watched Islamists take over his country and wheel him into court for war crimes before he died—or reach out for help from elsewhere.

Already, there are reports that Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel are building on Trump's Abraham Accords and discussing closer *military* ties. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, a well-connected source in Abu Dhabi confirmed that Israel, the U.A.E. and Bahrain are ready to build an alliance, and Saudi Arabia is still considering the move. Such an alliance is likely, considering America is enabling the rise of the king of the south.

However, the Bible states that a regional alliance will not be enough to stop the king of the south. Instead, the prophecy of Daniel 11,

combined with one found in Psalm 83, shows that it is a German-led Europe, known as the king of the north, that will join forces with the anti-Iranian alliance.

Read Daniel 11:40 again: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [radical Islam led by Iran] push at him: and the king of the north [German-led Europe] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."

Knowing who the king of the north and the king of the south are in this passage makes the United States' current policy of empowering Iran at the expense of its former allies supremely significant prophetically.

The Biden administration assures us that the Middle East will not be the focus of its foreign policy. As one informal adviser told *Politico* on February 22, "They are just being extremely purposeful to not get dragged into the Middle East." True, the U.S. might not be dragged into it, but it is providing Iran the ammunition it needs to light not just the Middle East, but the world on fire.

In terms of Daniel 11, Barack Obama's foreign policy is empowering Iran to make the prophesied push against Europe. Prophecy shows that when that happens, there will be a blitzkrieg response from Europe to put down this radical Islamist power.

However, more importantly, that push from Iran against Europe is one of the main signs that this world is on a countdown to the coming of the Messiah.

How can you know when Jesus Christ is about to return? Watch for Daniel 11:40 to be fulfilled.

Watch for the United States to continue to empower Iran. Watch for deserted U.S. allies to form a partnership and look for help from Europe. And watch for Europe to become more resolute against Iran's provocative moves. These trends directly precede the fulfillment of Daniel 11:40. And know that once Daniel 11:40 is fulfilled, then this world is on a countdown to the coming of Jesus Christ. It all starts with a *push!* ■

Revealing the Two Witnesses

The two witnesses might be the most mysterious characters in the entire Bible. What is their vital role on the world scene in the near future? **BY GERALD FLURRY**

REVELATION 11:3-14 EXPLAIN THE TRUTH about the “two witnesses.” They will play a crucial role in end-time events. This passage has inspired a lot of speculation over the years. Some of us have heard of someone who believes he’s one of these witnesses—I certainly have!

But look at the time element of this passage. It is set in the *future*. Right now, the two witnesses have not even received their mission. When the time comes, however, they will be empowered by God to deliver a difficult warning message before the “beast” power puts them to death (verse 7). This power is described in Revelation 13 and 17.

After the two witnesses fulfill their mission, the seventh trumpet of Revelation is blown, the “last woe,” during which something spectacular happens to these witnesses.

Revelation for Our Time

Many find the book of Revelation incomprehensible. It is true that no amount of human reasoning can unlock it; many people have tried, but it is impossible. Yet the very definition of the word “revelation” (*apocalypse* in the original Greek) is *comprehending, revealing, understanding*. God the Father and Jesus Christ intend us to *understand* these dramatic and mysterious prophecies in Revelation (see Revelation 1:1; 5:5).

When God gave the message of Revelation to the Apostle John nearly 2,000 years ago, it was a mysterious, closed book, sealed with seven seals. This is similar to the Prophet Daniel’s message, which was also “closed up and sealed till the time of the end,” or the “crisis at the close,” as the Moffatt translation renders it (Daniel 12:9).

But we are living through that time right

now! God has unsealed these books so we can understand them! In fact, more than 90 percent of all Bible prophecy is being fulfilled in this “time of the end.” But we can only receive this understanding from God.

The story flow of the book of Revelation is contained in seven seals that God unseals: false prophets, war, famine, pestilence, the Great Tribulation, heavenly signs, and the sounding of seven trumpets, culminating in the dazzling supernatural return of Jesus Christ. The fifth, sixth and seventh trumpet are also called “woes.” These are massive, nation-shaking, earthshaking events!

The two witnesses described in Revelation 11 appear in connection with the sixth trumpet (second woe). When the sixth trumpet sounds, the two witnesses have fulfilled their mission for God, and the beast power kills them for it. This leads directly into the sounding of the seventh trumpet (including the seven last plagues) and the return of Jesus Christ. The two witnesses are directly connected to Christ’s return!

God’s Church

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet” (Revelation 1:10). Anciently, the trumpet was an alarm of war. The “Lord’s day” here is not referring to a particular day of the week. There are some 30 prophecies in your Bible that describe “the day of the Lord” as the great and terrible one-year time period preceding Jesus Christ’s return.

God revealed all this to John in a vision of the future. His writings in Revelation and elsewhere, as well as other prophecies, show that a 2½-year Great Tribulation, the unleashing of

Satan's wrath, will be followed by the one-year Day of the Lord, the time of *God's* wrath. This culminates in the greatest, most wonderful news ever, the seventh seal being revealed, the seventh trumpet blasting, and the return of Christ Himself.

Revelation 9:12 notes the sequence of events: "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter." This means that the fifth trumpet has blown and now the sixth trumpet, which includes warfare waged by an Asian army of 200 million soldiers, will blow, followed by the seventh.

At this point in the story flow of Revelation comes chapter 10. This is an inset chapter about something that occurs much earlier but directly relates to the two witnesses. This inset must be very important for God to embed it within the sixth and seventh trumpet blasts.

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open ..." (Revelation 10:1-2). This "little book" is a book that reveals the truth about a split in God's true Church. God puts His Church right in the center of these major world events leading into the greatest event in history.

When the little book regarding God's true Church is revealed, that is a sign of "time no longer" (verse 6), meaning *no more delay*. World events begin racing along as never before.

This has already occurred! God's true Church split, the overwhelming majority stopped prophesying and doing God's work, God delivered the little book to His people to correct and warn and save them, and now the faithful remnant of that true Church is "prophesy[ing] again" (verse 11). This shows you how far along in Bible prophecy we are today!

This all precedes Revelation 11, the chapter about the two witnesses. It begins, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy

city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (verses 1-2).

This shows a separation in God's Church, and again, God puts this right in the midst of His prophecies about the most dramatic, tumultuous time in human history. Because most of God's own people are lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-16) about the precious truth He has given them, they are far from God and in the "outer court." This passage ties these rebels to the devastating 3½-year time period, which is the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord combined. Meanwhile, those in the *inner* court are close to God, keeping His law, doing His work, proclaiming His prophecies.

Two Witnesses

The little book inset begins in Revelation 10 and ends in Revelation 11:2, then verse 3 describes the two witnesses: "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

During this period of intense suffering, the two witnesses are warning! They are lights in a horribly dark world, but the world wants to extinguish them.

"And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will" (verses 5-6). God gives these two witnesses amazing power! Why?

The answer is in verse 7—it's because they must complete their mission before the beast power *murders them*: "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."

God says that when He opens a door, *no man can shut it*. Not even a 200 million-man army can! That's the power He gives to people who obey Him and do His work.

But when their work is done, God allows them to be killed. What then do the enemies of

the two witnesses do? “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth” (verses 8-10). These evil people want everyone to see the dead bodies. They celebrate because the two witnesses *tormented* them with God’s warning message.

God allows the two witnesses to be killed because He has a plan for them that their enemies and people around the world do not expect: “And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell,

and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly” (verses 11-14).

The two witnesses disappear at the end of the second woe, the sounding of the sixth trumpet. The sounding of the seventh trumpet brings with it seven terrible plagues, God’s wrath poured out on mankind for our sins. But it culminates in Jesus Christ coming to Earth to rule all nations!

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (verse 15). Right after the two witnesses finish their work, Christ returns and takes over the reins of rulership over Earth! He will show mankind how to be happy. He will guide us and correct us so we learn to willingly choose His law, His way, which produces nothing but peace, abundance and joy for all eternity.

And He will be assisted in this work by those who obey Him and do His work *today*—including the two witnesses. What a glorious calling! ■

Worldwatch

Covid crackdowns crush democracy

European democracy is under severe strain, according to a March 3 Freedom House report. The report cites the actions of leaders from both Eastern and Western Europe that massively increase the power of their governments at the expense of the freedoms of their citizens.

In response to COVID-19, the report states, “Governments across the democratic spectrum repeatedly resorted to excessive surveillance, discriminatory restrictions on freedoms like movement and assembly, and arbitrary or violent enforcement of such restrictions by police and nonstate actors.”

The report describes the Hungarian government using the threat of the disease as a pretext to rule by decree and to deny financial

assistance to cities led by opposing political parties. The Polish government attempted, unsuccessfully, to use it to bypass the nation’s electoral commission and conduct national elections by fraud-prone mail-in ballots and to amend Poland’s Constitution to extend the time a government can stay in power. The French government used the scare to try, unsuccessfully, to use mail-in ballots and digital voting machines, and to successfully impose strict rules on citizens’ freedom of movement. The government of Spain used drones to police its citizens’ compliance with drastic restrictions, and the government of Germany arrested anti-mask protesters.

For years, the *Trumpet* has warned that European nations will change from democracies

into authoritarian forms of government. This is based on clear Bible prophecies. ■

Read “*Coronavirus and the Holy Roman Empire*” by Gerald Flurry: [theTrumpet.com/22219](https://www.thetrumpet.com/22219).

Iran-backed rocket attack kills American

On March 3, a barrage of 10 rockets struck the al-Asad Airbase in western Iraq used by Iraqi and American forces. An American contractor embedded with United States forces suffered from a heart attack and died. This was the first death of an American citizen inside Iraq since Joe Biden took office.

A similar attack occurred on February 15, killing at least one foreign national working with U.S. forces and injuring several American servicemen. The Biden administration retaliated with “proportional” air strikes against a border post in Syria. According to Iranian media, the March 3 attack was in response to Biden’s own retributive attack and was a message that American forces must leave Iraq.

Responses to the March 3 attack from the U.S. government indicate that it might respond with a “proportional” strike. The Biden administration’s newer, softer defense policy in the Middle East is emboldening Iran. ■

Everyday Americans under threat of cyberattack

“The next conflict where the gloves come off in cyber, the American citizen will be dragged into it, whether they want to be or not.” That is the assessment of Kevin Mandia, CEO of cybersecurity company FireEye, given in a February 28 interview with Axios on HBO. FireEye is the firm that uncovered the massive SolarWinds hack that breached the National Nuclear Security Administration and several other federal agencies

Mandia warned that even small nations can use cyberattacks to disrupt the lives of Americans and weaken national security. Americans would find that their computer programs and even their appliances will stop working, and more importantly, the nation’s supply chains will break.

Last year, Internet users were reminded of how heavily they rely on cyber services when

Google services including Calendar, Gmail, Hangouts, Maps and YouTube all crashed due to a power outage. Hacking or shutting down services used by millions of Americans would throw the economy and society into turmoil.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned about the threat of cyberwarfare in 1995 when the public was only dimly aware of how vulnerable a computer-run society could be. He emphasized a statement by intelligence analyst Joseph DeCourcy: “Computer dependence is the Western world’s Achilles’ heel, and within a few years, this weakness could be tested to the full.”

Mr. Flurry then emphasized Ezekiel 7:14-16, a Bible prophecy that could be fulfilled by a cyber-attack: “They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof. The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him. But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.” ■

Germany in Afghanistan to Stay

On February 24, Germany’s government agreed to extend its military’s mission in Afghanistan to Jan. 31, 2022. The commitment of up to 1,300 troops is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Resolute Support Mission. More than 1,100 German troops are currently deployed, the second-largest contingent after the United States.

The German government states that in order to “support the democratically elected government of Afghanistan, the Bundeswehr is providing assistance in the north of the country by training and advising local security forces.”

The Trump administration made a deal with Afghanistan’s Taliban faction in 2020, establishing May 1 of this year as the deadline for a final U.S. troop withdrawal. The Biden administration is currently reviewing the deal. While the U.S. and NATO are uncertain about Afghanistan, Germany has made its commitment clear.

In 2010, late *Trumpet* writer Ron Fraser noted

in “Afghanistan—Why Germany Won’t Leave” (theTrumpet.com/7124) that Germany is motivated to remain in the region to develop its military technology, forge key alliances, and hold a strategic military foothold. Since the 1990s, editor in chief Gerald Flurry has explained that one of Germany’s main goals in the region is to quietly prepare to confront Iran. ■

Read “*The Whirlwind Prophecy*,” by Gerald Flurry: theTrumpet.com/go/whirl.

Switzerland bans the burqa

Swiss citizens voted to ban the wearing of full face coverings in public by a narrow majority of 51.2 percent in a referendum on March 7. The next step will be to draft the law itself. The “burqa ban” comes after Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France and the Netherlands passed similar laws.

Since few Muslims live in the country and it has few incidents involving radical Islam, Switzerland is using this measure to make a statement. Europe has been a Christian continent for centuries. Switzerland is 62 percent Christian and is the birthplace of the Calvinist Protestant denomination. Bans on face coverings are a way to push back against challenges to Europe’s heritage and culture brought by Muslim refugees.

The *Trumpet* closely watches Europe’s relationship with Islam. Bible prophecy states that a confrontation between Europe and Iran-led radical Islam is imminent. It reveals that in the near future, Europe will be unified under a strong political leader who allies with a powerful, universal Christian religion. ■

Read *The King of the South*, by Gerald Flurry: theTrumpet.com/go/Iran.

Friends of Israel Initiative reacts to new ICC prosecutor

On February 12, Karim Khan, a British barrister, was elected as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The Friends of Israel Initiative responded by sending Khan an open letter signed by many former world leaders urging him not to launch war crimes investigations against Israel.

The letter stated that such an investigation would politicize the court and harm its standing.

It noted that Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute, which gives the court its authority, and stated that the court has no right to try Israeli citizens and that Israel has a “long-established and internationally respected legal system with a track record of investigating such crimes.”

Whether the Friends of Israel Initiative will succeed remains to be seen. But one signatory of the letter is worth noting: Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. For years, Guttenberg has been positioning himself as a friend of Israel and enemy of Iran, even as the general political landscape in Germany drifts in the opposite direction. In a hostile world, Israel is most certainly taking note of the few supporters it has, and Guttenberg is one of them. But Bible prophecy warns that as Israel looks for help against threats like the International Criminal Court, it is overlooking a threat that is much more subtle and much more deadly. ■

China’s digital currency could challenge dollar

China established a joint venture with swift on January 16 to promote the use of China’s digital yuan in cross-nation transactions.

SWIFT is the vast messaging system banks use to transfer money from one nation to another. Since its establishment in 1973, the overwhelming majority of its trillions of transactions have been conducted in United States dollars. This is one reason nations hold dollars in reserve, which renders a huge benefit to the American economy.

“It’s early days,” wrote David Goldman in the *Frontier Post*, “but the joint venture could denote the end of the dollar’s role as the dominant medium of international exchange and, more importantly, the end of more than \$20 trillion of cheap loans to the United States from the rest of the world.”

These “loans” are related to the way the world’s nations hold foreign-exchange reserves and transaction balances in dollars. The system has functioned as a vital artery of the American economy, helping finance its vast deficit expenditures and giving Washington considerable power over any nation that imports or exports.

For this reason, leaders of countries such

as China, Russia, Iran and Venezuela have worked to chip away at the U.S.'s dominance in the SWIFT system and in the general global reserve currency dynamic. But avoiding the dollar has proved challenging, largely due to the size of America's economy, the dominance of U.S. markets, and the momentum of long-standing global finance practices.

But China's joint venture with SWIFT could change that.

Goldman continued: "Historians still quibble about what event marked the end of the Roman Empire. Some future historians might choose Jan. 16, 2021, as the fatal moment for the American empire."

As Goldman noted, it is too early to know whether the new mechanism will materialize into a dollar-toppling development. But the fact that it was launched on January 16 makes this an event of particular interest to the *Trumpet*.

On January 16 of 1986, after preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness to the world for almost six decades, Herbert W. Armstrong died. Editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in his booklet *January 16: God's Miracle Day* that ever since then, God has repeatedly used this date to call attention to all He accomplished through Mr. Armstrong—and to the warnings He issued through him. "Study this date, and watch for it," he writes. "It points you to a man around whom so much revolves in this end time! ... A man who preached the true gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations as a witness. A man who warned Israel for decades of the curses and calamities they are about to experience." ■

Request [January 16: God's Miracle Day](https://theTrumpet.com/go/Jan16) at theTrumpet.com/go/Jan16.

Putin and other 'kings of the east' prepare for war

The Russian Defense Ministry announced on January 1 that Russia would participate in nine military exercises with foreign troops in 2021, hosting eight of them.

Several drills will be held under the banner of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, members of which include Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and

Tajikistan. The exercises will include faster, larger joint deployments and hybrid warfare.

In September, Belarus and Russia will hold "Zapad-2021" joint military exercises in both nations, including the Russian Arctic. Other 2021 exercises will see Russian forces rehearsing war alongside troops from China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Rarely has any nation become so quickly and so heavily involved with so many other countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin is building a gargantuan military alliance of literally biblical proportions. It is prophesied in Revelation 9:16. ■

To learn more, request [Russia and China in Prophecy](https://theTrumpet.com/go/rcp) at theTrumpet.com/go/rcp.

Chinese Communist Party law would trap Hong Kongers

The government of Hong Kong introduced an amendment bill in late January that would empower security chiefs to unilaterally ban any individual from leaving the country. The proposed law is the Chinese Communist Party's latest move to take away Hong Kongers' special freedoms.

For decades, the Basic Law of Hong Kong protected citizens in the metropolis from the dictatorial power the Communist Party holds over mainland China. In 2019, China proposed a law that would enable it to extradite any citizen of Hong Kong to the mainland, where the conviction rate is 99.965 percent. Only after truly massive, passionate, months-long protests was the bill withdrawn. But a more recent national security law has muzzled freedom of speech, enabled imprisonment of pro-democracy activists, and ordered the surrender of travel documents in certain circumstances. The new bill apparently would order the surrender of travel documents in all circumstances deemed necessary by agents of the party.

The United Kingdom, which established Hong Kong in the 1800s, introduced a plan in January that could give as many as 5.4 million Hong Kongers asylum and a path to British citizenship. But once the "Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020" passes, leaving Hong Kong could become as difficult as defecting from North Korea. ■

SOCIETYWATCH

B.C. works to decriminalize hard drugs

British Columbia is hoping to legalize possession of any and all types of drugs, as long as an individual possesses only “small amounts.” On February 11, the *Globe and Mail* reported that the province had asked Canada’s national government for a drug law exemption. The province’s largest city, Vancouver, made a similar request in November.

Sheila Malcolmson, British Columbia’s minister of mental health and addictions, wrote that decriminalizing “the possession of small amounts of controlled substances for personal use” was “a way to reduce stigma as a barrier to treatment.” But it is illogical to think that the government allowing people to have and use drugs will result in fewer people having and using drugs. Galatians 5:19-21 warn against “works of the flesh,” including “witchcraft.” The Greek word translated “witchcraft” is *pharmakeia*, which literally translates to “the use or the administering of drugs.” Today, as then, many use opium, heroin and other hard drugs in a vain attempt to fill a spiritual void in their lives. And more and more governments are condoning this self-destruction. ■

Democrats work to open America’s Southern border

United States Rep. Linda Sánchez has introduced the most radical piece of immigration legislation in American history. On February 18, she presented the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 to Congress, which seeks to reward illegal aliens at the expense of American citizens. The bill would erase the line between illegal and legal immigration, grant unending amnesty for illegal aliens, return previously deported aliens to the United States, provide taxpayer-funded lawyers to aliens facing deportation, encourage asylum fraud, increase legal immigration, and give expensive foreign-aid packages to Central American nations.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained in his article “Where America’s Race Riots Are Leading” that America’s Southern

border crisis was prophesied in the Bible. “Illegal aliens are pouring over the nation’s Southern border by the tens of thousands, but our leaders refuse to stop the flow,” he wrote. He cited a prophecy in Deuteronomy 28 that Israel’s “high and fenced walls” would come down “throughout all thy land.” ■

AT&T colludes with China Telecom

One of America’s biggest corporate giants is committing economic treason. According to new revelations from former United States Commerce Department Undersecretary Corey Stewart, AT&T pressured the Commerce Department to keep a Chinese telecommunications company off a sanctions list, despite its use of slave labor.

Speaking to Fox News’s Tucker Carlson on February 24, Stewart confirmed allegations made by the National File that AT&T executive Ed Gillespie requested that the government keep China Telecom off an “entities list” reserved for foreign companies engaged in human rights or national security violations. China Telecom was about to be sanctioned for its role in spying on Uyghur Muslims in China, but Gillespie intervened. His company is in a joint business venture with China Telecom developing network services in China.

In ancient times, the Prophet Amos condemned such greedy leaders who put their own selfish interests above the interests of their people, writing in Amos 6:1, 6-7: “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.” ■

Scotland flies a foreign flag

The United Kingdom has finally, officially left the European Union, but many Scots want to find a way out of the United Kingdom and back into the EU. Chief among them is Scottish First

Minister Nicola Sturgeon. On February 18, Sturgeon ordered that Scottish public buildings remove the flag of the UK, of which it is and has been a part for 314 years, and replace it with the flag of the EU, with which it has zero official political connection.

In a January 24 BBC One interview, Sturgeon said she wants another legal referendum on Scottish independence if her Scottish National Party wins its projected majority in May's elections. Such a referendum would likely be a first step toward rejoining the EU.

The Prophet Jeremiah foretold that Britain would be invaded by a European superpower (request our free booklet *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*). “And the word of the Lord came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a *seething pot*; and the face thereof is toward the north. Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land” (Jeremiah 1:13-14). Scotland's dalliance with the EU may soon give a European superpower a foothold in the British Isles. ■

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING DWIGHT FALK

Are You Laughing at Things You Shouldn't?

There's nothing funny about sin.

I REMEMBER A MOVIE REVIEW WEBSITE THAT listed a paragraph's worth of profanities and other vulgarities for a PG-13 movie, then concluded, “All played for laughs.” This is typical of entertainment and throughout our society: *Sin* is characterized as a joke.

God has humor, and He created each of us with it. But a true Christian must discern between good humor and laughing at sin.

We've all heard the words, after an inappropriate comment or action, “I was just joking!” It is easy to minimize sin by joking about it. Wrong humor can disarm our defenses against sin.

Many of the negative changes in our society started out as jokes in cartoon strips, television shows and movies. Audiences laughed at the idiotic dad who could never do anything right. Years later, they laughed at effeminate behavior. Today, those jokes are reality for many. Societal changes from every direction have obliterated families.

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3). Satan beguiled Eve by trickery, sophistry, cunning craftiness.

The devil is a master at corrupting minds through a variety of methods, including wrong humor. How often have you been introduced to sinful concepts through jokes? When joking turns wrong, it is easy to “go with the flow.”

Relate what Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:45 to humor: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” We reveal a lot about our thoughts with the humor we use.

The Apostle James gives some vital direction when it comes to how we should speak and, by extension, what we should listen to. “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain” (James 1:26). Consider the depth of this instruction. You could be doing a lot of good, but if you do not control your speech—including your humor—your religion is vain.

If you let God direct your thinking, your speaking and humor will follow suit. But it is a real challenge.

James 3:2 says, "... If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." What power there is in speech! If you can control your tongue, you can control every facet of your life! Of course, no person is perfect. Only Christ has never sinned. He used God's Spirit perfectly to always speak God's words.

Consider what Christ said in John 8:38: "I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father." Christ was giving strong correction: He always spoke what He learned from His Father, but the religious leaders of the day did what they had seen from their father, the crafty and subtle Satan. Two spirits are at work: God's Holy Spirit and Satan's broadcast.

What spirit is behind negative humor? Is it from God the Father or from the subtle Satan? True Christians must discern what is motivating their humor—and all their speaking (Hebrews 5:14). Ask yourself, *Is my humor giving or getting? Is it serving others, showing love toward others, or hurting?*

The spirit of society is, *Relax! Don't take everything so seriously! Have some fun! It's just a joke!* But what does God's Word say? "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor *jesting* [or *coarse joking*], which are not convenient ..." (Ephesians 5:3-4).

What positive steps can you take? James 3:8 says no man can tame his unruly and evil

tongue. Does that mean it is hopeless to try? Not at all. "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). With God's help, we can learn to control what we listen to and our tongues. We can grow to be more like God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Notice this practical instruction in James 3:13: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." "Conversation" means "conduct" or "by his good life." A true Christian has a pattern of good conduct, of proper speaking, including uplifting humor at the right time.

Be on guard against coarse joking, but also put effort into having good conversation. What constitutes good conversation?

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (verse 17). Meditate on those words, study their meanings, measure your conversations against them. Was your conversation and humor pure, peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality or hypocrisy? That is quite the standard! But what a great goal!

Strive to lift people up with your words, including your humor. A hearty laugh can elevate a person's mood and be helpful in many ways. Ecclesiastes 3:4 says there is a time to laugh. Never laugh about sin, but enjoy a lifetime of *good* laughs. ■

COMMENTARY **RICHARD PALMER**

Fake History Does Real Damage

But true history can change the world.

"THE BRITISH EMPIRE WAS FAR WORSE than the Nazis." This was the verdict of Kehinde Andrews, professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University, delivered at an event called "The Racial

Consequences of Mr. Churchill." The event, hosted by Churchill College—Cambridge, constituted an attack on the college's namesake and the ideals he and Britain held dear.

"There is no debate," Andrews told viewers in

a refrain becoming familiar across the country. “His white supremacy is pretty much on record and the question here is why does Churchill still hold the level of popularity that he does?” Churchill, he said, was “the perfect embodiment of white supremacy.”

Similar stories pop up at all levels of education. Students at Seaford Head School, for example, demanded that one of their four houses no longer be named after Churchill, since Churchill “promoted racism and inequality, unfairly imprisoning and torturing many.” Such attacks are easy to debunk. Yet the school, rather than teaching basic facts, surrendered and promised to rename the house.

Contrast this trend with British education during the Empire’s rise to greatness. Entire generations were raised with a passion to attain glory for their country and themselves. The virtues and ambitions of past men and women were lauded as inspiration for future generations.

Young Horatio Nelson, for example, had the “ideals of patriotism, honor and martial heroism in the Classics drummed into him at school,” writes John Sugden (*Nelson: A Dream of Glory, 1758–1797*). The role models he was taught to admire and imitate were steeped in noble ideals. He also often quoted from the most stirring passages of “the patriotic plays of Shakespeare, with their frequent allusions to national triumphs over Gallic rivals.”

This pride and passion stirred Nelson to push through difficulty, take risks and expose himself to danger. In *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707–1837*, Linda Colley writes, “Nelson only practiced to a remarkable degree what the cult of heroic individualism fostered very broadly among the class he aspired to.”

Modern education teaches little history, no role models and no glory. There is nothing to learn from, nothing to imitate and nothing to strive for. There are only people to criticize. As historian Nicholas A. M. Rodger said, “No modern university historian could possibly write the life of a famous hero and hope to preserve his reputation, unless he destroyed that of his subject.”

Modern society is the result of this education.

Nelson’s education produced a man willing to brave almost any danger in pursuit of the ideals and the glory he craved. Now we crave nothing and hunker in fear of a virus that at least 99.9 percent of healthy people survive. Our politicians lack the courage to make decisions—and instead delegate to “experts” who see catastrophe around every corner. Even after their forecasts of doom are proved wrong time and again, we still cower at their warnings, just in case this time they’re right.

We see it in the disastrous foreign-policy decisions our nations are making, accommodating dangerous regimes rather than confronting them with confidence.

This weakness was evident even in the mid-20th century, when British education had already become too “enlightened” to uphold imperial virtues. The educated elites, desperate to avoid confrontation with Adolf Hitler, cozied up to him. Churchill, whose education was largely a self-instigated, ravenous devouring of history, declared that Hitler could be stopped, and millions of lives saved, with comparatively little difficulty given proper self-assurance and resolve.

For this, the well-educated elites villainized him. In 1933, the Oxford Union infamously voted that “this house refuses in any circumstances to fight for king and country.” Britain’s government has long been dominated by alumni of Oxford and Cambridge. And the foreign-policy establishment almost universally chose appeasement. Once France fell in 1940, the same foreign-policy establishment wanted to appease Hitler, handing him victory in war. Britain was barely convinced to fight on, barely did fight on, and barely survived, *all thanks to Winston Churchill*. One man—on the strength of a good, historical, largely self-taught education—*saved* Western civilization.

You would think that such universities, especially one *named after* Churchill, would humbly study how his education made him so right when they went so wrong. Instead, they characterize him as worse than Hitler. Such faulty education is destroying our nations.

“Today we hear many academic voices

telling people that learning history is of little or no value,” writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in “A Law of History.” “This is an *extremely dangerous* trend that may be too entrenched ever to correct. This educational plague is rampant among the American and British peoples. It seems that few of our leaders understand what a colossal disaster it is!” (*The Former Prophets*).

Studying history has practical value. Distorting it has tangible effects. That is why each of us, young and old, should crave true history, true values, true education. That is what Nelson and Churchill did as best they could.

When God wanted to turn a nation around,

He educated them to see the positives of their history. The Prophet Ezra produced the book of Chronicles for this purpose, for his generation and, more importantly, for generations far beyond. And the education within Chronicles and the rest of the Holy Bible contains the truest ideals, the most virtuous honor, the most important heroes, the greatest triumphs, the most stirring truth, the boldest passion, the highest inspiration and the most fantastic glory. Crave *that* education, devour it, and there is no telling what the future holds for you, and what you hold for it. ■

Request your free copy of The Former Prophets, by Gerald Flurry.