## **Times of Stress** Drag Queen Story Hour

## TONIOR BORNAL September-October 2019 TomorrowsWorld.org

## IS EUROPE PREPARING FOR WAR?

## The Ride Is Almost Over

dear friend, now deceased, once told me that a few of his northern buddies gave him a hard time about his North Carolinian accent. "I don't understand," he said with his country wisdom. "Everyone has to come from some place."

How right he was. We all come from somewhere, from some culture, and from two parents—none of which we were able to choose.

My father was in the military and, as a result, my family moved a lot. There were disadvantages to leaving friends and changing schools so often, but there were also plenty of opportunities to offset the downsides, one being the opportunity to live in different parts of the country and the world. I was privileged to call Alaska home prior to its statehood, spend two years in England, and live for various amounts of time in California, Utah, Texas, Colorado, and South Dakota. In addition, as an adult with my responsibilities in this Work, I've been privileged to live and work in other states, as well as spend nearly 14 years in Canada and one in England.

Recently, I took my wife and her sister on a road trip to parts of the United States that I remember from my youth but places they had never been. Of course, the better part of six decades having passed, much had changed and there was little I recognized other than the great beauty of the western Mountain States. We could hardly have chosen a better time to make the trip. This was a very wet winter and spring for Colorado and Wyoming, and everything was lush and green. Snow graced the mountains and rain clouds created perfect light conditions that painted spectacular landscapes before our eyes.

Someone said there are more antelope in Wyoming than people. Whether that's true or not, I surely would not argue the point. Then there were the deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and buffalo, found even more abundantly as we neared Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park. What a blessed land America is, and when I say America, I mean more than the United States. I am including the second-largest country in the world—Canada—as we also drove into British Columbia and traveled through the spectacular Canadian Rockies. But we saw a downside in our travels. We flew to Denver and, to save money on a rental car, I picked one up downtown. I had spent three years of my childhood in the "Mile High City" and had such fond memories of it—but this was not the city I remembered. As have so many major American cities, Denver has become "home" to many homeless derelicts. Signs advertising recreational cannabis can only worsen the problem, and Colorado passed a law this year legalizing "magic



mushrooms." It seems the state has decided to take its "Mile High" reputation in a foolish direction. Canada, too, has legalized cannabis. What societal benefit such decisions can bring is difficult to comprehend, but I'm sure there are those who are more than eager to argue in their favor—which reminds me of a T-shirt I

saw on the trip that read, "I'm not arguing, I'm just explaining why I'm RIGHT."

### The Neglected Source of These Blessings

God promised blessings of great national wealth, abundance, and military might to the descendants of a man named Joseph, who was the brother of Judah. Since these national blessings were given to Joseph, not Judah, the description of what would become of Joseph's descendants "in the last days" (Genesis 49:1) does not refer to the Jews (the descendants of Judah), but to another people.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall.

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The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him, but his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers (Genesis 49:22-26).

But there is so much more to the description of Joseph's end-time descendants.

And of Joseph he said: "Blessed of the LORD is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath, with the precious fruits of the sun, with the precious produce of the months, with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come 'on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers'" (Deuteronomy 33:13–16).

These are not the descriptions of the tiny state today called Israel and they are not prophecies of Judah (the Jews) but of one of his brothers. Whether or not one believes these prophecies apply to the Britishdescended and American peoples, one cannot deny that our peoples have been blessed with the choice places of the earth. It is not that there aren't other blessed places on earth—there certainly are. But the collection of mineral and agricultural resources, military power, and strategic locations possessed by the peoples of America and those descended from Great Britain are unrivaled. But now, this long and prosperous ride of world prominence and power is almost over.

Tragically for those of us who are a part of those nations, many spit in the face of the God who gave these blessings. An increasing number of our people reject His very existence and reject the laws that He gave for our good and the good of our children. As the late Robert Bork wrote, we are "slouching toward Gomorrah," a city God destroyed for gross immorality.

The prophet Daniel speaks of the end time as a period when "knowledge shall increase" (Daniel 12:4). Today, knowledge is increasing at rates never imagined by past generations. Yet the prophet Hosea tells us, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6). And as Jeremiah put it, "For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jeremiah 4:22).

For far longer than we deserve, the Britishdescended and American peoples have walked the high ground of the world due to the blessings the Eternal God promised to Abraham. But this is coming to an end. Weather disaster follows weather disaster. The English are a thorn in the side of the European Union, even though the EU recognizes the importance of having them on board. America is despised in the eyes of allies and enemies alike. The national debt of the United States now tops \$22 trillion and continues to grow. How sad for those of us living in these nations that we are squandering God's blessings and grace—bringing on ourselves a coming day of reckoning.

If you would like to know more about the future of the American and British-descended peoples, and what that means for you no matter where you live, contact one of our Regional Offices on page 4 and ask for our free publication *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, or read it online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

Jul & Wata

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Europe is increasingly building its own war-making capacity. What factors are causing this change, and how will this trend impact the world?

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Circulation: 283,000

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## IS EUROPE PREPARING FOR WAR?

### By Rod McNair

t all looks as if the world is preparing for war." These words, published in a *Time* magazine article on January 26, 2017, were written by former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev. And truly, the world's stability *is* more precarious than it has been for decades. The world is an increasingly dangerous and volatile place.

In this environment, who will come to dominate the rest of the 21st century?

We don't often think of Europe as a military powerhouse, but something is happening there that should seize our attention—something different from any other development in the more than 70 years since World War II. Consider just a handful of headlines of the last few years: "Germany is quietly building a European army under its command" (*ForeignPolicy. com*, May 22, 2017). "EU unveils military pact projects" (*Politico.eu*, December 10, 2017). "Merkel calls for 'real, true' EU army" (*EUObserver.com*, November 13, 2018). European leaders are taking more responsibility for their own defense. And all of this is taking place at a time when the Bible predicts the dramatic rise of an end-time superpower that will burst suddenly onto the world scene.

What is happening today in Europe, and where will it lead? Is Europe preparing for war?

The continent is in a far more dangerous and unpredictable situation than any other it has faced in recent decades. Several key forces are changing the face of Europe even now, pressing Europeans to create their own distinctly European defense apparatus. Those forces are the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, the growth of the Russian threat, and the decline of the United States. Each is worthy of close consideration if we want to understand where all of this is headed.

#### The Rise of Radical Islamic Terrorism

Just a few years ago, Europe faced a major crisis of uncontrolled immigration. Due in large part to



Russian heavy self-propelled 152 mm howitzers in Red Square during Celebration of Victory Day (WWII).

the war in Syria, well over 1.5 million immigrants poured into Europe between 2014 and 2017. What followed was a spike in terrorism from Islamic radicals. In 2016 alone, there were attacks in six different European cities—Berlin, Brussels, Hamburg, Nice, Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray in Normandy, and Paris—killing 150 people and injuring hundreds more ("From Paris to Brussels: Most recent terror attacks in Europe," *USA Today*, April 7, 2017). Immigration has slowed, but the threat of terrorism continues to be a major force pushing Europeans to adopt tougher security policies.

After a terrorist attack in Belgium in January 2015, the government sent troops to guard targets around the country. It was "the first time in 30 years that authorities used troops to reinforce police in Belgium's cities," according to the *Telegraph* ("Europeans divided over increased security following terror raids," January 17, 2015). Germany's constitution forbids deploying German troops within its own borders, but in July of 2016, in response to increased terrorism, the German publication *Deutsche Welle* reported that the Bavarian Interior Minister had declared that law "obsolete" ("After Munich, politicians consider deploying soldiers at home," July 25, 2016).

The immigration crisis has greatly strengthened the more right-leaning political parties. In October of 2015, at the European People's Party's congress in Madrid, EPP President Joseph Daul said, "We are going to move towards an EU army much faster than people believe..." ("EPP leaders bang drum for European army," *Euractiv.com*, October 16, 2015).

Clearly, the threat of radical Islamic terrorism is forcing Europeans to think differently about immigration, security, and even their own personal freedoms. On December 16, 2015, the *International Business Times* reported on the EU's controversial proposal calling for a "European Border Force and Coast Guard" with the power to take control of a country's borders without its consent. Understandably, critics protested that this new program would potentially undermine European nations' sovereignty. Nevertheless, it went into effect in 2016. While the agency may seem a rational response to terrorism, consider the power this could potentially place in the hands of a military dictator, should one arise. Why is this happening? Does Bible prophecy say anything about relations between the Middle East and Europe providing a source of conflict and motivating possible military buildup in the future? Yes, it does. In Daniel 11:40–42, we read, "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him [the king of the North]; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown.... He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape."

Other prophecies suggest that the "king of the North" will most likely be an end-time leader attempting to rekindle the glory of the Roman Empire, centered in the heart of Europe. The "king of the South" can be located geographically south of Israel and Jerusalem as coming from the Middle East or North Africa. Will a European dictator go to war with a new Arabic/Islamic caliphate? Will the current threat of terrorism actually move Europe towards a more centralized and more militarized position? Time will tell.

Another factor is motivating Europe to increase its own defensive abilities: Russia—its increasingly aggressive neighbor to the east.

### The Growth of the Russian Threat

The Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and the Eastern European



nations came out from under the Iron Curtain. The Soviet empire crumbled, and many adopted the sentiment that Russia had become nearly irrelevant, no longer a major world power. In the late autumn of 2003, Russian President Vladimir Putin referred to Europe as Russia's "natural, most important partner" (Dov Lynch, "Russia's Strategic Partnership with Europe," *The Washington Quarterly*, Spring 2004).

But since that time, Russia has taken a more aggressive position. In 2014, Russia invaded parts of Ukraine and seized the Crimean Peninsula on the Black Sea. Since then, Europeans have seen Russia as a more dangerous threat. Consider some examples of this shift:

- In February 2015, Russia reopened its military bases near Norway, which had been closed since the end of the Cold War ("Norway to restructure military in response to Russian 'aggression," *The Guardian*, February 25, 2015).
- In April 2016, Russian warplanes simulated attacks on a U.S. navy ship in the Baltic Sea, repeatedly flying within 30 feet of the vessel ("Russian attack aircraft just flew within 30 feet of a U.S. Navy ship," *MilitaryTimes.com*, April 13, 2016).
- In September 2018, the massive "Vostok 2018" war games were conducted by Russia, China, and Mongolia and involved over 300,000 troops, 36,000 tanks, and 1,000 aircraft ("Russia war games: Biggest since Cold War 'justified'," *BBC.com*, August 28, 2018).

In January of this year, the Russian S-400 antiaircraft missile system was disclosed, allegedly

 outperforming the Patriot missile system ("The New Iron Curtain: Russian Missile Defense Challenges U.S. Air Power," *The Wall Street Journal,* January 23, 2019). In direct defiance of U.S. objections, Russia provided S-400 systems to NATO-member Turkey in July—an aggressive move designed to expand Moscow's influence while eroding America's ("Turkey Gets Shipment of Russian Missile System, Defying U.S.," The New York Times, July 12, 2019).

No wonder Europeans are anxious to ramp up their defenses and military: They share a major border with an increasingly assertive Russia. A number of European countries have reintroduced the draft. Germany positioned tanks in Poland. Sweden issued wartime packets to every citizen in the country for the first time in 50 years. Hungary wants to institute mandatory military training for youth in school, and the European Union has called for a permanent military academy and the development of an EU army headquarters.

European leaders are becoming increasingly eager to show Russia they are no longer going to rely on the United States. In March of 2015, an *EU Observer* report noted, "European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has said the EU should establish its own army to show Russia it is serious about defending European values" ("EU commission chief makes case for European army," *EU Observer*, March 9, 2015).

As mentioned earlier, the prophesied king of the North will struggle against a Middle Eastern king of the South. But notice what other forces may be at play. We read from the prophet Daniel—speaking of the king of the North—about concerns that grow while he is engaged in conflict in the Middle East: "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many" (Daniel 11:44).

This prophecy in Daniel predicts a coming, devastating battle between a European leader and a Eurasian-Oriental force that could include a Russian dictator. The geography fits, and Russia and Europe do have a bloodstained history. The current concerns are real, and a massive military buildup is occurring in Europe right before our eyes. It isn't imagined. It's in the news. As the *EU Observer* reported, "A perceived threat from Russia has triggered a central European dash towards military spending" ("Russia threat triggers European military spending hike," *EU Observer*, April 24, 2017).

In the meantime, what is Europe's relationship with the United States?

### A Fading and Declining America

After World War II, America led the way in Europe's reconstruction. The NATO alliance meant American troops would be stationed on European soil permanently. But in recent years, America's role has



U.S. President Donald Trump at a press conference in Brussels after the 2018 NATO summit.

shifted. When the Cold War ended, NATO struggled to understand its mission in the new environment. As the years wore on, American presidents urged their European counterparts to pay more of the cost of their defense. In June of 2015, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter commended Germany's government for its leadership in the Ukraine crisis. At the same time, he urged Germany to bolster its defense spending "to ensure that Germany's defense investments match Germany's leadership role" ("Pentagon chief urges Germany to bolster defenses," *Deutsche Welle*, June 22, 2015).

President Donald Trump has also pushed European governments to pay more of their share of financial support for NATO. According to Jens Stoltenberg, NATO Secretary General, that push is working. Addressing the U.S. Congress in April 2019, Stoltenberg reported that America's NATO allies, predominantly European, are expected to spend an additional \$100 billion dollars on defense budgets by the end of 2020. "That money will allow us to invest in new capabilities our armed forces need," Stoltenberg said, "including advanced fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, missile defense and surveillance drones" ("Bolton touts NATO allies' \$100B military spending spree after Trump push: 'Unequaled triumph'," *Fox News*, July 16, 2019).

President Trump has gone further, questioning the value of America's being in NATO at all. He caused a political firestorm in 2017 when he chose PREPARING FOR WAR? CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

### Violence is the norm, not the exception.

ars and rumors of wars. One cannot peruse the history of man without reading about endless conflicts, tribal massacres, and nations at war. Century after century, nations and empires arise and then cease to exist, often with war providing both the source of their creation and the cause of their demise. The aftereffects linger for decades: hundreds of thousands of orphaned children, widowed women left homeless, crippled bodies of survivors, devastated infrastructure, and enduring economic ruin.

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7). Christ spoke these words on the Mount of Olives nearly 2,000 years ago, and history has proved Him right. In the last century alone, World War I saw around ten million soldiers and eight million civilians lose their lives, with another 23 million soldiers becoming wounded. Though World War I was labeled "the war to end all wars," within two decades, World War II claimed even higher casualties. Though exact figures are hard to determine, it has been estimated that between 75 and 80 million people died during that conflict. World War II was followed soon after by the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Millions more have been devastated by conflicts large and small since then.

### **A Continuous Progression**

There was the Gulf War with Iraq, wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Tajikistan, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Burundi, Djibouti, the Congo, Algeria, Slovenia, Croatia, Abkhazia, Chechnya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Darfur—to name only a few. There are ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Nigeria, Syria, the Israeli West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. North Korea and Iran threaten to escalate tensions to the level of war. There is a palpable fear of war between the United States and Iran, Israel and Iran, the United States and North Korea, and North Korea and South Korea.

Waves of civil unrest, demonstrations, riots, and related chaos threaten governments in Egypt, Yemen, North Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, and the Ivory Coast. There are rumblings in Burma, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, and China. Failures to prosecute criminals and militants for the violence they commit or instigate, as well as distrust and growing dissatisfaction with weak or unpopular leaders, all increase the potential for conflicts and uprisings in Colombia, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Venezuela, Sudan, Tajikistan, Haiti, and Guatemala. The Middle East is always a powder keg. Ours is a time of uncertainty, anxiety, and perplexity.

### War Has Evolved

War is now changing, becoming less conventional. It still results in death and destruction, but now it is

War is now changing, becoming less conventional. It still results in death and destruction, but now it is labeled "hybrid war." We are experiencing a fusion of war, terror, and crime. labeled "hybrid war." We are experiencing a fusion of war, terror, and crime. There are often no clear battle lines, no contested territory, and no easily identifiable differences between combatants and noncombatants. The enemy may be a stateless entity and live among the population in urban areas. Movement of the enemy may be on public thoroughfares or even public transportation systems. Targets may be innocent civilians in public places. World powers may continuously use unrest and civil disturbances to carry out "proxy wars" in an effort to pursue their interests in places

where open war would be strategically unwise.

As Romans 3:10–17 teaches us, no one is righteous. No one understands and seeks after God. Feet are swift to shed blood and wage war. The lesson of history is just as the Apostle Paul wrote: Mankind does not know the way to peace.

Will the long-expected "Battle of Armageddon" soon occur? Will the earth be destroyed? What will happen to you, your family, and your friends? The Bible reveals that horrific and frightening events are just ahead. But it also reveals an encouraging hope. Order your free copy of *Armageddon and Beyond* today. —*Roger Meyer* 

### Canada Repudiates Its Legal Foundation





**Historians have often remarked** that the laws of the English-speaking world have been largely based on those recorded in the Bible. Recently, a viewer of one of our *Tomorrow's World Viewpoint* videos, "Is Tradition Important?," challenged that assertion.

He wrote, "I must disagree that The Bible is the source for 'most of our laws.'... Any actual modern laws that define us as 'Western' cultures were only conceived during the Enlightenment, Protestant Reformation, etc."

Many people today would likely agree with that statement. So, what is the truth in this matter? *Are* the laws of our land rooted in the biblical text?

### **A Legacy of Biblical Precedent**

Recently, I received a paper that had been prepared by a lawyer, Mr. Keith Stoner, in 1984. In it, he referenced several historical events revealing the source of most basic laws of the English-speaking world.

In England, the Anglo-Saxons were united under Alfred the Great from AD 871 to 899. King Alfred included in the laws of England some of the biblical laws, a fact confirmed by *Encyclopædia Britannica*: "The outstanding name of the 9th century is that of King Alfred the Great. He appended to his laws a free translation of the Ten Commandments and an abridgement of the enactments of Exodus 21 to 23" ("Biblical literature," *Britannica.com*).

During the reign of Henry VIII (1509–1547), England's marriage laws were refined using the Bible. Henry and his advisors decreed, "All persons may lawfully marry, but such as are prohibited by God's law." They cited Leviticus 18 as the authority defining prohibited marriage relationships. Also quoted in the marriage laws of the time were

sections of Leviticus 20 ("The Canon Law of the Henry VIII Divorce Case," Phillip Campbell, Madonna University, June 14, 2009). The statutes Henry VIII decreed have guided our law on this matter until very recent social pressures began to force changes.

Sir William Blackstone authored *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, the first volume appearing in 1765. This was the first text in England that set out all existing laws of the land and commented on their source. In the Introduction, pages 39–43, Blackstone makes the following assertions:

Thus when the Supreme Being formed the universe, and created matter out of nothing, He impressed certain principles upon the matter, from which it can never depart.... This will of [man's] Maker is called the law of nature.... This law of nature... is binding over all the globe... [and] no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this.... The doctrines thus delivered we call revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the holy scriptures.... Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these.

From 1750 to 1900, the British Empire spread and carried with it Britain's laws. That body of law, though imperfectly implemented, was designed to produce peace and order in the family and the nation. It should not be surprising that the Empire's legal systems were known for fairness. Even modern-day China has sought advice from British and Canadian judges and lawyers in developing a sound legal system.

Although the Thirteen American Colonies rejected British rule because of perceptions of unjust governance, they preserved the British legal system. Even judicial precedents of courts in Britain were retained by the United States government as "case law." Both sides maintained Common Law, which formally recognized God's law as the foundation of the law of the land.

The case of *The King v. Taylor* in 1676 is a famous English example. In that case, Lord Chief Justice Hale is reported to have judged, "Christianity is parcel of the laws of England, and therefore to reproach the Christian religion is to speak in subversion of the law" (*Encyclopædia of the Laws of England*, ed. A. Wood Renton, Vol. 3, p. 10).

Even two centuries later in the United States, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice William Strong stated in the case of *Sparhawk v. Union Passenger Railway Company*, "Christianity is a part of the Common Law of this state.... It was part of the Common Law

### **Offending Phrases**

**Phrase:** "We believe men and women were created in the image of God, after His likeness, and therefore have transcendent, intrinsic worth."

Alleged Violation: "unwelcoming, uncaring and/or disrespectful"

**Phrase:** "To develop godly attitudes toward marriage and the family along with the understanding and skills needed to establish a God-honouring home."

Alleged Violation: "unwelcoming, uncaring and/or disrespectful"

**Phrase:** "the unchangeable and infallible truth of the Word of God"

Alleged Violation: Disrespects diversity

**Phrase:** "Obedience to God's law supersedes subjection to human authority."

Alleged Violation: Contrary to the School Act

**Phrase:** Occurences of the word "truth" in the policy.

Alleged Violation: Disrespects diversity

Sources: "Alberta's NDP says Christian school cannot state that God's authority supersedes human authority," *TheBridgehead.ca*, September 28, 2018; "Corbella: NDP's attack on religious schools violates the Charter," *Calgary Herald*, October 3, 2018. of England before this state was settled... and it is an indictable offense at common law to write or speak of Christianity contemptuously or maliciously" (*Pennsylvania State Reports*, Vol. 54, 1868).

It is simply incorrect to suggest that the laws of the English-speaking world are not inexorably linked to the Bible. History shows that when these laws were implemented, however imperfectly, they produced a society



that other nations admired and sought to emulate. Yet now, many of society's leaders, legislators, and judges

disdain and are wholeheartedly striving to erode, eradicate, and defame the influence of biblical law.

### Can We Govern Apart from God's Law?

One example comes from the Canadian province of Alberta, where the Minister of Education issued a letter in 2018 to a number of independent religious schools. They were ordered to remove certain statements or phrases from policy or face being defunded or decertified. Listed at left are some of the "offending" phrases the government wishes to eliminate and the reasoning behind doing so.

The demand that statements reflecting deeply held religious views be removed from the policies of religious schools is a direct and overt attack on the fundamental principles of freedom of religious expression, freedom of speech, and freedom of association. Lives have been lost defending such freedoms.

It is worth taking some time to consider the conditions that enabled the English-speaking world to achieve what it did, and to carefully evaluate the consequences of repudiating them.

The Bible long ago warned of a coming rejection of truth, justice, and the principles of biblical law: "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice" (Isaiah 59:14–15).

Departure from divine, biblical law will thus drive Canada and the other Western nations toward injustice, chaos, and anarchy. Let us hope that Canada will rethink its choices.

-Stuart Wachowicz



## Surviving—and Thriving—in *Times of Stress*

### By Richard F. Ames

o you find life more stressful than it was even a few years ago? If so, you are not alone. Even in the United States—a nation currently enjoying a financial upturn—stress is a dominating influence in the lives of many. In its *Global Emotions 2019* report, the Gallup organization noted, "Even as their economy roared, more Americans were stressed, angry and worried last year than they have been at most points during the past decade" ("Americans' Stress, Worry and Anger Intensified in 2018," *Gallup.com*, April 25, 2019).

The *New York Times* reported the details: "In the United States, about 55 percent of adults said they had experienced stress during 'a lot of the day' prior, compared with just 35 percent globally.... About 45 percent of the Americans surveyed said they had felt 'a lot' of worry the day before, compared with a global average of 39 percent" ("Americans Are Among the Most Stressed People in the World, Poll Finds," *New York Times*, April 25, 2019). A healthy economy, it seems, is no insurance against the burden of stress and worry.

As we accelerate our technology and pace of life in the 21st century, millions experience increasing stress, depression, and physical illness. The *Washington Post* featured an article with this headline: "Not only are Americans becoming less happy—we're experiencing more pain too." The article reported on research by David Blanchflower of Dartmouth College and Andrew Oswald of the University of Warwick, who examined "cross-country data on the experience of pain."

In 2011, the International Social Survey Programme asked respondents in over 30 nations how often they had experienced bodily aches and pains in the past month. Americans were the most likely to report frequent pain, with 34 percent saying they experienced it "often" or "very often." The average across all countries surveyed was just 20 percent. "As the US is one of the richest countries in the world, and in principle might be expected to have one of the most comfortable lifestyles in the world, it seems strange-to put it at its mildest-that the nation should report such a lot of pain," Blanchflower and Oswald write (Washington Post, December 6, 2017).

Yes, stress affects us in profound ways! But while health experts can give us useful strategies for coping with stress, there is another source that has been proven for millennia to be filled with the best guidance of all—God's word. Yes, your Bible reveals powerful ways to overcome stress, fear, frustration, and anxiety.

### Seek the Highest Goals!

The book of Proverbs reminds us to pursue true values. We read, "Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her" (Proverbs 8:10-11). Those who seek money, luxury, and glittering possessions must always worry about holding on to what they have and acquiring even more. But our Savior, Jesus Christ, commented on those who worry about gaining possessions: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matthew 6:31-32). If you trust in God and follow His guidance, you will gain wisdom and will not find yourself worrying about the obsessive search for more physical things. You will be seeking something far higher. Read it in your own Bible: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). He has promised to fulfill our needs (Philippians 4:19). Do you believe Him? Confront your stress by seeking the highest goal: God's Kingdom.

#### Stop and Smell the Roses!

In today's fast-paced world, do you ever stop to take a deep breath? Do you take a moment from your activity to "smell the roses"? You may start your workday stressed in congested commuter traffic. Then, with one appointment or stop after another, you may only take time for a quick snack for lunch—if you don't skip lunch entirely. "Soccer moms," as they are called, transport their children to and from school and from one activity to another. Some people work two jobs just to keep their heads above financial water.

Some are so addicted to technology that they stay online constantly and lose touch with their environment. Many in the U.S. may think of Internet activity as a problem unique to their country, yet we find otherwise in an eye-opening report from the London *Telegraph*: "British teenagers spend more time on the internet than virtually anyone else in the world, leading them to become more unhappy and susceptible to mental health problems, a new report has found. Nearly one in four pupils in the U.K. are now considered 'extreme' internet users, with tens of thousands spending three times longer online than the average dwell-time of children living in the rest of the developed world" ("British children are online more than almost any other developed nation—and are more unhappy as a result," April 19, 2017).

What does God offer as an alternative? We read, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). To reduce or even prevent stress, try to connect with nature. Take a break. If you can, find a rosebush or some other source of beauty in nature that you can appreciate. At night, pause to consider the awesomeness of the stars above. And take the time to stop and pray for a moment, telling God of your appreciation for the marvels of His creation. God tells us, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:10–11).

#### **Pray About It!**

Are you what some call a "worrywart"? Do you let your fears and worries produce emotional and physical stress in your life? The patriarch Job lamented, "For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me" (Job 3:25). What should he have done? The Apostle Paul made it plain: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). In other words, share your worries, your fears, and your concerns with God in prayer!

Perhaps you are worried about your needs. Again, go to God! Jesus tells us that God knows your needs even before you ask Him (Matthew 6:8), but He *wants you to ask* in order to develop a closer relationship with Him.

Are you worried about the state of your country? In an article discussing its "Stress in America" survey, the American Psychological Association reported, "Nearly two-thirds of Americans (63 percent) say the future of the nation is a very or somewhat significant source of stress, slightly more than perennial stressors like money (62 percent) and work (61 percent)" ("US at 'Lowest Point We Can Remember;' Future of Nation Most Commonly Reported Source of Stress," November 1, 2017). As diverging ideologies continue to polarize people, many in the last few years have faced the stress of losing long-held, valued friendships. So, what should you do if you are feeling stress about the governance of your nation? Your Bible gives the answer: Pray about it!

Certainly, we should pray that rulers in government show mercy to those faithfully seeking to obey God, allowing them to live in peace. We read this in the Apostle Paul's advice to the young evangelist Timothy: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). However, there is another aspect that many people, even Christians, too easily neglect. If you are feeling stress because you do not like your nation's leader, you need to understand just who arranged for or allowed that person's rule. "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God" (Romans 13:1). When you understand that God is in charge, you can let go of your personal stress about your nation's leaders and focus on praying for God's will to be done.

And how should you pray? Notice that Paul said to pray "**with thanksgiving**" (Philippians 4:6). Yes, ask for what you need and what you want, but do not forget to thank God for all your blessings. As you learn to recognize your blessings and not only your challenges, you will learn to see your problems in a bigger context—and that larger perspective will reduce your stress.

### **Claim God's Promises!**

As you pray, do not be shy about also claiming God's promises for you! Your Bible is a treasure house of His sure and wonderful promises. The Apostle Peter gives us powerful encouragement! He writes to us:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us *exceedingly great and precious promises*, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:2–4).

As you claim God's promises in prayer, you can overcome stress. What are a few of those promises? God has promised to answer our prayers (Matthew 7:7–8); He has promised to fulfill all our needs (Philippians 4:19); He has promised to guide our lives (Proverbs 3:5–6); He has promised to give us the desires of our heart, **if** we delight in Him (Psalm 37:4–5); He has promised us peace of mind (Philippians

### WE NEED POSITIVE STRESSORS IN OUR LIFE TO MAKE IT FUN AND INTERESTING, AND CERTAIN STRESSORS ALSO HELP US BE MORE PRODUCTIVE

4:6–7); He has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Luke 11:13); He has promised us the gift of His love (Romans 5:5); and He has promised us eternal life (1 John 2:25). Those are just a few. There are many more promises in the Bible for you, your friends and loved ones, and for all human beings on the earth—*if* you will come to God in prayer and in faith, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

#### **Plan Ahead!**

Is stress all bad? Endocrinologist Hans Selye defines stress as "the nonspecific response of the body to any demand made upon it" (*Stress Without Distress*, p. 14). This definition accounts for "good" types of stress or "eustress," such as the stress that comes with a job promotion, as well as "bad" stress or "distress," such as what you experience when you discover you have bounced a check. Physiologically, both types of stress are the same: They result in increased blood pressure, increased respiratory rates, increased digestive activity, increased sugar and fatty acids in the circulatory system, increased metabolism, increased sodium retention, and decreased immune function.

TIMES OF STRESS CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### Should you ever consult clairvoyants?

**Question:** Is it ever acceptable to seek information from "clairvoyants" such as psychics, mediums, or fortune-tellers? Many people seem to receive great help and comfort from such information. What does the Bible say about this?

**Answer:** When they were about to enter the Promised Land, God warned the Israelites not to follow the abominations of the nations He was driving out from before them (Deuteronomy 18:9). God had found those nations detestable because they "listened to soothsayers and diviners" (v. 14). He expressly forbade the Israelites from engaging in those nations' abominations—including idolatry, human sacrifice, witchcraft, soothsaying, interpretation of omens, sorcery, casting of spells, mediumship, spiritism and calling up the dead (vv. 10–12). Scripture is undeniably clear that such practices are not acceptable for those who seek to obey God.

Some deceivers may appear to be "Christian" or "holy" or "well-meaning." But notice that Satan's ministers appear righteous. The Apostle Paul, describing false apostles, wrote, "For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2 Corinthians 11:14–15).

Jesus Himself warned that "many false prophets will rise up and deceive many" (Matthew 24:11). It is essential to realize that those who call themselves "mediums" or "prophets" are, in fact, deceived—or are deliberate deceivers. God warns, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

One example of a false prophet is the sorcerer Simon Magus, who deceived many in one Samaritan city into thinking that he was "the great power of God" (Acts 8:9–11). When Philip came preaching the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, accompanied by signs and miracles given by the Holy Spirit (vv. 5–8, 12), Simon wanted to purchase this power, but Peter rebuked him (v. 20). Peter then said, "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity" (v. 22–23). Simon Magus had a spirit of rebellion and bitterness. His power came not from God, but from the practice of sorcery. By contrast, Philip and Peter taught the truth and obedience to God's word, backed up by the unmistakable power of the Holy Spirit. Upon seeing this contrast, many people were surely released from Simon's deception and received genuine help, leading to the beginning of their salvation.

During the New Testament age, much of the "civilized" world was immersed in idolatry, de-

A true Christian should never seek help from psychic or paranormal sources, since Satan and his demons are either directly or indirectly behind all such activity. monism, and occultism (Acts 17:16; 19:18-20). We read of a slave girl, possessed by a spirit of divination, who brought her handlers much profit through fortune-telling (16:16–18). After being harassed by that evil spirit, Paul commanded it to come out-and it obeyed. A true Christian should never seek help from psychic or paranormal sources, since Satan and his demons are either directly or indirectly behind all such activity. Notice the

prophet Isaiah's admonition: "And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:19–20).

Christians must be on guard against all forms of witchcraft and spiritism. God warns that sorcerers will be burned up in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). By contrast, those who seek God and believe and obey what He says will always be guided by the truth. As Jesus Christ prayed to the Father: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

## 置London CALLING

# 56—Revolution or Catastrophe?



ave you heard about 5G? If you have, do you understand what it involves and what it might mean for you and your family? If you use a smartphone—and even if you do not—you should be concerned, because it's quite likely 5G will be coming to where you live in the near future. There is increasing excitement about what it will make possible. However, there are also grave concerns about how it will impact our collective health, the environment, and cybersecurity. Will it be revolutionary—or a planetary catastrophe?

5G is the fifth generation of mobile networking service and is being introduced commercially on a small scale by all major United Kingdom mobile phone operators in 2019. Similar rollouts are occurring in China, Japan, South Korea, some European Union countries, and the United States. 5G offers high-speed, almost instantaneous ("super-low latency") communication up to 1,000 times faster than 4G. This is achieved by using higher frequencies in the electromagnetic (radio frequency) spectrum to communicate, and by increasing what is called *bandwidth efficiency*, meaning more users can be connected with more connection points in a limited geographic area.

### Why 5G?

You might ask, "Why do we need 5G? We can already do so many amazing things with 4G."

The new, faster standard will make possible what is frequently called the *Internet of Things*—the wireless connection of everyday items to allow data on them to be collected, analysed, and manipulated. These items could be anything, including mundane household appliances, farm equipment, watches and clocks, water mains, various robots, hospital devices, and even the computers and machines used by businesses and emergency services—all could be networked together, accessed, and monitored online. 5G will enable self-driving cars to communicate with each other and with traffic monitoring systems—potentially preventing accidents by reacting up to 200 times faster than human drivers. There is a world of possibilities and potential just waiting for the mind of man to explore it.

The big focus of 5G enthusiasm is about the vast increase in computing capabilities that will result from massive improvements in communication and extraordinary amounts of data transfer. Experts believe these developments may have the potential to generate a new Industrial Revolution, producing jobs and boosting national economies. Estimates suggest that in the next few years we could see literally millions of 5G base stations on Earth and 20,000 new 5G satellites in low Earth orbit, connected to 200 billion transmitting objects.

Wider rollout of 5G, however, is going to take significant investment and time before it reaches our neighbourhoods. Compared to 4G signals, which blanket the airwaves in all directions, 5G, at frequencies of 10 to 300GHz (gigahertz) and a one-millimetre wavelength, is unable to pass through buildings or trees and can even be disrupted by rainfall. To overcome these difficulties, 5G phased-array base antennas, transmitting multiple narrow, steerable, high-power signals, need to be positioned just 200 metres apart in a grid. The same antennas in all 5G devices, either stationary or moving, will seek to establish a continuous connection with the base antennas. Existing legislation will permit these signals to be at least ten times more powerful (up to 20 watts) than current 4G signals.

#### **Health and Security Risks**

Some argue that insufficient independent safety tests have been carried out on 5G technologies to determine their impact on human health or the environment. In the United States, many believe the Federal Communications Commission is not providing adequate regulation of the 5G industry. In an effort to counteract this, some groups have organized protests such as the "International Appeal: Stop 5G on Earth and in Space" petition—with more than 130,000 signatories from over 198 countries as of August-which seeks to prevent the rollout of 5G networks until more research has been performed examining the potential health effects of the technology. One of the signatures is that of Dr. Martin Pall, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry and Medical Sciences at Washington State University, who says, "Putting in tens of millions of 5G antennae without a single biological test of safety has got to be about the stupidest idea anyone has had in the history of the world" (5G: Great Risk for EU, U.S. and International Health, p. 81).

Others stress the cybersecurity risk posed by 5G mobile networks and infrastructure. They look to the fact that the Chinese tech giant Huawei is a leader in

Some believe insufficient safety tests have been carried out on 5G technologies to determine their impact on human health or the environment. the field of 5G technologies, investing \$2 billion in the last ten years. This puts them ahead of even U.S. tech giants, who normally dominate the development of such new technologies. In the case of 5G, "it looks like the US is losing" and "China's edge in 5G is disorientating the US," according to a Time magazine article from May 23, 2019. The U.S. government now requires American companies to obtain a special license to do business with Huawei, leading several U.S. tech giants

to sever their ties with the firm. The stated concern is about cyber espionage, saying Huawei is a pawn of the Chinese government. According to *Time* magazine, the fear is that once everything—factories, power plants, hospitals, airports, and more—is connected by 5G, a sustained cyber-attack would cause societal collapse. The EU and U.K. are supporting the use of Huawei hardware in *non-critical* 5G installations, much to the chagrin of the U.S., whose leaders do not want their allies dependent on Chinese technology.

### **New Spiritual Environment**

Of course, many hope that 5G will usher in a better world—and hope, as well, that concerns about the technology are overblown. Considering how society uses



technology *now*, we can regrettably be sure that mankind will use 5G technology for both good *and* evil. Prophecy

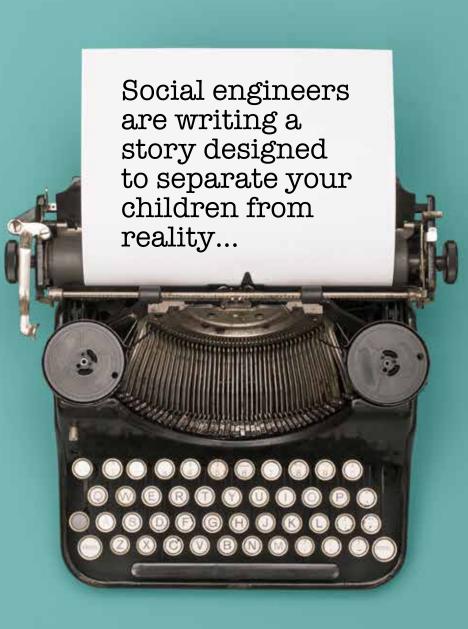
is clear, and mankind continues to use the tools at His disposal to create a world that groans in corruption, yearning for a better age to come (Romans 8:22–23).

What can we learn from all this at a spiritual level? If the aspirations for 5G can be realised, the world is about to be engulfed by a radically different electromagnetic environment of our own making. The airwaves will be *saturated* with it; it will *blanket* us, impacting us in unknown and unanticipated ways—ways quite possibly injurious to our health. We will not see it or hear it, but we will know it is there.

Unknown to most people, we are already surrounded by a sort of *spiritual* broadcast that constantly works against our well-being. Your Bible explains this in Ephesians 2:2, which refers to Satan as "the prince of the power of the air" who saturates and blankets this world with his ungodly ways and thoughts. Like radio waves, he is not seen or heard, but his influence is all around us for evil, and Scripture assures us he is there.

The Gospel message we proclaim is all about a *radically different* spiritual environment that will soon cover the entire globe. Satan's environment will be "turned off" by the returning Jesus Christ. Can you imagine a world in which this destructive influence will be completely removed? The Bible describes the earth at that time as being "full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). All life will blossom and prosper in this new, transformed spiritual environment and the result will be peace, good health, and happiness—a beautiful, restored world in harmony at last with its Creator (Acts 3:21).

-Simon R. D. Roberts



### Unhappily Ever After?

Events like "Drag Queen Story Time" are telling a truly disturbing story to kids today, and it won't have a very happy ending.

### By Gerald E. Weston

oung people today are being told a very different story than the one past generations have heard. In public schools, libraries, and academia, they are hearing a story that twists the meanings of familiar concepts and even the very understanding of what it means to be a boy or a girl. And you can be certain the tale won't have the "happy ending" the storytellers would have you believe.

Consider "Drag Queen Story Time," an event held during the "Pride Month" celebrations this past June in Albuquerque, New Mexico. According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, hundreds of small children and their parents showed up at the downtown library on June 15, where self-described "drag queens"—biological males dressed, often outlandishly, to imitate women—told stories and invited the kids to dance and sing tunes such as "If You're Happy and You Know It" and "The Wheels on the Bus." No doubt these innocent little ones, mostly between the ages of three and seven, enjoyed the occasion, and parents expressed delight at the opportunity to introduce their children to this defiance of established sexual roles ("Drag queens dazzle at library story time," June 15, 2019).

"It's extremely important to let kids know that it's OK to be different and express themselves in ways that are outside of what society has said in the past is normal," said one of the drag queens who interacted with the children and read them stories with titles like "Kindness Makes the World Go Round," "We're All Wonders," and "Celebrate You." Now there's certainly nothing wrong with teaching children to be kind, but you can easily guess that kindness is not all these stories were about, and it is beyond the grasp of any sane person how kids could benefit from being told even the most seemingly wholesome stories by men wearing women's dresses and women's makeup.

It may be distasteful even to read about this kind of information in a magazine such as *Tomorrow's World*, but we must face reality. These developments are more disturbing and dangerous than you're being led to think. The extreme behaviors pushed by the architects of these events are steadily becoming more accepted by mainstream society. Our world has come to the place where behavior once roundly condemned as deviant is now considered "G-rated" and suitable for even the youngest of children! And you and I are paying for it through our taxes, which help support public libraries and other institutions.

Yes, social engineers are going after your children, and they are no longer "in the closet" about it. They have been active for decades on university campuses, though many parents are not aware of the full extent of their activities. Most moms and dads are busy earning money to support their children's education. They believe that their children must go to university if they are to get a good job in the future, and they work hard to make it happen—unconcerned about what their children are *actually* taught and the true price to be paid for it all. After all, haven't they themselves been to university and survived? Yet the academic world of today is a far cry from the one they experienced only one or two generations ago.

### What's Behind the Story?

"Drag Queen Story Time" is a British offshoot of America's "Drag Queen Story Hour," and both have the same objective: Indoctrinate children so that they will accept as normal that which is not normal. Albuquerque's contribution toward this goal was ev-

### THE PROGRAM INTENDS "TO CAPTURE THE IMAGINATION AND FUN OF THE GENDER FLUIDITY OF CHILDHOOD, WHILE GIVING CHILDREN GLAMOROUS, POSITIVE, AND UNABASHEDLY QUEER ROLE MODELS."

Johnny comes home declaring he wants to be just like the drag queen he once saw during story time at the public library? Is this what parents actually want for their children? If so, how sick!

In the words of Judy Zuckerman, Director of Youth and Family Services at the Brooklyn Public

> Library, "Drag Queen Story Hour is a fun and important program that celebrates diversity in the way that children may dress and act. It encourages children to look beyond gender stereotypes and embrace unfettered exploration of self. Programs like DQSH encourage acceptance of difference and help to prevent bullying, while providing an enjoyable literary experience" (*DragQueenStoryHour.org*). Again, do parents really want

idently a smashing success: "Kids and families of all ages packed into the downstairs room wearing rainbow clothes and colorful flower leis to listen to Cruse and Patricks read aloud.... Because of the positive reaction, library staff said they will probably make Drag Queen Story Time a regular event."

That is not to say the event went unopposed: "About five minutes into the first story, a woman in the back of the room shouted at the drag queens to 'stop hurting our children.' She was booed by the audience and escorted out of the building by security, walking past a small group of protesters gathered outside the library holding signs with such messages as 'Leave kids alone! Drag queens go home''' (ibid.). In fact, strong protests against the activity were anticipated well in advance, and turned up just as expected. There are obviously those who still recognize the danger overtaking society and feel they must speak out to keep the radicals from winning by default, but one must wonder how long such "dissent" will be allowed.

According to *DragQueenStoryTime.com*, the program intends "to capture the imagination and fun of the gender fluidity of childhood, while giving children glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models." What must the parents who bring their children to such events be thinking? Are these really the individuals they want their children looking up to as "role models"? What are they going to think when their children to "embrace unfettered exploration of self"? To be sure, "self-expression" is one of the many false gods of this age, but even putting that aside, do parents actually want their children to become drag queens and express themselves in behaviors that many people still understand to be fundamentally abnormal? Sadly, it is clear that some parents *do* want their children confused about their natural biology, as evidenced by the fact that some celebrities and others attempt to raise their children "gender neutral."

### The Unhappy Consequences of Terrible Storytelling

Dr. Miriam Grossman, psychologist at the University of California, Los Angeles—no insignificant school of higher education—exposed a significant truth in her 2006 book, *Unprotected*. In an interview with *National Review*, Dr. Grossman discussed her work:

I'm discussing a taboo topic here: the dangers of radical social agendas in my profession. My colleagues are well-intentioned and care deeply about their patients. But campus counseling centers... are promoting the notion that men and women are the same. They are not educating young people about future and family. In these issues, so central to campus health and counseling, we are failing our young people ("Unprotected," December 6, 2006).



There is an agenda behind the social trends in our world. Sadly, too many people are oblivious to this and simply assume that the only motivation behind programs such as "Drag Queen Story Time" is to prevent bullying. Bullying *is* unacceptable, but what we see today is that the bullied have become the bullies, attempting to silence all opposition to their worldview. Frankly, those who have been bullied in the past are not always those pressing hardest to achieve these social changes. Leftist ideologues and anarchists have set about to destroy every vestige of the biblical design of the family, as Dr. Grossman explains in her book:

There are seventeen million students enrolled in our nation's colleges and universities. Many are still adolescents, impressionable and confused; they are at a critical point in their development, questioning who they are and what they want .... As a parent. I know that behind most students are a mother and father who are worried, hoping, praying for their child. I want to warn them; in addition to binge drinking and date rape, there is another danger on campus that warrants your attention. You probably assume that if your child needs to visit the student health or counseling center... the physician or therapist will be a neutral agent, providing objective information and guidance. Think again. The nurse teaching your daughter about herpes, the social worker reassuring your son about his homosexual thoughts—these people may have a vision for social change that you don't share. They may see their jobs as an avenue for activism, and one of their goals is to influence your child.... Their goal is an androgynous culture, where the differences between male and female are discounted or denied, and the bond between them robbed of singularity (*Unprotected*, pp. xx–xxi).

This radical agenda has taken root and is blooming among millennials, Gen-Xers, and the media. The signs of it are clear for any to see. How far will it go? What can you as a parent or grandparent do? And is there any good news on the horizon?

### **An Unhappy Ending Predicted**

While these changes in our societies have seemingly come out of nowhere, they are not a surprise to followers of *Tomorrow's World*. Oh, yes—the degree, the speed, and the depth of the downward spiral are surprising, but the direction is not, for we have predicted the moral decline in our Western nations for decades. How bad it will get is difficult to say, but it will be far worse than we can imagine before it gets better—and rest assured, it *will* eventually get better. Serious students of history recognize that great nations and empires eventually decline and fall. But we have an even greater source that reveals the future of the British-descended peoples and America and for that matter, the future of the whole world. That source is the Bible, and its predictions are as sure as the rising and setting sun.

### THE BIBLE CLEARLY CONDEMNS CROSS-DRESSING AND OTHER BEHAVIORS IT CALLS ABOMINABLE. YET, IT ALSO HOLDS OUT REAL HOPE FOR DECEIVED INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT UP IN SUCH BEHAVIORS.

The biblical prophet Isaiah warned the people of his day, "Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah" (Isaiah 1:10). The two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were known for aberrant sexual behaviors. To this day, the terms "sodomize" and "sodomy" carry a negative connotation. Few students of the Bible much less those who are not—recognize that Isaiah's prophecies were addressed not only to the Jews of his day, but also to the House of Israel, composed of the descendants of the *brothers* of Judah living at the time of the end.

God commanded against cross-dressing. "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God" (Deuteronomy 22:5). This is not referring to women wearing pants designed for women, or to a Scotsman wearing a kilt. Rather, the instruction of Scripture is that God wants a *clear distinction*, not confusion—men are to be men and women are to be women. No doubt this is where Paul was coming from when he declared, "Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?" (1 Corinthians 11:14), before going on to explain that women should generally have longer hair than men. God does not take the promotion of the LGBTQA+ lifestyles lightly. The Apostle Paul made this abundantly clear in Romans 1:24–27, denouncing not only the participants in such lifestyles, but also those allies who approve of them (Romans 1:32). Those faithful to God are to diligently pray for society and warn of the sins that are overtaking

it, though they are not permitted to carry out judgment. Nevertheless, God's word and *will* are clear: Mankind's rejection of His ways will exact a heavy price, especially near the time of the end, when His wrath will be made known (Isaiah 58:1; Romans 1:18).

The term "LGBTQA+" used above is far from complete in representing the collection of "lifestyles" championed by today's sexual anarchists. But you need to understand the last two characters in that label: The "A" stands for "allies" those who approve of and promote these behaviors—and the "+" indicates that the list of strange behaviors is not yet complete. Who can predict

what new behavior will yet be added to this politically correct "protected list"?

### Speak the Truth in Love

Lest anyone misunderstand the Bible's message, it is important to take all scriptures into account. The Bible clearly condemns cross-dressing and other behaviors it calls abominable. But at the same time, the Bible holds out *real* hope for deceived individuals caught up in such behaviors—far more hope than can ever be found among those self-righteous individuals who understand the words of God but refuse to change in response to them. The Bible addresses that attitude, recording Christ's condemnation of those who saw His miracles but refused to repent of their sins:

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.... And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you (Matthew 11:21, 23–24).

We must speak the truth: There is a profound difference between right and wrong, and the word of God determines that difference. We must remember that, ultimately, we are all sinners who must each repent of our own evil deeds. We should never take it upon ourselves to mete out God's judgments, realizing that "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:20). Instead, we should pray for mercy upon all. To better understand how God is working out an opportunity for *all* to come to repentance, contact one of our offices on page 4 and request our free publication *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?*, or read it at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

The prophet Jeremiah offers an apt description of the modern house of Israel: "For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jeremiah 4:22).

When adults act as "silly children," teaching their kids to applaud those dismissive of biological facts and to reject even the most obvious of truths, what can we expect? The prophet Hosea gives the answer. Notice this chilling warning: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest [i.e., a teacher of what is right] for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6).

### Why God's Anger?

It is easy for many to misunderstand God's plan, His purpose, and why He condemns certain actions. When He gave the Ten Commandments, it was not to punish man, but to show us that some actions are always wrong and will bring about pain and suffering. At least three of His commandments specifically protect the family: The command to honor your mother and father, the command not to commit adultery, and the command not to covet that which belongs to your neighbor, including his or her spouse (Exodus 20:12, 14, 17). The Ten Commandments are also recorded in Deuteronomy 5, where God deplored the fact that His people did not have it in their hearts to obey Him. Notice **why** He wishes we would obey Him: "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" (v. 29). Yes, God knows best. He knows what works and what does not. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16) and His law is "the law of liberty" (James 2:11–12)—it liberates us from actions and addictions that bring pain and enslavement.

God commands parents to teach their children His ways for their *good*. Right after rehearsing the Ten Commandments, Moses instructed parents, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6–7). This command is very direct, and parents who fail to put it into practice put their children in danger.

Does teaching tolerance toward others who think and act differently from ourselves involve supporting the delusions of those who are confused about how they were created? Should we approve lifestyles that are contrary to the way of life our Creator designed for us? Should we introduce such behavior to children while they are too young to understand what it is all about? Or rather, shouldn't we simply teach our children to be kind to all people, while at the same time teaching them clarity about right and wrong?

The message of *Tomorrow's World* is that there is a time coming when our world will be taught very differently than it is today. The Devil, who is promoting the course of this current evil world, will be removed—no longer allowed to confuse people about who and what they are and about the great purpose God has in mind for them. The law of God will be the foundation of knowledge. Children will grow up with two loving parents—one male, the other female—who will instruct them in the right way.

In the meantime, shame on parents who confuse their children by exposing them to a harmful, deceptive, agenda-driven story!

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The Ten Commandments** God defines morality for our good! This informative booklet will help you understand God's most fundamental laws. Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



### **A Quiver Full of Arrows**

comment on Twitter recently caught my eye: "Sure, kids cost roughly \$14,000 annually, but think about all the money you save from no longer having a social life." It was tongue-in-cheek, but correct—kids *are* expensive!

A 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture report found that the average cost of rearing a child from birth to age 17 is \$233,610 ("How Much Does It Cost to Raise a Child in the U.S. in 2018?," *TheStreet.com*, December 19, 2018). And this figure does not include the cost of college.

It's no wonder that in 2018 the birth rate in the United States continued a four-year decline ("U.S. Birthrate Drops 4th Year in a Row, Possibly Echoing the Great Recession," *New York Times*, May 17, 2019). Many feel that it just costs too much to have children—especially if they must be put into daycare and provided with the latest smartphones and peer-approved Nike Air shoes. But are we missing something?

In Psalm 127, we read, "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (vv. 4–5).

In God's eyes, having a "quiver" well-stocked with children is good! What can we learn from God's simple analogy? Why does it refer to children as "arrows in the hand of a warrior"? Perhaps this inspired metaphor can help us rethink our perspective on children.

### **Arrow-Makers**

Mankind has used the bow and arrow since our most ancient times. The ability to powerfully and accurately

launch a projectile into the air is valuable both in hunting and in warfare. An effective arrow's characteristics are critical.

### **The Arrowhead**

I have an Indian arrowhead in my box of accumulated odds and ends. It was given to me by an elderly gentleman in southern Arkansas. His home was located near an area frequented by some American Indian tribes in a bygone era. He found dozens of these old arrowheads over the years. The small, flat, gray wedge of rock is a work of art. You can see and feel the marks where flecks of stone were chipped away until it took on a sharp diamond shape. Modern arrowheads are very similar. Today's broadheads are razor-sharp and constructed from metal, but the purpose is the same: It's the "business end" of the arrow, designed to cut into the target. It must be honed, sharpened, and carefully shaped for maximum effect. By fixing this small head to the arrow, the archer is able to extend power far beyond his arms' reach.

### The Shaft

The shaft is the second part of the arrow, comprising the main body. Historically, shafts were made from wood—today they are also made from fiberglass, aluminum, or carbon. The shaft must be perfectly straight and strong enough to fly accurately through the air. It must also have just the right amount of stiffness. The shaft actually bends as it leaves the bow, absorbing power from the bowstring. Then, it straightens and speeds towards its target. If it's too stiff or not stiff enough, its accuracy will suffer.

### Fletching

"Fletching" refers to the feather or plastic strips positioned along the rear of the arrow. You might think they are only for decoration, but their purpose is to help provide stability for the arrow as it flies. Some arrows have helical fletching, which causes the arrow to rotate for more steadiness and accuracy. Although the fletching might just look like a flashy way to make a lost arrow easier to find, its main purpose is to help provide stability and precision.

### The Nock

Found at the very back of the arrow, nocks were historically made from horn or bone. Today, they are generally made from plastic. The nock's job is to seat the arrow snugly against the bowstring as it is pulled back, then disengage as the string is released. The nock is very important as the point of power transfer from the string to the arrow.

### **Children and Arrows**

As we examine the parts of an arrow and how they work, the lessons we can learn from the Bible's analogy become clear.

God emphasized to the ancient Israelites their responsibility to pass His laws on to their sons and daughters: "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:7). God commanded them to shape, sharpen, and hone their children in the understanding of His way, much as an arrowhead might be formed. Today, parents have the same mandate. By teaching our children, making His word a part of their lives, we are helping them to cut through the cultural fog and discern what is truly right. Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Just as the shaft provides the main body of the arrow, we can establish patterns of life with our children to launch them into the future. We endeavor to build consistent habits of kindness, courtesy, respect, honesty, and integrity into everyday life for our children. With a mind of godly wisdom and patterns of daily life that are straight and true, our children have powerful potential.

The fletching and the nock complete the picture. As children grow, they need continued guidance, encouragement, and nurturing from their parents to give their lives stability, just as fletching stabilizes an arrow. We provide much of this stability when they are young, and other mentors come into their lives as they grow. The nock can represent the close relationship that connects them to their parents. The love of a father and mother for their child should create a bond of heart

As children grow, they need continued guidance, encouragement, and nurturing from their parents to give their lives stability, just as fletching stabilizes an arrow. and soul, unbreakable. Yet as parents, we also recognize that our grown children must launch their own lives, building new families as we did.

In Genesis 18:19, God spoke of Abraham: "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

When we read this statement, we glimpse the importance that God placed on Abraham's projecting his

obedience, faithfulness, and integrity into the future through his children, grandchildren, and beyond. By living his life faithfully and teaching his son to live faithfully, Abraham powerfully impacted the future.

We can do the same. Bringing children into this world blesses us and connects us to the future. As we teach them, train them, and sharpen their understanding of a godly way of life, we prepare them to have an impact far beyond our small circle of influence today. A warrior with a full quiver of sharp arrows can face the enemy with confidence, knowing he can project his strength to defend his own. The blessing of children gives us the opportunity to bring "godly offspring" (Malachi 2:15) into the world, and through them, project the values, beliefs, and convictions that we hold dear into the next generation—and far beyond.

—Jonathan McNair

When we make plans, we can use stress in a positive way. Indeed, we need positive stressors in our life to make it fun and interesting, and certain stressors also help us be more productive. Deadlines and rewards for completing tasks, for example, motivate us. Health researcher Jerrold Greenberg emphasizes this: "The goal of stress management is not to eliminate all stress.... Our goal should be to limit the harmful effects of stress while maintaining life's quality and vitality" (*Comprehensive Stress Management*, pp. 12, 14).

For many, even planning a few days ahead can seem a big challenge, and setting a consistent schedule with steps toward our major goals can change our



attitude for the better. You may have heard the time-management tip that when you are faced with what seems

to be a difficult task, you should break it down into many smaller tasks that are each manageable. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by one huge challenge, you can then overcome a series of smaller challenges.

But what is the greatest project of all, the greatest challenge? As we discussed earlier, our most important plan should be to seek the Kingdom of God. As regular readers of this magazine know, God has planned for us a wonderful future as members of His Family-a plan that can seem almost unimaginable in our present state. But it is within our grasp if we use what God has given us. We can have the power of Christ to help us achieve our goals! For, as Scripture states, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Remember the Apostle Peter's admonition on the day of Pentecost: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Have you repented of your sins? Have you received proper biblical baptism? If you have seriously considered making a life-commitment to God, I urge you to counsel with one of the many ministers affiliated with Tomorrow's World. We have ministers in many regions around the world. Just contact the Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or you can contact us on our website at TomorrowsWorld.org.

### **Maintain a Positive Attitude!**

How do your personal challenges compare with those of the Apostle Paul? He told the Corinthians about the stress, trials, and tribulations he had endured: "From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep" (2 Corinthians 11:24-25). How did he cope with those stresses? He focused on maintaining a positive attitude. Even while Paul was in prison, he encouraged others to do this as well: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9).

Think about those things that are **true**. What is true? Jesus prayed to the Father, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). The Bible, God's word, is **truth**. Think about those scriptures that are important to you. Read your Bible. Mark, highlight, or underline those verses that mean something special or significant to you! Dear reader, you and I must read the Bible. I encourage you to read your Bible every day! God's word will inspire you. It will help clean up your thoughts and mind. As Jesus said, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3, *King James Version*).

Paul also asks us to meditate on "whatever things are lovely" (Philippians 4:8). Sometimes, when I want to counteract stress, I focus on lovely, picturesque scenes that I have seen in my travels. I think of the sunsets I have seen around the world. I think of lakes and mountains and beautiful rainbows. Meditate on the positive and you will reduce stress!

### **Love Your Neighbor!**

Selfishness is a major cause of stress. An excessive focus on self only adds to the stresses in life. Your Bible emphasizes a simple but profound principle. The Apostle Paul experienced many trials in his life, but he emphasized this key principle as given



by the Lord: "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

Perhaps you know the story of the Good Samaritan. A lawyer had correctly answered a question Jesus had asked him, implying that he understood God's command that we love our neighbors as our own selves (Luke 10:25-28). But notice: "But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). In response, Jesus recounted the story of a priest and a Levite-respected members of society-who chose to walk past a man who had been attacked by thieves, neglecting to offer help. Instead, the injured man received the help he needed from a Samaritan-a man looked down upon by the Jewish population of the day-who was even willing to pay his expenses to recover from the thieves' attack (vv. 30-35). Jesus then pointedly asked the lawyer, "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?' And he [the lawyer] said, 'He who showed mercy on him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'" (vv. 36-38).

When we love our neighbors and help those in need, our own stresses diminish and we have a more positive perspective on life. Even if we ourselves are suffering, we need to do good to others. We read, "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). Or, as it states in the *New International Version*, "So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." Yes, God expects us to love our neighbors and continue to do good to others, even while under stress—and we can benefit from shifting our focus toward the needs of others.

Even in the workplace, some companies are discovering that concern for their workers' stress is good for the "bottom line." Mark Bertolini, former Chief Executive Officer of the Aetna insurance company, was sobered to learn that the most stressed 20 percent of workers at his company spent \$1,500 more annually on health care than did less-stressed workers. Bertolini responded by making changes to company policy. To help reduce stress, Aetna not only addressed financial stress by raising entry-level wages and helping workers to pay back student loans, but the company also instituted a \$300 bonus for employees who were able to get 7.5 hours of sleep for 20 consecutive nights. What was the result? Not only did employees report subjectively less stress, the company increased its operating margin from 8 percent to 9.1 percent ("Stressed-out workers spend \$1,500 more on health care each year," CNBC.com, June 19, 2019). Yes, the principle of Luke 6:38-give, and it will be given to you-applies even in the business world. When we practice the "way of give," we can reduce our own daily stresses and those of others around us!

Love is outgoing concern. When we practice a "giving" way of life, we can thrive amidst our daily stresses. This is also stated in the second great commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Dear readers, despite our pressure-filled world, can we conquer our fears, worries, and anxieties? Yes, we can, with God's help. You can survive stress—and thrive! Apply the strategies we have considered in this article, and thank God for His word, which is filled with exceedingly great and precious promises to help you live the abundant life He desires for you!

MAY WE SUGGEST? **Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer** God's word provides instruction that can give us a peace that surpasses all understanding. Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.





### **History's Ultimate Turning Point**

### By Douglas S. Winnail

hroughout this series of "Turning Points" articles, we have explored a major missing dimension in our modern view of the world and our understanding of history. While many today doubt that God exists, we have repeatedly shown how the God of the Bible has intervened in human affairs at critical points to guide the progression of history—as He alone is able to do (Job 12:23; Daniel 2:21; 4:25, 32, 34). We have seen how God used Abraham to promote a knowledge of the true God and how He made specific promises about the future of Abraham's descendants-promises that have been fulfilled in amazing detail. We have also seen how the power of God astounded leaders of ancient nations, how the books of Moses have influenced the laws of nations today, and how the coming of Jesus Christ changed the course of history. We have documented how the Bible and certain biblical values provided the unique foundation of Western civilization, how Europe was shielded from the Muslim and Mongol invasions, and why Great Britain and America emerged to become dominant powers that shaped our modern world—all according to God's overall plan.

While these and other topics covered in this series provide undeniable evidence of how God has intervened in human affairs over the millennia, Bible prophecies indicate that even greater events will dramatically impact the future of the world in the years just ahead. These prophecies also reveal that we are heading toward *another critical turning point in history*—one which will shock and surprise a world that has lost sight of God's plan for mankind.

### **Mankind's Modern Dilemma**

Today, many scholars ignore or reject the fact that God exists and guides the direction of human affairs. As a result, they attribute the rise and fall of nations to nothing more than random circumstances, fortunate or unfortunate choices of leaders, unpredictable weather, natural disasters, and just plain luck. From this secular perspective, the dangers we face-global pollution, epidemic disease, widespread poverty, food and water shortages affecting millions, increasing violence and terrorism, rising intolerance, resurgent nationalism, the arms build-up in global hotspots, and the threat of nuclear war-make the future look pretty bleak! Some experts warn that a "new dark age" is on the horizon as the pillars of "civilization" continue to crumble. They ask the same question *The Telegraph* featured in a January 2019 headline: "Is this the year the world falls apart?"

In an interview with NBC News, Sir Martin Rees, Britain's astronomer royal, discussed the question of whether humanity will survive this century. He noted that we are living at a critical juncture that could determine our future. "This century is crucial," he said, pointing to our potential to "misuse powerful technology and snuff ourselves out" (*NBCNews.com*, November 8, 2018). For some, the troubling and hopeless picture of the future fosters depression, escape into drugs, and even suicide among young and old.

But will the world fall apart in 2019? Will we pollute ourselves to death? Will a nuclear war erase all life from this planet? Will the mistakes and miscalculations of humanity result in "snuffing ourselves out"? Or are we approaching an *ultimate and unexpected turning point* 

### **The Missing Dimension**

What many do not realize today is that confusion about the future and loss of hope have gone hand in hand with the declining influence of and interest in biblical religion. Many theologians and secular scholars, as well as leaders in government and the media, have *lost sight of or rejected* the clear message of Scripture, and they remain in the dark about the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet the Bible reveals that Jesus brought an exciting message about a hope-filled future. Jesus came to this earth "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14–15). This was not a message about



floating off to heaven to play a harp on a cloud for the rest of eternity, but a positive and powerful message

about a future world-ruling government that He will set up on this earth to bring peace and justice to all people (Isaiah 9:6-7). That government will be founded on the laws of God, will spread out from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-4), and will be administered by Jesus Christ and the saints (Daniel 7:27; Matthew 19:28-29). According to the Scriptures, "The kingdoms of this world [will] become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

While this is seldom preached or heard today, *the Gospel*—the good news proclaimed by Jesus and the Apostles—was about the millennial reign of Jesus and the saints on this earth (Revelation 20:4). As Edward Gibbon noted in chapter 15 of his celebrated work *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, it was this powerful message that fueled the rapid growth of the early Church in the years following Jesus' earthly ministry. However, as Gibbon also points out, this thrilling message about the real future of mankind was later downplayed as *only an allegory* and then *rejected as heresy!* As a result, most of mankind has never heard or has lost sight of the *most significant turning point* the world will ever experience.

### A Vital Message

Today, critics claim the Bible is just an outdated book of fables, irrelevant to our modern age. Yet the Bible claims

to be the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) and backs up that claim with proof. (See our free booklet *The Bible: Fact or Fiction*? for more information.) Jesus' real presence in history is clear—see the writings of Tacitus, Josephus, Pliny the Younger, and Suetonius for examples—and His impact on Western civilization is undeniable. However, Jesus plainly stated, "I will come again" (John 14:1-3). This is the clear message of Scripture (Mark 13:26; 1 Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 20).

Jesus foretold that He would return when the future of mankind would appear to hang in the balance. When His disciples asked, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?," Jesus stated that world conditions would reflect widespread religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, international strife, rising ethnic tensions, famines, disease, and natural disasters (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). He warned further that conditions in society when He returns will resemble the "days of Noah" when the whole world was "corrupt ... filled with violence ... wickedness ... and every intent of the thoughts of [man's] heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5-13). Jesus stated that if He did not return to intervene in human affairs, "no flesh would be saved" (Matthew 24:21-22)—a condition toward which we appear to be headed today. The Bible also records that scoffers in the last days will mock the idea that Jesus will return to this earth (2 Peter 3:3-4). When He does return, the world will be shocked and surprised (Matthew 24:36-44).

Furthermore, the Scriptures reveal that the return of Jesus Christ will bring "times of refreshing" and a "restoration of *all things*" (Acts 3:19–21). It will be a time of peace, when people will not "learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:2–4) and "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:6–10). As people begin to live by the laws of God and His blessings are poured out, the global environment will be restored, deserts will blossom, and diseases will be eliminated (Isaiah 35:1–7). Ruined cities will be rebuilt (Isaiah 61:4; Amos 9:14) and the family will once again be the fundamental unit of society (cf. Malachi 4:6).

This is not a fairy tale that is too good to be true. This is all part of God's plan for mankind, brought about by the *ultimate turning point in history*: the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Will you be ready? —Douglas S. Winnail



### The Treaty of Versailles: Examining a Legacy

#### By John Meakin

century ago at the end of the First World War, an unprecedented and historic peace conference was convened in France. Paris became the virtual seat of world government as leaders from the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and many other countries assembled to thrash out the mess that was the aftermath of the war. The war's impact was devastating: More than 50 million soldiers and civilians had died and millions more had been wounded in the horrific bloodletting.

The Conference produced five treaties, but is remembered primarily for the Treaty of Versailles, which dealt with Germany, the war's chief antagonist. This treaty was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles' famous Hall of Mirrors, to take effect the following year.

The treaty invariably involved many compromises, but it grappled in a thorough manner with the challenging issues on the table, as parties sought to achieve the best results possible under difficult circumstances. Germany was disarmed and lands were returned to their rightful owners as the map of Europe was redrawn. Also, the League of Nations, brainchild of American President Woodrow Wilson, was enshrined in the treaty and came into being on January 10, 1920. This would provide a public forum whereby future complaints, infractions, and arguments could be heard and resolved.

One of the chief aims of the Versailles Treaty was to ensure Germany confronted the enormity of its actions. This proved to be extremely challenging, but it

was the critical issue of reparations that caused more controversy than anything else. British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau strenuously argued with President Wilson for extensive reparations. Wilson argued for a fixed, affordable sum, payable over a defined period, so that Germany would know exactly what was required of her and could budget accordingly. Lloyd George and Clemenceau strongly disagreed, fearing that demanding too low a sum would fail to "appease British and French public opinion" ("Keynes and the First World War," Libertarian Papers, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2017, p. 15). Germany, meanwhile, did not see why it should pay reparations at all ("Did the Versailles peace treaty trigger another world war?" HistoryExtra.com, June 26, 2019). Eventually, reparations were imposed, butinevitably, perhaps-history records that some people believed the demands were too lenient while others thought them too onerous.

What most people familiar with the Treaty remember, however, is that it somehow caused, or at least contributed to, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, leading to World War II. Is this true? Were the provisions of the Versailles Treaty, including the reparations, too harsh?

#### **Keynes' Famous Prediction**

One who famously thought so was John Maynard Keynes, a brilliant British economist and delegate to the conference who was also closely involved with the drafting of the treaty. He walked away from the conference stridently predicting that the treaty was too harsh, the reparations too heavy, and that another war would result within a generation. Keynes wrote his conclusions in flamboyant style with a barrage of economic data in his book *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*.

His book became the definitive account of the Paris Peace Conference and the "go-to read" about the Treaty of Versailles. It was hugely influential, read by many in positions of leadership, and "Germans never ceased to quote" it while Adolf Hitler rose to power (*Libertarian Papers*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2017, p. 25).

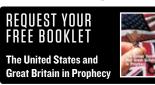
Keynes' analysis became the received wisdom and the defining narrative of the Peace Conference, but his book was also seen by some as an unreliable polemic-even a diatribe-against the treaty ("The Economic Consequences of John Maynard Keynes," LawLiberty.com, March 11, 2019). With the passage of years, many of his dire predictions failed to materialize, and it is reported that he privately admitted to historian Elizabeth Wiskemann that he regretted writing the book (Libertarian Papers). Germany was neither pacified, nor conciliated, nor permanently weakened, and many felt it could well afford the reparations demanded by the Treaty. In just a few short years, Germany was recovering and rearming. By 1926, Germany had regained its Great Power status and entered the League of Nations, where it was given a permanent seat on the League's Council. The issue of reparations simply melted away-only a fraction of what was required actually being paid (LawLiberty.com).

The controversy surrounding the Versailles Treaty lives on as historians continue their debates. Whatever view we might take, the fact remains that because of or in spite of Versailles—Germany under the Nazis *did* remilitarize in flagrant breach of the Treaty and launched a new round of German aggression in the Second World War. And this leads us to the question, "Why?" Does something deeper lie behind the course history took after the Treaty of Versailles?

### The Spiritual Significance

The real significance of the war, as well as the peace which followed, is that the world's political, economic, and military centre of gravity decisively shifted from the Old World of Europe to the New World of America. This great transition was to have a decisive impact on the fulfilment of Bible prophecy. The Russian Empire collapsed as a force to reckon with, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire (1918) and Ottoman Empire (1922) simply ceased to be—with the footnote that once Jerusalem was liberated from the latter, the way was clear for the establishment of the nation of Israel. This in itself would hold dramatic prophetic consequences.

France was significantly weakened, and the



British Empire was left bleeding from economic and political blows from which it never fully recovered.

Germany was thwarted in its global ambitions but, by the mid-1930s, would rise again in yet another effort to dominate Europe.

This left America to continue unopposed in its rise to superpower status as a world hegemon. Indeed, America has stood astride the world for a century—an example of history repeating itself, as the defeat of Napoleon had opened the door to a century of Britain's own global dominance. Was any of this prophesied?

The book of Genesis contains a remarkable prophecy involving the children of Joseph, the son of Jacob, whose name was changed by God to "Israel." On the brink of his death, Israel transferred the blessings of Abraham to his two grandsons, saying "let my name be named upon them" (Genesis 48:13–21). According to Israel's prophetic blessing, the younger grandson, Ephraim, would become a great company of nations, while the elder, Manasseh, would become a great single nation—but Ephraim would be the greater of the two (v. 19).

To which modern nations do these prophecies point? There is no obvious fulfilment in biblical history—but prophetically speaking, in modern history, Britain and America provide a compelling fit. These two brothers have together dominated the world for the better part of 400 years, seeing off challenges from Spain, France, Germany, and Russia along the way. God gave them the victory over those who would destroy them, as had been prophesied to Abraham (Luke 1:71–74; see also Genesis 22:15–17).

Yet, dramatic changes lie ahead for these nations! For prophetic insight into the future of Germany—and the world—be sure to read Rod McNair's article, beginning on page 5. not to recommit to Article 5 of NATO. Article 5 states that an attack on any member of NATO requires other members to rally to its support. In response, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated, "The times in which we can fully count on others are somewhat over," concluding that Europeans must take their future into their own hands and that America cannot be relied upon ("Merkel: Europe cannot rely on its allies anymore," *EU Observer*, May 29, 2017). Other officials in the U.S. government have reaffirmed America's commitment to NATO and, for now, America remains the "muscle" behind NATO's military capability to counteract Russia. But how long will that last?

Accentuating the effects of the growing distance between America and Europe, the influence of America's closest ally, Britain, is diminishing as well. When the British voted to leave the

### THERE WILL COME A POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL, WITH WHOM TEN NATIONAL LEADERS WILL VOLUNTARILY PLEDGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE AND SHARE THEIR AUTHORITY

European Union, some in the EU saw Brexit as an opportunity to push their military agenda forward, knowing that the British had not generally been in favor of a European army. Note what one German defense minister said: "Europe needs common political will for more security policy relevance. The outcome of the election in America [that is, Donald Trump's election as president] could provide an additional impetus.... The Brexit decision and the election in the United States have set a new course" for the EU ("Germany: Trump victory to spur EU military union," EU Observer, November 11, 2016). Perhaps the situation is best summed up by this quote from The Independent: "Germany and Europe are likely to take on a much more substantial and independent role than they have in the past 70 years" ("What do Angela Merkel's comments on Trump's America mean for global political relations?" May 29, 2017).

### The Future of Europe

We may not currently see in detail the final form a united Europe will take, but the events of today are preparing the way for an eventual superpower to take the world by surprise. Evidence shows that Europe is preparing for war. Islamic terrorism, Russia's aggression, and America's isolationism are all contributing to a newfound European desire to take full control of its own security. European leaders may have the best intentions to create a new order based on the rule of law, democratic principles, personal freedoms, and economically liberal policies, but Bible prophecy predicts that what will begin as a well-intentioned European experiment will end in disaster. Why do we say this?

Revelation 17:9–10 states, "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven

> kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time." The Bible speaks of seven revivals of this system—the system once called the "Holy Roman Empire." Since the Roman Empire's collapse in 476 AD, many have tried to maintain a united Europe under one regime,

including Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Hapsburg ruler Charles V, Napoleon Bonaparte, and most recently, the alliance of Hitler and Mussolini. Yet, as the passage above indicates, the Bible shows that there is one more revival to come—the final revival, which will lead right up to the return of Christ.

There will come a powerful individual, with whom ten national leaders will voluntarily pledge their allegiance and share their authority. We read of this individual, called "the beast," in Revelation 17:12–13: "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast."

Ten kings—or ten leaders—are prophesied to form the core of a remarkable political, economic, and military superpower under the direction of this "beast," referred to as the "king of the North" in Daniel 11. This final world power described in Revelation 17 corresponds to the final world power described in the vision of Daniel 2, symbolized by the legs and feet of a great image of a man, composed of a mixture of iron and clay (Daniel 2:41-43). Just as ten kings are described in Revelation, the iron-and-clay feet of Daniel's image would have ten toes, and both prophecies speak of these world-dominating kingdoms being destroyed by the returning Christ-they are referring to the same event! Daniel states that God showed him in a vision that "a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces," becoming a mountain-or a kingdom-that filled the entire earth (vv. 34-35). That stone represents the Kingdom of God, "a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" and which "shall stand forever" (v. 44).

### **Good Intentions, Devastating Results**

Will this end-time superpower, destined to be destroyed and replaced by the Kingdom of God, *begin* with the intention of bringing the whole world to the edge of destruction? Probably not. Most likely, it will be born of good intentions. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire stated in an interview with the German newspaper *Handelsblatt* that Europe should become a "peaceful empire." He said, "I am using this phrase because, in tomorrow's world, it's going to be all about power... technological power, economic, financial, monetary, cultural power—all will be decisive. Europe cannot be shy any longer about using its power" ("French finance minister: 'We need a European empire," November 12, 2018).

So, where is all this leading? When we understand these scriptures in the light of Jesus' prophecies in Matthew 24, we see that this dictator will in large part bring the planet into a state of world war and devastation. It will be a time of destruction so horrific that unless dramatic, global intervention arrives from somewhere, no flesh would survive. But Christ *will* intervene, will fight against the forces of this individual called "the beast" and those who follow him, and will crush this final revival of the Roman Empire. As Revelation says of the forces of the beast, "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

Will Europe be plunged into war in the future? Sadly, the answer is yes. The Bible shows this European power will turn sinister and take the world to the very brink of utter destruction—but the God of heaven will intervene and stop the coming insanity. We read about God's direct intervention in Zechariah 14: "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished.... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (vv. 1–4).

The returning Jesus Christ will crush the nations that attempt to fight Him. The most advanced weapons systems will be no match for the blinding power of the returning Son of God descending to Earth. He will put down all rebellion, and Revelation 11:15 will be fulfilled: "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Europe is preparing for war, whether its national leaders realize this or not. Unseen and unrecognized forces continue to push it towards a dark and ominous future. However, when Jesus Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom on earth, He will abolish war. Europe will finally have a permanent rest from its bloodstained history. Isaiah prophesied of that time: "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains .... Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:2, 4). Jesus Christ will establish His laws as the standard for all mankind, worldwide. He will enforce a global peace, bringing order and true harmony to the chaos and violence that have plagued mankind for centuries. Then, instead of preparing for war, the people of Europe-and the peoples of the entire world-will prepare to learn the way of peace, as they build a new civilization under Christ's loving guidance. God speed that day!

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The Beast of Revelation** A powerful political, economic, and military system will soon arise in Europe. Who will control this Beast? Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



### LETTERS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Thank you so much for this article ["Why Observe Easter?," March-April 2019] and the "Easter" booklet. I've been trying to explain to family/friends why we should stop following man-made traditions. Your work and these articles are so beneficial to opening eyes and ears. I've always questioned how Friday night to Sunday morning was three days and three nights. Thank you for your time and research to explain it. May you be blessed in all you do. - Subscriber in Washington

Thank you very much for inviting me to your lecture about God yesterday. It was very good. One never hears this type of lecture in mainstream churches. We had a bad snowstorm that day but most people attended. Subscriber and Presentation Attendee in Alberta

Editor's Note: We conduct live Tomorrow's World Presentations all over the globe. If you are interested in attending one in your area, please visit our website at TomorrowsWorld.org, scroll down to "Presentations" and click on "View All" to see the presentation schedule.

I have been trying to eradicate the ridiculous story of Easter that is being told in the church that I attend, with some success. After hearing your presentation on TV, I was thrilled. I recommended your book on Easter [*Easter: The Untold Story*] to others and they are going to order it. God bless you and thank you immensely. - Viewer in Wisconsin

I'm the son of a minister/professor and a former student of a university in my denomination. I've been active in the "church" ministry. At age 59, I decided to reinforce my traditional beliefs through the study of nothing but scripture. I used no commentaries. This action resulted in a crisis for me. Rather than reinforcing my tradi-

tional beliefs, it destroyed them. My wife and I left the "church" to start a home Bible study. I'm now 63. I just found you. I'm cautiously liking what I hear.

- Email from a Reader

Editor's Note: We wish you well in your studies, and we are glad we can help. Should you come to a point where you would like to meet with a representative from a congregation near you, you can contact the Regional Office listed on page 4 of this magazine, or you can go to our website at TomorrowsWorld.org and click on "Find a Congregation."

[Re: "Do not Speak Evil of a Ruler," an online Tomorrow's World commentary] This is a very timely message for me, as I have been struggling with having to listen to what I feel are insincere but politically correct utterances in the wake of the events in Christchurch, NZ, and the seeming absence of the same following the Sri Lanka atrocity. I have to remember I am neither judge or avenger following such events, and that God will do both with godly justice. I think I may have to do "news fasts" for a while.

- Reader in New Zealand

Thank you for the encouraging words. You've really removed a big block that was in front of my eyes, and also a big question is answered: What will happen to loved ones who do not know Christ? Thank you for enlightening us! God bless you!

– Reader in India

Editor's Note: We are glad we could help! That is a huge question for many people, and the real answer is remarkably encouraging and biblically unimpeachable. If you are struggling with the same question, please consider requesting our free booklet Is This the Only Day of Salvation? And be sure to read it with your Bible open!

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomorrow's World, P.O. Box 3810, Charlotte, NC 28227-8010.

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### TOMORP TELEVISION LOG

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### **Electronic Service Requested**



### UPCOMING TELECASTS

### The Origin of Satan the Devil

Like every villain, Satan has an origin story, only this villain and his story are very real. September 5–II

### **The Bible: Fact or Fiction?**

Can you trust the Holy Bible? Can you prove that it was inspired by God? Yes, you can! September 12-18

### **Why Extreme Weather?**

What causes extreme weather? In all the debate, is one cause being overlooked? September 19-25

### **Three Days, Three Nights, One Messiah**

Jesus offered a clear sign to prove He was the Messiah. Why is it so misunderstood? September 26-October 2

### Who Is the Great Harlot of Revelation?

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