

*TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY*

# **WATCH**

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**The Answer to  
EVERYTHING**





## COMMENTARY

# The GREEN Solution to Terror

by Mark Armstrong

Those who believe in a coercive, all-powerful government are preaching the gospel of “green” as the Utopian remedy to, well, everything. Zealously foisted upon the top brass of every military service as well as NASA, the EPA and nearly every other regulatory agency in the United States, it has become a standard underlying dogma even if they can’t field a spokesman to come right out with plain language to justify wildly waste-

ful expenditures. Instead, they (including the current president himself) subtly blame terrorism on man-made “global warming,” as if wasting enormous sums of money on ineffectual means of energy production will somehow cause bloodthirsty Islamists to chill out.

It may sound preposterous that we should claim that anyone, let alone the U. S. president, would make such a case. But it was only a couple of weeks after

the November 2015 Islamic massacre in Paris that he called the climate-change conference there an “act of defiance” against the terrorists. Justifying a \$3 billion pledge to “developing countries” (specifically India) to manage the effects of climate-change, he made this unbelievable comment in a CBS interview: “If they are to develop, using let’s say, coal as their main way of generating electricity, with a billion people ... you’re looking at an amount of carbon that would mean South Florida’s gone, because the oceans would have risen too high.” If you’ve caught your breath from the hilarity yet, he went on to say this, “You can’t build a border wall when it comes to carbon emissions or global temperatures or the oceans. We’ve got to make sure that people have incentives to work with us.”

Soon after, in his State of the Union address he said, “No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change ... We’re going to get ISIL, they will be defeated ... But if you start seeing the oceans rise



**UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and US President Barack Obama at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change.**

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# GERMANY: MIGRANT CRIME SKYROCKETS

by Soeren Kern,

Originally published by Gatestone Institute

Migrants committed 208,344 crimes in 2015, according to a confidential police report that was leaked to the German newspaper, *Bild*. This figure represents an 80% increase over 2014 and works out to around 570 crimes committed by migrants every day, or 23 crimes each hour, between January and December 2015.

The actual number of migrant crimes is far higher, however, because the report, produced by the Federal Criminal Police Office (*Bundeskriminalamt*, or *BKA*), includes only crimes that have been solved (*aufgeklärten Straftaten*). According to *Statista*, the German statistics agency, on average only around half of all crimes committed in Germany in any given year are solved (*Aufklärungsquote*). This implies that the actual number of crimes committed by migrants in 2015 may exceed 400,000.

Moreover, the report — “*Crime in the Context of Immigration*” (*Kriminalität im Kontext von Zuwanderung*) — includes data from only 13 of Germany’s 16 federal states.

The report does not include crime data from North

Rhine-Westphalia, the most populous state in Germany and also the state with the largest number of migrants. North Rhine-Westphalia’s biggest city is Cologne, where, on New Year’s Eve, hundreds of German women were sexually assaulted by migrants. It is not yet clear why those crimes were not included in the report.

The report also lacks crime data from Hamburg, the second-largest city in Germany, and Bremen, the second most populous city in Northern Germany.

Further, many crimes are simply not reported or are deliberately overlooked: political leaders across Germany have ordered police to turn a blind eye to crimes perpetrated by migrants, apparently to avoid fueling anti-immigration sentiments.

According to the report, most of the crimes were committed by migrants from: Syria (24%), Albania (17%), Kosovo (14%), Serbia (11%), Afghanistan (11%), Iraq (9%), Eritrea (4%), Macedonia (4%), Pakistan (4%) and Nigeria (2%).

Most of the migrant crimes involved theft (*Diebstahl*): 85,035 incidents in 2015, nearly twice as

many as in 2014 (44,793). Those were followed by property and forgery crimes (*Vermögens- und Fälschungsdelikte*): 52,167 incidents in 2015.

In addition, in 2015, migrants were involved in 36,010 reported cases of assault, battery and robbery (*Rohheitsdelikte: Körperverletzung, Raub, räuberische Erpressung*), roughly twice as many as in 2014 (18,678). There were also, in 2015, 28,712 reported incidents of fare evasion on public transportation (*Beförderungersschleichung*).

There were 1,688 reported sexual assaults against women and children, including 458 rapes or acts of sexual coercion (*Vergewaltigungen oder sexuelle Nötigungshandlungen*).

According to the report, migrants were accused of 240 attempted murders (*Totschlagsversuch*), in 2015, compared to 127 in 2014. In two-thirds of the cases, the perpetrators and victims were of the same nationality. There were 28 actual murders: migrants killed 27 other migrants, as well as one German.

Finally, the report said that 266 individuals were suspected



of being jihadists posing as migrants; 80 of these were determined not to be jihadists; 186 cases are still being investigated. The infiltration of jihadists into the country, according to the report, is “a growing trend.”

The report leaves far more questions than answers. It remains unclear, for example, how German police define the term “migrant” (*Zuwanderer*) when compiling crime statistics. Does this term refer only to those migrants who arrived in Germany in 2015, or to anyone with a migrant background?

If the report refers only to recently arrived migrants — Germany received just over one million migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East in 2015 — this would imply that at least

20% of the migrants who arrived in Germany in 2015 are criminals. But if the number of crimes committed by migrants is actually twice as high as the report states, then at least 40% of newly arrived migrants are criminals. Yet the report asserts: “The vast majority of asylum seekers are not involved in criminal activity.”

Also, for reasons that are not given, the report fails to include offenses committed by North Africans, long known to be responsible for an increase in crimes in cities and towns across Germany.

In Hamburg, police say they are helpless to confront a spike in crimes committed by young North African migrants. Hamburg is now home to more than 1,000 so-called unaccompanied minor migrants (*minderjäh-*

*rige unbegleitete Flüchtlinge, MUFL*), most of whom live on the streets and apparently engage in all manner of criminal acts.

A confidential report, leaked to *Die Welt*, reveals that Hamburg police have effectively capitulated to the migrant youths, who outnumber and overwhelm them. The document states:

“Even the smallest issue can quickly lead to aggressive offensive and defensive behavior. The youths come together in groups to stand up for each other and also to fight each other ...

“When dealing with others, the youths are often irreverent and show a lack of respect for local values and norms. The youths congregate mainly in the downtown area, where they can be seen almost every day. During

- **The actual number of crimes in Germany committed by migrants in 2015 may exceed 400,000.**
- **The report does not include crime data from North Rhine-Westphalia, the most populous state in Germany and also the state with the largest number of migrants. North Rhine-Westphalia’s biggest city is Cologne, where, on New Year’s Eve, hundreds of German women were sexually assaulted by migrants.**
- **“For years the policy has been to leave the [German] population in the dark about the actual crime situation ... The citizens are being played for fools. Rather than tell the truth, they [government officials] are evading responsibility and passing blame onto the citizens and the police.”**
- **- André Schulz, director, Association of Criminal Police, Germany.**
- **10% of the migrants from the chaos in Iraq and Syria have reached Europe so far: “Eight to ten million migrants are still on the way.”**
- **- Gerd Müller, Development Minister.**

## Migrant Crime

*Continued from page 5*

the daytime, they hang out mostly in the St. George district, but in the evenings they carry out their activities in the Binnenalster, Flora- and Sternschanzenpark and St. Pauli [all across central Hamburg]. They usually appear in groups; up to 30 youths have been observed on weekend nights in St. Pauli. The behavior of these highly delinquent youths towards police officers can be characterized as aggressive, disrespectful and condescending. They are signaling that they are indifferent to police measures ...

“The youths quickly become conspicuous, mainly in

the domains of pickpocketing or street robbery. They also break into homes and vehicles, but the crimes are often reported as trespassing or vandalism because the youths are just looking for a place to sleep. Shoplifting for obtaining food is commonplace. When they are arrested, they resist and assault [the police officers]. The youths have no respect for state institutions.”

The paper reports that German authorities are reluctant to deport the youths back to their countries of origin because they are minors. As a result, as more unaccompanied minors arrive in Hamburg each day, the crime problem not only persists, but continues to grow.

Meanwhile, in a bid to save the city’s tourism industry, Hamburg police have launched a crackdown on purse-snatchers. More than 20,000 purses — roughly 55 a day — are stolen in the city each year. According to Norman Großmann, the director of the federal police inspector’s office in Hamburg, 90% of the purses are stolen by males between the ages of 20 and 30 who come from North Africa or the Balkans.

In Stuttgart, police are fighting a losing battle against migrant gangs from North Africa who are dedicated to the fine art of pickpocketing.

In Dresden, migrants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have



**September 2015, refugees stranded in Budapest demand free passage to Germany.**

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# Will You Get to HEAVEN?

**Are Your departed loved ones IN HEAVEN? Do Christians GO TO HEAVEN when they die? Are there really “MANSIONS IN THE SKY” waiting for you? Read the surprising, PLAIN TRUTH about these vital questions in your own Bible!**

*by Garner Ted Armstrong*

“Gone to be with the Lord,” it is said of dead church-going people today. Is this literally true? Do people really go to heaven when they die?

## **AN ANCIENT QUESTION**

Men have puzzled over the perplexing question of what happens after death for many, many centuries!

It has been somehow inconceivable to man, from his earliest beginnings, that death should end everything. Today, the modern world is divided into many major religions, each in its own turn being divided into many hundreds and even thousands of lesser sects and denominations.

The ancestor worshippers of the Orient firmly believe in a life after death with one's own relatives. The Muslims visualize an eternity in beautiful desert oases, surrounded by babbling waters and dancing girls. Different schisms of Hinduism believe in attaining a state of “great nothingness” in “Nirvana.”

Professing Christianity be-

lieves in going to “heaven.” Either immediately at death, or during the millennium, or at some other time.

Everywhere, there is the HOPE of a life after death — of an eternal REWARD. But nowhere, it seems, is there any agreement on WHERE THAT LIFE WILL BE SPENT!

Why such CONFUSION?

Why such IGNORANCE?

## **ONLY ONE SOURCE**

YOU don't need to be in confusion — you don't have to guess at the outcome of such a fantastically important question! There is an infallibly accurate, factual, thoroughly proved SOURCE to which you can go!

That source is YOUR OWN BIBLE! The Bible stands PROVED to be the inspired book of Almighty God — His written revelation to man. Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God [is God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II

Timothy 3:16). Peter wrote, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21).

You need to know you can rely on the Bible! You need to know you can put your FAITH in what it plainly says, and reject “feelings” of your own. You need to KNOW you can trust the Bible instead of the teachings of MEN, the assumptions of relatives, or a deathbed vision of a dying loved one!

If you are one who has always just assumed the Bible is true, but have never seen it infallibly demonstrated, then write or call immediately for the free booklet, “The Bible: Fact or Fiction?”

## **FALSE ASSUMPTIONS**

Every error is based upon a false premise just carelessly TAKEN FOR GRANTED. Most professing Christians have just TAKEN FOR GRANTED “heaven” is the reward of the saved! They have never gotten around to

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## Will You Get to Heaven?

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proving whether or not this is so from the Bible — but have taken it for granted!

Think for a moment! How many sermons can you recall attempting to PROVE heaven is the destiny of Christians? Probably you can recall MANY where heaven was mentioned, was contrasted to a supposed ever-burning hell, or was described. Probably, you have heard many hundreds of references to heaven as the final reward! But did you ever hear a sermon that PROVED it?

No! You never did!

Do you know why?

Because it can't be proved!

This doctrine — just like perhaps many others people “hold dear” is merely ASSUMED by most professing Christianity. It is “par for the course,” it is a common, unquestioned, basic assumption that is carelessly taken for granted!

You need to quit assuming!

You need to see it PROVED, one way or the other. You need to KNOW the truth — and to KNOW that you know, not just carelessly assume certain points to be true.

Perhaps you feel it would be “settling” for a LESSER goal to “settle” for earth, instead of “heaven.” Such sentiment are human ARGUMENTS which merely rationalize away, or reject a precious truth of God through RIDICULE, rather than carefully “searching the scriptures daily, WHETHER THESE THINGS BE SO!”

Surely you know you can't afford to let pre-conceived ideas, the concepts of others around you, bias or prejudice keep you chained with bonds of ignorance?

Remember — the truth of God can be proved — it can stand on its own feet! God's precious TRUTH does not need clever “catch phrases” or plays upon words to sustain it. It alone stands the test of ALL searching of scripture — of open-minded, earnest SEEKING for the truth! “SEEK, and ye shall find,”

promised your Savior!

### A PERPLEXING DILEMMA

Jesus talked, as recorded in the inspired Word of God, of a coming resurrection. He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live” (John 5:2). He went on to talk of those who were still in their graves at the time of the second coming of Christ, “Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [“judgement,” margin]” (John 5:25-26).

Very PLAIN, isn't it? Jesus said the hour was coming — very plainly referring to a yet future GENERAL RESURRECTION. He also referred to the resurrection of Lazarus and others in the New Testament when He said, “and now *is*.” Reading on into the 11th chapter, you read of this miraculous forerunner of the great resurrection at the end of the age.

Later, Jesus said, “... and every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:40). Read the exact TIME of the resurrection in your Bible! “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him, and I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY!” (John 6:44).





But what a perplexing dilemma! If Christians go to Heaven IMMEDIATELY WHEN THEY DIE — IF they are ALREADY in heaven, where they have been living in beautiful mansions for hundreds or even thousands of years — WHY BOTHER WITH A RESURRECTION?

If they have been released from this sin-sick world, from their old, worn-out, disease-ridden, corruptible bodies, and if they have been WITH Jesus Christ in heaven — why would Jesus take them OUT of heaven, bring them back to earth, plunge them BACK INTO their graves, and then go the fantastic, laborious effort of RESURRECTING THEM?

Isn't this a little difficult to believe? Does it really make sense?

#### NEVER PROMISED HEAVEN

SHOCKING though it may sound — the Jesus Christ of your Bible never promised heaven as the reward of the saved! He promised something entirely different!

Let's notice, first of all, the most-often quoted scriptures used by deluded men to preach the ancient, pagan doctrine of "going to heaven."

Perhaps you, like hundreds of thousands of others, have supposed Jesus said plainly, in the "sermon on the mount" that Christians go to heaven when they die. But He didn't!

Let's turn to this beautiful portion of the Bible, the very heart and core of REAL Christianity — and see just what Jesus

did say.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit," said Jesus, "for theirs is the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (Matthew 5:3). "Why, doesn't that say He promised heaven?" you might ask. NO, it doesn't!

**If we are to be with Him, where He is to  
BE then we, also, are going to be  
ON THIS EARTH!**

What if Jesus had said, "for theirs is the Bank OF Morgan." Does this mean He promised the money, and the stocks, bonds, securities, the wealth of the bank which is IN — INSIDE OF — MORGAN? Why, of course, this would be ridiculous! Notice the proof right in the same section. "Blessed are the MEEK," said Jesus two verses later, "for THEY shall INHERIT THE EARTH" (Matthew 5:5).

Does this mean the "poor in spirit" which merely means those who are truly HUMBLE are to go to HEAVEN — while those possessing a very similar attribute of Christian character — that of MEEKNESS, are to stay here on earth?

No! It means just what it says — that overcomers are to inherit the earth — the kingdom OF heaven — not the kingdom IN heaven!

#### HEAVENLY MANSIONS?

But what about the time-honored songs, the hopes of millions, the cherished "Christian tradi-

tions" of the "homes above" that so many have talked about, sung about, written about, all down through these years?

Turn to this scripture. You read it in John, the 14th chapter. "In my Father's house are many

mansions [margin, "abodes"] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and IF I GO and prepare a PLACE for you, I WILL COME AGAIN and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there YE MAY BE ALSO" (John 14:2-3)

Notice it — NOWHERE DID JESUS SAY SAINTS GO TO HEAVEN! He said, rather, there are PLACES, HABITATIONS, ABODES, MANSIONS, RESIDENCES which He IS PREPARING. These "places" are NOW "IN" HEAVEN. But Jesus went on to say, "I will COME AGAIN." Come where? To THIS EARTH, as Jesus repeated so many times. He also said, "that where I AM, there ye may be also" (verse 3).

Where will Jesus BE?

If Jesus COMES AGAIN TO THIS EARTH — then He will BE ON THIS EARTH! The EARTH, and a definite, specific location ON the earth, will be where Jesus said He is going to BE. If we are to BE WITH HIM where He is to BE — then we, also, are going to BE ON THIS EARTH!

## Will You Get to Heaven?

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What are the different “mansions” or places Jesus is now busily preparing? Read Luke 19! Jesus likened Himself to a young nobleman, who went on a long journey into a distant land to qualify to RULE A KINGDOM. At His return, He demanded an accounting from His servants. He then apportioned different responsibilities to them, according to how much they had overcome!

Jesus said Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of God here on this earth, and revealed the twelve disciples will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel!

David referred to being a “door-keeper” in God’s kingdom as being better than the highest offices here on this earth.

Jesus promises RULERSHIP over nations (Rev. 2:26) and offices of KINGS AND PRIESTS in His kingdom!

There are different PLACES, different ABODES, different OFFICES and POSITIONS in God’s soon-coming kingdom for which individuals must qualify!

That is what Christ is doing NOW! He is working through His church, preparing individuals for official positions in God’s Kingdom! He is putting certain humans through experiences which will better fit them for a certain PLACE in the government of God!

How vastly misunderstood has been this important scripture!

Notice the plain truth of your Bible. “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee ...” (Zech. 14:1). Then follows a graphic description of the ac-

companying SIGNS of the second coming of Jesus Christ! Be sure you read every word in your own Bible. Now notice verse four. “And His feet shall stand IN THAT DAY upon the Mount of Olives” (Zech. 14:4).

Yes — it is called the SECOND COMING of Christ. The second arrival. He is COMING again! And He will arrive HERE, on this earth!

The very first message God ever sent back to this earth after the departure of Jesus to heaven is recorded in Acts the first chapter. The disciples were looking up into the skies, where they saw Jesus disappear into a cloud (verse 9). “And, while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven SHALL SO COME [RETURN TO THIS EARTH] IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN” (Acts 1:10-11).

Yes, Christ is to COME AGAIN to this EARTH!

Now, for another surprise, turn to the well-known scripture found in I Thessalonians the 4th chapter. “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep [ARE DEAD — NOT OFF IN HEAVEN] in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not



**Burial on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem began over 3,000 years ago and now has over 150,000 tombs. (1)**



prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall DESCEND (come DOWN OUT OF) heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ SHALL RISE FIRST.”

No mention here of saints coming from heaven — but of DEAD saints RISING FIRST BEFORE THE LIVING ARE CHANGED!

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them in the CLOUDS, to MEET the Lord IN THE AIR, and so shall we ever be WITH THE LORD” (I Thess. 4:14-17).

HOW PLAIN!

Jesus is returning from heaven. The dead and living saints are to be caught up — NOT TO HEAVEN — BUT INTO THE AIR, INTO THE CLOUDS! Simply scoffing at the real meaning of these plain scriptures will NOT CHANGE them. Not WANTING to believe the precious, glorious PLAIN TRUTH of the Bible will not do away with it!

What you are reading in this article is directly from the sacred Word of God. Perhaps it sounds NEW — different to you from what you may have always assumed or taken for granted!

You may have a natural, human tendency to want to cling to previous convictions — or what you have always heard.

But what about it?

Are you one who really zealously desires the TRUTH of God? If you are — you’ll be looking up



**Tradition holds that many of the ancient Prophets and Kings of Israel and Judah are entombed upon the Mount of Olives. (2)**

these scriptures IN YOUR OWN BIBLE. You’ll be reading before them, after them, and other related scriptures. You’ll be striving to PROVE these things — however strange they may seem to you — and prove them from the Bible. Again we say — DON’T BELIEVE MEN. Don’t believe this article UNLESS you check up and see it proved!

This article is not written to ridicule, or try to prejudice your mind against a doctrine. Rather, it is written to point out to you where you may find the TRUTH of God on this very important question! May God help you to remove bias, to get your ideas in subjection to God’s truth — and to BELIEVE what you see clearly PROVED!

Remember, Jesus is coming to earth from heaven, as we have seen so plainly. He is returning after being away. He is coming back after a long absence.

If YOU had been away on a LONG JOURNEY, of many thousands of miles into a foreign country, and were going to return and you wanted your family to MEET you, what would they do?

Would your ship be near the harbor, and then your family jump aboard the pilot boat, board the vessel, and all of you then go back to the foreign country from which you came?

We are to MEET Christ as He RETURNS! And nowhere does your Bible say we will go to Heaven with him!

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “... ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead ...” (I Thess. 1:9-10).

He is coming here, and we are to go part way — only as high as the clouds — to meet Him, and then to come right down to this earth with Him!

## Will You Get to Heaven?

*Continued from page 11*

“So shall we ever be WITH THE LORD,” says your Bible. But where will the Lord be? ON THIS EARTH!

### WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

“But didn’t the thief on the cross go immediately with Jesus to heaven?” some might ask.

And it’s a good question! What about the promise Jesus apparently made to one of the mal-factors who was dying beside Him?

Notice! The very same ones who believe the thief on the cross went into paradise with Jesus immediately after death also believe Jesus did not go to paradise, but went immediately into hell to preach to departed “spirits”! How could this BE?

Many assume Jesus did not die on the cross!

He said He was DEAD (Rev. 1:18). Unless He DIED for our sins, we cannot be reconciled to God! And yet many assume Jesus was alive during the time in the tomb, alive down in HELL, supposedly busily “preaching” to some departed souls!

If Jesus promised immediate entry into PARADISE to the thief, and then spent time in HELL, AFTER which He appeared again on earth, and said to Mary, “TOUCH ME NOT, for I am not yet ascended to my Father...” (John 20:17) and did not have the thief with Him — then

did Jesus LIE?

No, Jesus did not lie — neither did He go into a burning HELL — but into “hades” which NEVER, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, has anything whatsoever to do with infernal fires, but means, simply, “the GRAVE!” Check any reliable concordance, commentary, or lexicon for proof of this.

Jesus was DEAD for THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS (Matt. 12:40). He did not go that very day to paradise — as He, Himself, later said plainly!

Then what happened?

Notice it! The Greek language never included separation of chapter, verse, or punctuation marks, as commonly used in the English language today. Rather, it was written without any paragraphing, or punctuation. It was divided into verses and chapters, as it appears in our English Bibles today, many hundreds of years after the New Testament was written!

Notice how the whole meaning of certain sentences in the English language can be changed by merely changing the punctuation marks!

John might ask, “What’s that up in the road, ahead?” And it may sound as if he were asking if he saw a HEAD, the head of a human or an animal, in the road. But if you put the comma in the correct location, the sentence would read thusly: “What’s that, up in the road ahead?” and it would make sense.

Now turn to Luke 23:43. Read it carefully. Jesus APPEARS to

have said, by the placement of the comma in the English version, “TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.” And yet Jesus KNEW He was not going to enter into Paradise ON THAT DAY — or for the next THREE OR FOUR DAYS!!

Now put the comma where it BELONGS, to preserve the sense of this scripture as proved by all other scriptures on the subject (remember, the Bible interprets itself). “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto you today, THOU SHALT BE WITH ME IN PARADISE!” Jesus said it THAT DAY, and promised the thief WOULD BE in paradise — But He most certainly DID NOT promise paradise to the thief that very day!

If this could have been true, Jesus not only lied, but made an exception to all others, and became a respecter of persons. Also, He said He is the SAME through all ages (Heb. 13:8) and does not change!

“Paradise” is commonly assumed to mean “heaven!” But again simply because this is assumed, and carelessly taken for granted does not make it so! The “paradise” will be on this earth!

NOTICE WHAT THE THIEF ASKED!

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me WHEN THOU COMEST [returns to this literal earth below] INTO THY KINGDOM!”

### GOD’S KINGDOM ON EARTH

Notice some conclusive scriptures. In the mysterious vi-

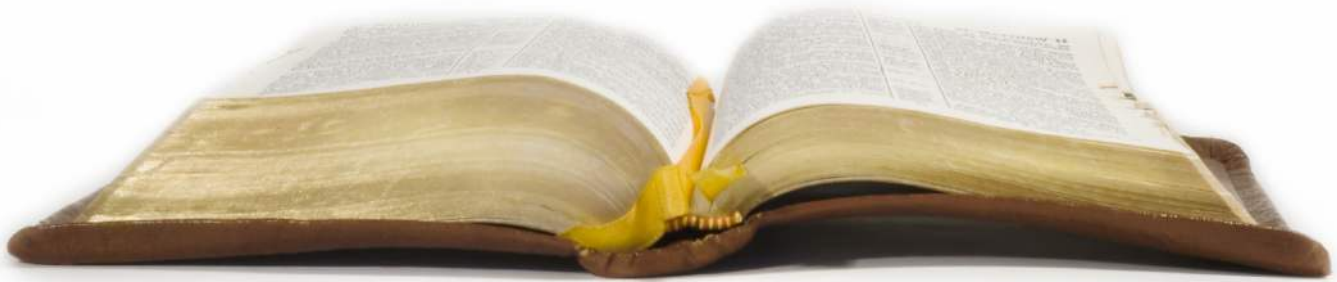
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## BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James Ricks

# SOCIALISM: BIBLICAL TENET OR PHILOSOPHY OF MAN?



**“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”  
– Colossians 2:8**

In John 1:15-17 John writes to the church not to love the ways of this world. This would include human governmental and philosophical approaches to the problems man may face. See Colossians 2:8 where Paul warns about the man-made philosophies of this world. This would include the disastrous ideology of Carl Marx, who invented modern Socialism. Communism is a step further than Socialism, allowing no private personal property and enforcing complete governmental control of an entire economy.

The greatest economic collapse of the twentieth century was that of the vast Soviet Union empire. The people were so impoverished and oppressed that a wall was erected to keep them locked into the failing system, thus the infamous Iron Curtain. Communist governments have murdered hundreds of millions of people to enforce these economic rules that do not work. I would suggest reading

*The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression* by Stephane Courtois for details.

Too much socialism defies natural human behavior — the system could never be productive. Let’s imagine a ranch where one brother is industrious and productive and the other brother is lazy and unproductive. If you tax away the income from the productive son and give it to the unproductive son to achieve Communism’s necessary income redistribution (couldn’t let the unproductive brother starve, now could we), what have you really done? You have demotivated both workers! Next year, production will be a lot lower. Why should the productive brother work so hard when he won’t get to enjoy the fruit of his labor? It is also corrupting the brother who is being paid for not working. Why work when everything you need is given to you by someone else? See II Thessalonians 3:10-11.

Remember, God warned Israel about the danger of large centralized government and a powerful king. In our times, a communist party boss and dictator like Stalin would be one example. It is a true saying that, ‘absolute power corrupts absolutely!’ See I Samuel Chapter 8. Stalin had total political and economic power over the people.

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## BIBLE STUDY

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### GOD REQUIRES VOLUNTARY CHARITABLE GIVING, NOT FORCED CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY

The level of giving is up to the individual. It is not the same as taxation which either you pay or you go to jail. Charity is not coerced. The Bible teaches charity, not extreme confiscation by the government, which is an element of socialism/communism.

In Acts 5 we read that many were selling their possessions and pooling their money together to support the growing church so that they could learn and unify. Ananias sold a possession, presumably for the church, but instead of donating the entire sum as he claimed, he deceptively gave only a part.

Peter explained to Ananias that his personal property was his to control and do with as he wished. The issue was that Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied about how much they were actually giving. Had they been honest about what money they had kept for themselves, it wouldn't have been an issue. It is clear from the Bible that the church was not a forced form of communal government and had respect for private property.

The Bible supports charity and helping those in need. Israel had a law that the fields could not be harvested to the corners so that poor people could harvest the leftovers and either feed themselves or sell the grain they had gleaned. God did not tell the Israelites to set up the wealth police to forcefully take produce and land from the farmers and redistribute their wealth. He gave no authorization for the civil government to tax the people and take or manage their land and income to give to others.

God did require that the people pay tithes to the Levites and Priests because they were not able to own land and work it. They were the only ones to do temple services for the people and were supported by the people whom they served. God's tithing law was dependent on the people obeying Him and being generous with their blessings. The state had no enforcement capacities. Tithing was up to the people.

### GOD'S WORD CONDEMNS GREED, NOT PROSPERITY

Living a prosperous life and earning money is not condemned, but the LOVE of money is. Coveting material things is wrong but one can be prosperous or even rich and be in God's favor, just look at Abraham or Job. Needless to say a person who is not rich can covet and be materialistic as well as one who is. Political economist and moral philosopher Adam Smith asserted that true capitalism is to serve your customers with the best product you can, and that this approach will help people to succeed and in turn serve others. Note Matthew 7:12, Proverbs 10:4.

In his book *Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith described the free market as "invisible hands." These hands guide the acts of individuals to promote more prosperity than the individuals had planned, which then leads to an orderly and efficient distribution of goods and services. All this emerges from people acting in their own self-interest. Renowned Austrian economist and Nobel Prize winner in Economic Sciences, Friedrich Hayek, marveled at what he called the "spontaneous order" of the market place and noted that, "If Socialists understood economics, they wouldn't be Socialists!"

When Communist dictator Mikhail Gorbachev asked British Prime minister Margaret Thatcher how the British people got fed if no one in the government planned it she replied, "The price system does it." The Soviet Communist empire always had trouble feeding its people, at times there were even food police! Free trade creates a win-win situation. It is not a zero sum game. Wealth is expanded by trading freely among producers.

Global Capitalism has lifted 150 million Indians out of abject poverty and almost 400 million Chinese out of poverty in the last 25 years. Capitalism made America the economic engine that is the nexus of world trade, business innovation, and prosperity.

When the Pilgrims arrived in the new world,

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## BIBLE STUDY

they first tried a system where everything was shared by the community. It failed because of the ‘free rider’ problem. Then Governor Bradford gave each family starting capital and allowed them to keep all their profits for themselves, minus repaying any debts accrued in Europe.

The colony became a huge economic success and as word got back to the old world, people streamed across the oceans and the rest is history. They worked hard for their own family’s prosperity and the entire colony benefited. Read about the reward of hard work in Proverbs 22:29

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT INCOME INEQUALITY?

The parable of the talents indicates that God has allowed people to possess varying abilities and opportunities. All people should be treated equally but it’s important to recognize that while some will create vast business enterprises or invent unique machines to better serve the public, others may be musically inclined, artistic, or simply have a more giving and helpful attitude towards others.

Note Matt 25:14-30. God rewarded each according to *their* works based on their *individual* talent. You must serve to the best of your abilities, in whatever capacity that may be.

If someone creates more wealth than another, that wealth does not diminish the other party. If you are more productive than someone else, it does not diminish his material goods one bit. It’s not uncommon for propagandists to compare the income or lifestyle of the wealthiest people to the poorest. The

reaction they want to elicit is clear, “Why don’t we take money away from the rich and give it to those ‘less fortunate’?”

This may sound very nice to some, but stealing, even by government decree, violates God’s law. The results of this ethos in the real world have been shocking. We have seen the extreme brutality of Communist dictators (the end justifies the means, they say) and the spreading of poverty like a virus. Look at the record of the fallen Communist empires, including the only one left standing economically, North Korea.

If we are worried about anyone having too much power, then it is the government that should worry us. The U.S. government’s budget is larger than any wealthy person’s. They also have the power to coerce and manipulate millions. How long can a nation possibly survive when voters allow the government to steal for them, violating the eighth commandment? That Law of God protects and supports private property and individual earnings.

The trouble is that many modern philosophers measure capitalism with a utopian measuring rod. No system looks good in this light! We will not see utopia until Christ’s second coming. Yet it is the best economic system available based on real world experience. A Christian cannot serve two masters, greed and God. Note Matt 6:19-24, 33. Where our treasure is there will our heart be and our hearts should be about devotion to God. Our first priority should be about loving and obeying God. Then supporting His work and charity. Jesus criticized the hoarding of wealth and trusting in possessions rather than in God. Capitalism is not being condemned and socialism is not being approved. □

L I N E U P O N L I N E

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# Auditor:

## Soon Government Will Owe More Money Than Entire Economy Produces

by Ali Meyer for the *Washington Free Beacon*

Gene Dodaro, the comptroller general for the Government Accountability Office, testified at the Senate Budget Committee to provide the results of its audit on the government's financial books.

"We're very heavily leveraged in debt," Dodaro said. "The historical average post-World War II of how much debt we held as a percent of gross domestic product was 43 percent on average; right now we're at 74 percent."

Dodaro says that under current law, debt held by the public will hit a historic high.

"The highest in the United States government's history of debt held by the public as a percent of gross domestic product was 1946, right after World War II," he said. "We're on mark to hit that in the next 15 to 25 years."

Another economic projection which assumes that cost controls for Medicare don't hold and that healthcare costs continue to in-

crease, shows debt rising further.

"These projections go to 200, 300 percent, and even higher of debt held by the public as a percent of gross domestic product," said Dodaro. "We're going to owe more than our entire economy is producing and by definition this is not sustainable."

Additionally, the audit found fault with the number of improper payments that should not have been made or were the incorrect amount. The audit found that in fiscal year 2015 there were \$136.7 billion improper payments, which was up by \$12 billion from the year prior.

The audit also called into question the reliability of the government's financial statements. According to the report, if a federal entity purchases a good or service, that cost should match the revenue recorded by the federal entity that sold the good or service. The report found that this was not always the case and

found hundreds of billions of dollars in differences between transactions between federal entities.

"The government-wide financial statements that the GAO audits tell us what came into the government's coffers and what went out, what the government owns and what it owes, and if the operations are financially sustainable," said Sen. Mike Enzi (R., Wyo.). "But can we trust the information in the statements?"

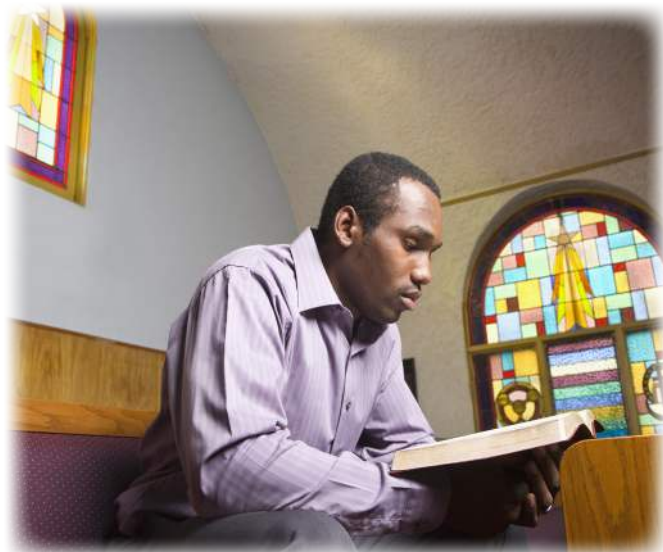
"GAO's audit calls into question the reliability of the underlying financial data," he said. "The sketchiness is such that GAO remains unable to even issue an audit opinion on the government's books."

According to the audit, these weaknesses will eventually harm the government's ability to reliably report their assets, liabilities, and costs, and this will prevent the government from having the information to operate in an efficient and effective manner. □



# DO CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS WORSHIP THE SAME GOD?

by Jim Josephsen



In the overload of news events inundating media headlines these days, events eroding our sensibilities, events elevating fear and insecurity across the world, few may have noticed the same God polemic that recently brought national attention to Wheaton College and one of its Professors, Dr. Larycia Hawkins. Perhaps fewer noticed Dr. Hawkins' Facebook post, which set off this controversy, eventually leading to her dismissal from the College.

Back in early December 2015, several days following the San Bernardino massacre, Dr. Hawkins pledged to wear a hajib (the headscarf worn by Muslim women) throughout the pre-Christmas season of advent, including while teaching classes at Wheaton College. This she did

as a gesture, showing her support of what she called "embodied solidarity" with Muslims.

In addition to this outward demonstration of unity, she posted to her Facebook page the following: "I don't love my Muslim neighbor because s/he is American. I love my Muslim neighbor because s/he deserves love by virtue of her/his human dignity. I stand in human solidarity with my Muslim neighbor because we are formed of the same primordial clay, descendants of the same cradle of mankind -- a cave in Sterkfontein, South Africa that I had the privilege to descend into to plumb the depths of our common humanity in 2014. I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book. And

as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God."

It was those last five words that did her in. When the decision was made to terminate Dr. Hawkins, College officials emphasized her wearing a Muslim hajib had little to do with the decision. Rather it was particular statements, which she posted on social media, which ultimately led to her departure. Dr. Hawkins' view that Muslims and Christians worship the same God was in conflict with the school's Statement of Faith, which all faculty must sign annually.

From the onset, the support Dr. Hawkins received from the local religious community and religious leaders had been overwhelming. In a subsequent interview on Chicago's WTTW

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## Christians and Muslims

*Continued from page 17*

program, ‘*Chicago Tonight*,’ Dr. Hawkins defended her Facebook postings by saying, “What I said in my post has been affirmed by the Christian church for centuries and has been affirmed by many prominent evangelicals.”

“For centuries” may be questionable. However, of late, notice: Addressing Catholic faithful back in 1964, the *Lumen Gentium 16* affirmed that of Muslims — “Mohammedans, who professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one, merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind.”

In a recent speech, Pope Francis addressed Vatican guests by saying, “Jesus, Jehovah, Allah. These are names employed to describe an entity that is distinctly the same across the world ... we are all the children of God regardless of the name we choose to address him by ... we can accomplish miraculous things in the world by merging our faiths, and the time for such movement is now.”

According to LifeWay-Research.com, about 35% of Evangelical Protestants believe Muslims and Christians worship the same God. Among the general population in America, 46% believe Christians and Muslims worship the same God.

Interestingly, the phrase “people of the book” as used by Dr. Hawkins, is found in the Koran to describe Christians, Jews



**Dr. Larycia Hawkins, formerly of Wheaton College.**

and Muslims. Today, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are universally acknowledged as the three great monotheistic religions. It is commonly asserted that all three religions worship the God of Abraham, as Abraham provides the nexus among all three faiths.

Zeki Saritoprak, Professor of Islamic studies at Cleveland’s John Carroll University pointed out that in the Koran there is the story of Jacob asking his sons whom they’ll worship after his death. Jacob’s sons replied, ‘We will worship the God of your fathers’ — Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac. As the Koran teaches, the God that Jacob worshipped, the God that Abraham and Isaac worshipped is the same God that Ishmael worshipped. Consequently, it is taught, that this God — the

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — is the God Muslims worship today.

With these examples, it is logical then to understand why theologians such as Dr. Hawkins, Protestants, Evangelicals and Catholics and those having little or no religious education would conclude that these three faiths all worship the same God.

However, do they? Do these three monotheistic religions worship the same God? Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? Do Muslims understand who is the God of Christianity?

Examining the origins of these three religions, it is recognized that Jews and Christians have a common ground, a similar root of truth, a foundation



that they share. Christianity progressed out of the religion of Israel/Judah of that day. The term Judeo-Christian has a significant meaning and necessary relevance even today. However, this sharing of common ground cannot be said of Islam. Islam is a religion that took shape during the 7th century AD, consisting of diametrically opposing doctrines, beliefs and concepts of God.

In the Old Testament of the Christian Bible, which is equivalent to the Jewish Tanakh, the book of Genesis reveals the identity of the God who spoke to Ishmael's mother Hagar, while she was on a road between Beer-Sheba and Egypt, the God who blessed Ishmael physically (cf. Genesis 16, 17:20; 21:13-20).

The God of Abraham is the God who interceded in the lives of Hagar and Ishmael for that moment in history. Because Ishmael was Abraham's son, God was merciful and promised a physical blessing, promising Ishmael bountiful progeny. God promised Ishmael that he would beget twelve princes and God would make him a great nation. However, any promise of a coming Messiah, any spiritual and physical blessings, any covenant or any responsibility to preserve the truth of God — that was not given to Ishmael or his children.

Of tremendous importance and a fact of history, Ishmael was not the child of promise. God only showed Ishmael and his mother *physical* mercy. Factual and most importantly, Isaac was and is the child of promise (cf.

Genesis 17:19-21; Genesis 21:2-3,12; Genesis 26:24-25; Genesis 28:13-14; Acts 3:25; Romans 9:7-10; Galatians 4:28; Hebrews 11:18-20), the child of the covenant, given both physical and *spiritual* blessings. With Isaac was the promise that all nations of the earth would be blessed and the coming of the Messiah. Included in the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we find that the truth revealed by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be spoken of, promoted, known, maintained and preserved among their descendants, throughout all generations.

The truth of God would not be maintained with or preserved through Ishmael's descendants. As the subsequent centuries of history confirmed, the descendants of Ishmael worshipped various pagan gods and adopted heathen practices. God did not bless or punish them directly or specifically. God was not involved with their lives. There was no common central religion nor worshipping of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob among the divided and numerous Ishmaelitic tribes. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did not work with or through Ishmael's descendants.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was known personally and intimately to these men by the name *El Shaddai* (a Hebrew phrase meaning "God Almighty" cf. Exodus 6:3). This same God was later distinguished by the name *Yahweh*; I AM THAT I AM (cf. Exodus 3:6-16), the memorial and covenant name by which

the Children of Israel would call God; being preserved by the successive generations of the Children of Israel.

In the 7th century AD came the arrival of Islam and a new adaptation of God. With Islam's interpretation of historical events, Ishmael replaced Isaac as the son of promise. Along with this aberration, the Koran reinterprets the lives of Biblical celebrities such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and David as well as Jesus and Mary. The most glaring fabrication and reinterpretation is that of Jesus Christ and of who He was.

With Islam came a new interpretation of God; an interpretation not befitting the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; an interpretation clearly not harmonious with the God of the New Testament.

Who then is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God recognized by Christianity? Can it be said that Muslims worship this same God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as do Christians?

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is this very God, who was "in the beginning" (cf. Genesis 1:1). The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the God consistent throughout the Christian Bible and the Jewish Tanakh; who is revealed as the creator and sustainer of life; the Almighty One who is the provider, who is merciful, compassionate and forgiving, who loves life and hates evil. A God who cannot lie (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2) but only reveals truth, who stands for justice, lib-

## Christians and Muslims

*Continued from page 19*

erty, mercy and righteousness; a God who punishes unrepentant evil works but is forgiving to those who repent.

Revealing the truth of God does not end with the Tanakh. God's precious truth continues and is further revealed in the Christian Bible. The truth of and about God, the truth which Islam will never accept or teach is the fact that the very God of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ. The God who was known and is known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God who spoke to the prophets; the God

man, to die by crucifixion at the age of 33 and a half years. This very God, who became man, lived and died in the flesh, was then resurrected three days and three nights later, to once again become God — to live forever more as Redeemer and Savior of mankind.

For the Christian faith, the facts are evident, plain and clear. As revealed in the Book of John (1:1-18, along with 1 John 1:1-4 and John 17:5), we learn that Jesus Christ, who was "in the beginning," was God. Jesus Christ was the Word (Greek: *Logos*, meaning "spokesman"). Jesus Christ was God and was with God (the God who we know today as God, the Father).

**The truth of and about God, the truth which Islam will never accept or teach, is the fact that the very God of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ.**

who covenanted with Israel; *that* God is the very being, the very individual, the very personage who is Jesus Christ.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob emptied Himself of His Godhood, His power, His glory. Jesus Christ, who IS the very God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob humbled himself to become a human being, to save His people from their sins. He was miraculously transformed by His Father, placed in the womb of a young virgin, developed as a zygote, then a fetus to be born a baby, to grow and mature into a

When the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Jesus Christ) came to this earth through physical birth in the flesh, He was named Jesus (Matthew 1:21, Luke 1:31, 2:21). He was called the Son of God (Matthew 3:17, Luke 1:35), also named Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23), meaning "God is with us." Among His many responsibilities was that of revealing, introducing for the first time, His Father — God, the Father, to mankind. Prior to that time, the world did not know God, the Father (cf. John 8:54-55, 17:25, John 1:18, Matthew

11:27). No one has ever seen the Father nor heard His voice (John 1:18, John 5:37, John 6:46; 1 John 4:12). Consequently, as a truth, the God who spoke to His creation, spoke to Israel, spoke to Moses and the Prophets; the God who was seen (e.g. Exodus 24:9-11; 33:18-23; Deuteronomy 4:12, 33, 36; 5:24), was and is the very being who is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was and is the I AM (cf. Exodus 3:6-16) of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God who spoke to Abraham. Jesus Christ existed before Abraham was even born. Notice: "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I AM" (John 8:56-58 NIV).

In the beginning there existed two distinct, individual "mighty ones;" two individual spirit beings, two distinct Gods. The Hebrew word *Elohim* clarifies that fact. *Elohim* is a uni-plural word expressing two or more existing as one. Like the words church or family or nation which expresses a group of many, all acting in unison as one. *Elohim* translates to the English phrase "mighty ones." In the beginning, God, *Elohim* (two acting in concert, as one, with one purpose and one objective) said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... (Genesis 1:26). Notice also Genesis 3:22, which reveals two beings. "And the Lord God said, Behold the man has become as one of us ..."

Notice now 1 Samuel 4:8. "Woe unto us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that



smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.”

Jesus Christ said, “My Father who has given them to me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father’s hands. I and the Father are one” (John 10:29-30 NIV). Continuing, Jesus Christ said, “I go unto my Father: for my Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

It is evident; from the beginning there have been two distinct, two separate, two unique, two individuals; TWO Gods, who are both God; both functioning together in harmony as one. God the Father is greater and above all. Jesus Christ is His beloved Son, God, Judge and Savior of mankind, who speaks on behalf of, is the Spokesman for the Father, facilitator over His Father’s work. Both existing from the beginning, acting in one accord, in unison of purpose, objective, expectation and principle.

For the Christian religion, Jesus Christ was God; became a human being, died and was resurrected and now again is God. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Messiah and Savior of mankind. The promise of the Messiah extends back to Genesis 3:15 and is prevalent throughout the Old Testament. Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, anointed by His Father; was born in the flesh, by a miracle, begotten of God, the Father. Jesus Christ came down from heaven, from His Father (cf. John 3:13, 16:28). After He was resurrected, Jesus Christ then returned to His Father (cf. John 20:17), sitting

at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven (cf. Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3).

This is the truth that Islam does not understand, accept or teach. That Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament and that He was born in the flesh, the Son of God, that He was crucified

and crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not” (sura 4:157).

That Muslims and Christians worship the same God; such a statement is born out of igno-

**To Muslims, Jesus was just a man, a messenger of God who eventually died. He was nothing more.**

is anathema to the Islamic faith.

To Muslims, Jesus was just a man, a messenger of God who eventually died. He was nothing more. Jesus was acknowledged as the son of Mary, not the son of God, because it would be “unseemly,” as the Koran teaches, for Allah to have offspring.

The Koran states (sura 3: 58), “Jesus is as Adam in the sight of Allah. He created him as dust.” Notice further in sura 5:75: “Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food.” Notice sura 19:92: “For it is not consonant with the majesty of (Allah) Most Gracious that He should beget a son.”

Islam denies the crucifixion of Christ. “That they said (in boast), ‘We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah’; but they killed him not, nor cru-

rance of the truth. Do these two religions worship the same God?

No! These two religions do not worship the same God!

Be it for those of the Islamic faith, Christian faith, Jewish faith, of all faiths currently extant today; there is one truth that all religions will come to know.

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth as God and King over all the nations of the world, then all religions with their gods will be dissolved. There will no longer be any such confusion. Then all mankind will gladly bow their knees before Jesus Christ, the very God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; doing so to the glory of God, The Father (cf. Philippians 2:9-11). “And the Eternal (the I AM, who is Jesus Christ) shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord and His name one” (Zachariah 14:9). When that day finally arrives, then all humanity will worship the same God. □

# VENEZUELA: UTOPIA IN COLLAPSE

by Michael Armstrong

Venezuela is in big trouble. Recent reports highlight hunger due to food shortages. Protests are turning violent outside of empty supermarkets. In the suburbs of Caracas, the capital city, water is only being supplied once a week and is so dirty that it appears brown and is making people sick. Blackouts are rampant, government offices are closed for all but two half-days a week and public schools are closed on Friday in a desperate attempt to conserve electricity. Venezuela is shutting down. This is turmoil on a scale unknown in a country whose modern history has been plagued by crisis and tumult. Why?

The mid 1990s saw the poverty rate over 60% and inflation peak at 100% in 1996. A collapse of confidence in existing polit-

ical parties saw Hugo Chavez elected President of Venezuela in 1998. The so-called “Bolivar Revolution” was fueled by promises of massive social spending. The constitution was re-written and the country’s name officially changed to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. These changes were unabashedly socialist and the programs enacted, known as Bolivarian Missions, included housing subsidies, food distribution, educational campaigns and the construction of thousands of free medical clinics as well as mandatory vaccinations. All this was made possible by increasing government control of industry.

Venezuela has one of the largest oil reserves in the world. Petroleum exports account for over 50% of the country’s GDP and

make up about 95% of total exports. It also accounts for 45% of the government’s revenue. In the early 2000s oil prices soared and the Venezuelan government had unprecedented funds at its disposal. The oil industry had previously been completely nationalized and in 2001 limits were placed on foreign investment.

Though temporarily advantageous, this link between oil prices and government revenue has proven fatal. Political power gained by promising benefits to constituents goes away if government can not continue to deliver them. When oil prices went up, Venezuela’s spending increased with its prosperity. When they went down the government resorted to heavy-handed intervention, having squandered its temporary financial gains.

The government raised the minimum wage, now it also controls prices, forcing businesses to pay high wages and sell for low profits. It has locked the exchange rate between the Bolivar (Venezuela’s currency) and the US dollar, making it impossible for local businesses to afford dollars to pay foreign suppliers.

In 2007 Venezuela nationalized its electricity and telecommunications industries, both of which were primarily owned by foreign companies. This was yet





another frightening move in the eyes of investors who had once made the development of Venezuela's vast natural resources possible. The total number of businesses operating in the country is down to about 30% of what it was before the socialist revolution. The government has devalued its currency numerous times. In 2011 it repatriated \$11 billion worth of gold bullion which was being held abroad. However it was quickly spent.

Hugo Chavez was elected to the presidency four times. He was succeeded by his vice president, Nicolas Maduro, after his death on March 5th, 2013. Having since been popularly elected twice, conditions now are worse than ever before.

Maduro has currently declared a national state of emergency for the second time in the past year. National Guard troops are stationed to prevent looting and outbursts of violence. Crime statistics are soaring. Some es-



timates put inflation as high as 275% and rising to 4-digits by 2017. Citizens are assigned certain days to shop based on their government ID numbers; lines stretch for blocks and many wait all day with small children regardless of burning sun or rain only to be turned away because the stores have run out of food. A recent poll shows nearly 70% believe President Maduro must go.

As is always the case with so-

cialism, the poor, the same people who were seduced by promises of "income equality" and various other forms of state sponsored largesse, are the ones who suffer most when it all falls apart. So if the poor are as poor or poorer than ever, who has benefited from the destruction of one of the world's top oil producing countries? Once again an overgrown parasitic government has taken its toll by providing opportunity for those in power to plunder and divert funds into their own pockets. Venezuela consistently ranks among the most corrupt countries in the world. When will the world learn that freedom doesn't mean free things, that government doesn't provide prosperity? Venezuelans seem to be learning it the hard way; portraits of Hugo Chavez loom over empty shelves in state run supermarkets with the slogan "an achievement of the revolution!" According to *Reuters*, Maduro supports Bernie Sanders for the US Presidency. □





# Sit or Stand

## THERE IS NO IN BETWEEN



*by Jim Josephsen*

The disorientation of the United States of America continues. With defiant disregard for logic, morality — oh and God — a directive was issued May 13, 2016 jointly by the Departments of Education and Justice requiring Public Schools across America to allow transgender students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity (expression) rather than a bathroom that matches their birth gender (their physical equipment). The directive included guidelines, which will ensure “transgender students enjoy a supportive and non-discriminatory school environment.”

According to this directive, “A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so.”

Senior officials at the Departments of Justice and Education have indicated this new directive has been issued in response to the growing concerns raised by educators, faculty, school board officials, parents and students across the country, in addition to the National Association of Secondary School Principals in their de-

sire to clarify the legal and civil obligations and “best practices” in the treatment of transgender students.

The US Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, chimed in, stating, “There is no room in our schools for discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against transgender students on the basis of their sex. ... This guidance gives Administrators, teachers and parents the tools they need to protect transgender students from peer harassment and to identify and address unjust school policies.”

The Obama Administration, through its Department of Justice and Education, has made it clear that under its interpretation of Title IX and related privacy rights and sex-segregated athletics, it has every legal ground to execute this new directive.

In addition, the most recent federal lawsuits filed by the state of North Carolina and the Federal Government have brought the transgender debate to full exposure. At issue is North Carolina’s HB2, which in simple terms, requires transgender people to use public restrooms that correspond to their sex at birth. The Attorney General once again added her

opinion to this debate stating that HB2 is like unto Jim Crow laws. She assures transgender Americans, “We will do everything we can to protect you.”

Of late, the Administration has aggressively supported and overtly protected the rights of gay or as called same-sex marriage as well as allowing LGBT to serve openly in the military. In addition to prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT, the Obama Administration is forging ahead unabated, to protect and promote the transgender class, availing them access to bathrooms of their choice in public institutions. The ultimate goal of the Administration is to provide all transgender people access to the bathroom of their gender identity in all venues, public and private.

It is understood, this recent directive does not carry the weight of law. Still it is a clear message that public educational institutions need to comply or face the loss of Federal Funds. Street talk, you would call this action blackmail, perhaps extortion, certainly intimidation.

To understand the street level translation of this directive, the Administration is accommodat-

ing the following scenario. Johnny, born as a beautiful bouncy baby boy, with male equipment, chooses to become a female. Johnny, now Josie has the protected right to go into the girl's bathroom or girl's locker room or shower – before his sex-change operation. Johnny then is to be able to do so with impunity and public school districts are supposed to applaud and support this abnormality, regardless of the rights, privileges, dignity, modesty and decorum of real girls, faithful to the birth gender. That example may be a giddy simple playground illustration, but the reality is raw, ugly, painful and deviant.

Transgender protection is a trend in full force. Its promotion will instigate heated controversy, further instigating discord and vitriol among the States, government officials, school districts, staff members, students, parents, friends, churches and the American public at large.

This whimsically called “bathroom law” will soon become the law of the land, and you had better get used to it. Soon you will no longer be able to laugh at, ridicule, parody or berate transgender behavior.

With transgender conversation incorporating language, which includes talk of Jim Crow laws, concomitant with civil rights, you can rest assured, as the direction of this country is going, LGBT will be given full protection under constitutional law and a ratified civil rights bill.

The transgender movement

is gaining momentum not only in America but also across the world. It seems gender assignment (one's sex at birth) is of less significance than one's gender identity (one's gender expression or what he or she feels he or she wants to be).

Conservative estimates indicate there are currently some 700,000 American transgender people. This number does not accurately reflect the thousands of youth persuaded to pursue gender adjustment. Children as young as 4, 5 and 6 along with a

**Children as young as 4, 5 and 6, along with a significant number of tweens, are encouraged to pursue the gender they feel they are and not the gender they really are.**

significant number of tweens, are encouraged to pursue the gender they feel they are and not the gender they really are. Transgender arguments, social and scientific studies, television programs and social media all reinforce self-expression, promoting gender self-determination.

It is not just the Obama Administration promoting the transgender cause. More elected officials are embracing the rights of transgender people and the LGBT community. In addition, more Americans are accepting transgender issues and opposing discrimination and hatred toward LGBT.

With regard to “bathroom legislation,” Americans aged 18 to 29 favor letting transgender people use the restroom of their

identity by a 2-to-1 ratio. According to a recent Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll, young adults and women are more open to people using public bathrooms matching their gender identity. Forty-four percent of women are in favor of letting a man who is in transition from male to female (a.k.a. transwoman) into women's public bathrooms.

Overall, the public is fairly split on the subject, with 43 percent saying they are in favor of the view that people should use public restrooms “accord-

ing to the biological sex on their birth certificate” compared to 41 percent who support that transgenders should be able to use a public restroom “according to the gender with which they identify.”

“Gender identity is a pretty new term for a lot of people so having effectively an even split on the bathroom question is a very good result,” said Paisley Currah, an author on transgender issues and a political science professor at Brooklyn College. “I was pleasantly surprised. “The gay rights movement in the last few years moved very quickly and I feel like the transgender movement is moving at even greater speed.”

Yes it is. Now both Houses of the US Congress are ramping up efforts to promote and protect



## Sit or Stand

*Continued from page 25*

the rights of transgenders and the entirety of the LGBT segment of American society. New legislation is now in committee, progressing toward an eventual vote and with every certainty, passage into law.

H.R 3185 and S. 1858 is a singular Bill introduced — “be it

access to public accommodations — including restaurants, stores, places or establishments that provide entertainment and transportation. . . . This discrimination prevents the full participation of LGBT people in society and disrupts the free flow of commerce.” “Workers who are LGBT, or who are perceived to be LGBT have been subjected to a history and pattern of persistent, widespread and pervasive discrimination on

happiness, as our founding fathers so perceived. And now the 21st century expands that concept to include all men who want to be women and all women who want to be men. Of course let us not forget the children — they have rights too!

Even though God is not considered relevant in the discussion, perhaps the United States Congress and the White House, oh and not to forget, the American people should consider a simple warning from God as they pursue this transgender line of folly and social confusion.

“Because their words and their deeds are against the Lord, to provoke the eyes of His glory; the look on their faces testifies against them: and they parade their sins like Sodom. They do not hide it. Woe unto them. They have brought disaster upon themselves” (Isaiah 3:8-9 NIV).

Don’t think for a moment that allowing transgender people unimpeded access to the bathroom of their gender identity choice will bring peace, harmony, liberty and happiness across this land. Au contraire! Greater disorientation is guaranteed with assured ideological if not outright physical confrontations to follow and God need not lift a finger. He has already put living laws and the natural laws of gender binary orderliness into practice. Any disconformity to or violation of God’s laws will automatically produce ruinous and fatal consequences. That is what the future brings for the United States of America. ◻

### People trust in the documents and laws of men rather than on the holy and righteous laws of God.

enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled” which “prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation and for other purposes.” The short title of this Bill is the “Equality Act.”

This Equality Act, known also as the Equality Act of 2015 is a Bill that once passed into law will also amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections that ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system.

Among the language within this Bill; “Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (referred to as LGBT) people commonly experience discrimination in securing

the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity . . . .”

The “bathroom controversy” is just one small piece of the grand puzzle being put together which will reveal a picture of a disoriented and dismantled America. Supreme Court rulings on same sex marriage and continued legislation the likes of the soon coming Equality Act are made possible because people trust in the documents and laws of men rather than on the holy and righteous laws of God.

What a promising concept — that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. What misery these words avail when God is removed from the picture.

All men (and women) are created equal in the eyes of the Creator, free to pursue life, liberty and

## Solution to Terror

*Continued from page 2*

by five, six, seven feet ...” Yes, we know, food won’t grow and there will be refugees and “dangerous ideologies.” Somehow we’ve got an explosion of jihadist terror throughout the Middle East and often in the West, in spite of the fact that sea levels, if they’ve risen at all, have done so at such a microscopic rate as to be unmeasurable. As to “dangerous ideologies,” they seem to have been well-entrenched since long before the industrial age.

The UN is such an ineffective and marginal outfit that it has hitched its wagon to the “climate-change” dogma, doling out vast sums of money only to “scientists” willing to go so far as to besmirch the underlying basis of science by “adjusting” historical temperature data and constructing fraudulent computer models to predict the earth’s future climate. Hence, the many scandals that have destroyed the reputations of formerly respected science departments. The widely touted “hockey stick” graph was created in the late 1990’s by Michael Mann of the University of Massachusetts. It was proof of man-made global warming, and used by the UN and its funded researchers to insist that governments of developed nations needed to crack down on energy consumption, “carbon emissions,” and consumer habits unfriendly to the environment.

When the “hockey stick”

graph was proven erroneous by Canadian scientists Steven McIntire and Ross McKittrick, they couldn’t even find a scientific journal willing to publish their paper. Nevertheless, they were able to use the internet to get their findings out, setting off a series of disputes that continue to the present day — Mann trying to justify the “hockey stick” despite the (unintentional?) mistakes that plagued his original assertions.

Then came “Climate Gate,” the scandal that caught the science professors of Britain’s University of East Anglia colluding frantically on how to fudge historical temperature data to prove a rapid rise in Earth’s temperature. These scientists, led by Professor Phil Jones and funded by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, were desperately trying to find some way to vindicate Michael Mann’s discredited “hockey stick” claims of rapid temperature increases

beginning in the early 20th Century. The UK Telegraph dubbed it “the worst scientific scandal of our generation.” Their “work,” along with the discredited “hockey stick” graph, was at the heart of the UN’s IPCC insistence that western governments would have to spend trillions of dollars to reverse a global warming trend that would melt the world’s glaciers, destroy the polar ice caps, and displace millions in the third world who would have to flee starvation, floods and droughts to survive.

Professor Jones and his colleagues were shown, in their own words, to be frantic in their need to hide temperature data from all around the world (they claimed it was lost), create phony computer programs to falsify those records and predict the future and to discredit dissenting scientific studies, making sure they were never included in IPCC findings.

Then was the humorous case



***Akademik Shokalskiy* trapped in ice while on an expedition to gauge the impact of global warming in the Antarctic region in 2013.**

*Continued next page*



## Solution to Terror

*Continued from page 27*

of the Australian team who set out toward the waters near Antarctica to document the rapid ice melt caused by global warming. We featured this episode in a previous issue of *21st Century WATCH* magazine, but just in case you missed it (as most media outlets managed to do) we couldn't resist reminding our readers of the incredible irony illustrated by the outcome. While sailing in open waters far from the supposedly melting Antarctic ice zone, the ship found itself encountering unexpected ice, to the point that it was ultimately encased. Unable to break free, calls for rescue went out and an ice-breaker vessel was dispatched. But the freezing conditions proved too much for the ice-breaker, and it too



**Ivanpah Solar Power Facility from the air. (3)**

was frozen up, also stranded in impenetrable ice before it could reach the stranded global-warming research team. Too bad we don't have recordings of what must have been some incredible exchanges between the "warming

alarmists" as they faced the possibility of freezing and starvation from their attempt to document the true dangers of global warming!

Our cover this issue features the Ivanpah solar energy farm in California's Mojave Desert. The operation is owned by Google, NRG Energy and Brightsource. It was largely financed by the taxpayers with \$1.6 billion in government loan guarantees. This green energy disaster is still in operation, but only because the state of California has bent the rules to allow additional months to make good after the Ivanpah facility has already breached every contractual promise to state utilities. Not only that, but the conglomerate is failing to make its loan payments despite the fact that the State of California pays the plant nearly *five times* the going rate for every kilowatt of energy it produces.

The tall towers you see in the



**Mirrors redirect solar rays to heat the giant thermal boiler.**



photographs have boiler tanks at the top to produce steam. A field of mirrors target the sun's rays at the boiler tanks, generating steam that powers conventional turbines. But it takes four and a half hours per day of huge generators running on natural gas to get the boilers hot before the sun's rays can even keep the system working. The natural gas-driven generators would actually be capable of generating a quarter of all the power produced by this "clean energy" miracle. But even at that, the project is failing to produce

the promised output.

Ivanpah has blamed an insufficient amount of sunshine for the 35% shortfall in electric power it's been able to supply to the grid. Critics say that the reduced amount of sunshine has been only nine percent less than the plant's optimal projections.

The heat generated by the mirrors and boilers incinerates birds who happen to fly over, which include large birds of prey like hawks and eagles. It's amazing when you realize that a citizen can go to prison for possessing

even a single eagle feather, but the "environmentally friendly" Ivanpah plant routinely cooks them mid-flight, leaving them to plummet lifelessly to earth without the least hint of conscience from our environmentalist masters. Obviously this massively expensive exercise is failing, and it should be only a matter of time before someone decides it is time to pull the plug, as has happened to many other of these so-called "clean energy" projects. □

## Migrant Crime

*Continued from page 6*

effectively taken control over the iconic Wiener Platz, a large public square in front of the central train station. There they sell drugs and pickpocket passersby, usually with impunity. Police raids on the square have become a game of "whack-a-mole," with a never-ending number of migrants replacing those who have been arrested.

German authorities have repeatedly been accused of underreporting the true scale of the crime problem in the country. For example, up to 90% of the sex crimes committed in Germany in 2014 do not appear in the official statistics, according to the head of the Association of Criminal Police (*Bund Deutscher Kriminalbeamter*; BDK), André Schulz. He said:

"For years the policy has been to leave the [German] population in the dark about the actual crime situation ... The citizens are being played for fools. Rather than tell the truth, they [government officials] are evading responsibility and passing blame onto the citizens and the police."

In an apparent effort to defuse escalating political tensions, Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge*, BAMF) on February 16 said it was expecting only 500,000 new migrants to arrive in the country in 2016. In December 2015, however, BAMF director Frank-Jürgen Weise told *Bild* that "this figure [500,000] is only being used for 'resource planning' because at this time we cannot say how many people will come in 2016."

On January 1, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that 1.3 million asylum seekers

would enter the European Union annually during 2016 and 2017.

In a January 9 interview with *Bild*, Development Minister Gerd Müller warned that the biggest refugee movements to Europe are still to come. He said that only 10% of the migrants from the chaos in Iraq and Syria have reached Europe so far: "Eight to ten million migrants are still on the way."

Adding to the uncertainty: On February 18, senior security officials from Austria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia — all countries along the so-called Balkan Route, which hundreds of thousands of migrants are using to enter the European Union — agreed to coordinate the joint transport of migrants from the Macedonia-Greece border all the way to Austria, from where they will be sent to Germany. □

# BRITAIN

## "Sleepwalking to Catastrophe" Over Race: Trevor Phillips

by John Bingham © Telegraph Media Group Limited 2016

Britain risks “flames” of racial and religious conflict because of a “liberal self-delusion” over the impact of mass immigration, the former head of the equality watchdog Trevor Phillips claims today.

In a startling assault on decades of official multiculturalism and diversity policy, the founding chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission argues the UK is being allowed to “sleepwalk to catastrophe” by leaders too “touchy”, “smug”, “complacent” and “squeamish” to talk about race.

Drawing a direct parallel with Enoch Powell’s notorious “rivers of blood” speech, he likens Britain’s politicians, media and educated elite in general to the Emperor Nero fiddling while Rome burned, unable even to recognise the “dark side of the diverse society”.

Ominous “muttering in the pub or grumbling at the school gate” about foreigners could, he insists, be the first signs of a backlash many thought could not happen in Britain because of a



**Trevor Phillips, the founding chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, is a British writer, broadcaster, and former politician.**

history of relative success in integrating new arrivals.

Significantly, he claims the arrival of some Muslim groups in particular who are actively “resistant to the traditional process of integration” threatens to shake the foundations of “liberal democracy” itself.

In a 100-page paper, published by the think-tank Civitas set to provoke uproar, he argues that a new brand of “superdiversity” is bringing challenges to the

Western way of life, far removed from those of immigration of the past.

Crucially, he says, race is no longer a “purely black and white affair” but a divide between the majority and people with different “values and behaviours”.

But, he argues, liberal opinion in Britain has been almost unique in its unwillingness even to speak about the issue — possibly because of the backlash to Enoch Powell a generation ago.

“Squeamishness about addressing diversity and its discontents risks allowing our country to sleepwalk to a catastrophe that will set community against community, endorse sexist aggression, suppress freedom of expression, reverse hard-won civil liberties, and undermine the liberal democracy that has served this country so well for so long,” he insists.

Race does, he says, rear its head in rows about the use of supposedly racist language or concerns about practices such as female genital mutilation.

“But these are not the topics that generate public unease,” he says.

“Rather it is the appearance of non-English names above the shop-fronts in the high street; the odd decision to provide only halal meat in some schools; evidence of corruption in municipal politics dominated by one ethnic group or another.

“Such headlines, frequently misreported, but often grounded in some real change, provoke muttering in the pub, or grumbling at the school gate.

“They become gathering straws in a stiffening breeze of nativist, anti-immigrant sentiment.

“And still, our political and media elites appear not to have scented this new wind.

“We maintain a polite silence masked by noisily debated public fictions such as ‘multiculturalism’ and ‘community cohesion’.

“Rome may not yet be in flames, but I think I can smell the

smouldering whilst we hum to the music of liberal self-delusion.”

He pointedly draws comparisons between his remarks and those of Enoch Powell.

“He too summoned up echoes of Rome with his reference

**“Any attempt to ask whether aspects of minority disadvantage may be self-inflicted is denounced as ‘blaming the victim.’”**

**- Trevor Phillips**

to Virgil’s dire premonition of the River Tiber ‘foaming with much blood’,” said Mr Phillips.

“This much-studied address is, simultaneously, lauded as an epic example of the use of political rhetoric — and also as a ghastly testament to the power of unbridled free speech. Either way, it effectively put an end to Powell’s career as an influential leader.

“Everyone in British public life learnt the lesson: adopt any strategy possible to avoid saying anything about race, ethnicity (and latterly religion and belief) that is not anodyne and platitudinous.”

Citing the examples of the Rotherham and Rochdale grooming scandals, the sexual assaults in Cologne at New Year and earlier findings from Sweden he calls for frank and open discussion of the possibility of a link between rape and the perpetrators’ “cultural background”.

“The typical response of Britain’s political and media elite confronted with awkward facts

has been evasion, because — we say — talking about these issues won’t solve the problem; instead, it will stigmatise vulnerable minority groups,” he said.

“Any attempt to ask whether aspects of minority disadvan-

tage may be self-inflicted is denounced as ‘blaming the victim’.

“Instead, we prefer to answer any difficult questions by focusing on the historic prejudices of the dominant majority.

“In short, it’s all about white racism.”

A spokesman for the anti-racism campaign group Hope Not Hate said: “Attention does need to be paid to extremists on all sides, and also to the plight of the white working class in de-industrialised areas, who are often abandoned to the likes of Ukip.

“But the picture is by no means as grim as Phillips paints.”

He added: “Yes, a diverse society does face problems and yes we do need to talk openly about the issues ahead.

“But people are already talking, across the divide.

“Certainly we believe that the majority of people want to solve the problems our society faces constructively and peacefully, and the Muslim community — or rather, the Muslim communities — are also evolving rapidly.” □



# “Green” Peace

## The pope hosts grand imam at Vatican

*by Mark Armstrong*

The pope recently held an “historic” meeting at the Vatican with one of the most influential Islamic leaders, the grand imam of Cairo’s al-Ahzar Mosque, said to be the highest authority to Sunni Islam. They apparently have it all figured out now, and can get about the business of establishing world peace. The grand imam reportedly decided to accept the pope’s invitation because of the many conciliatory statements he’s made toward Muslims, and because of his gesture of visiting Syrian refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos where he returned to Rome with five families to take up residence within the Vatican walls.

Apparently the last pope, the German Joseph Ratzinger who styled himself as “Benedict,” had

ticked off Muslims by having appeared to equate Islam with violence in a speech he gave in 2006. He actually was quoting a 14th Century Byzantine emperor, Paleologus, in a commencement address. In the speech, the emperor dared to quote statements of Mohammad, and referenced chapter and verse in the Koran that speak of jihad, Holy War, and “spreading Islam by the sword.” That did it! Demonstrations and riots ensued in Egypt, a bomb was detonated at a Greek Orthodox church in the Gaza strip and Muslim ambassadors demanded an apology.

Does it seem a little ironic that the quotation of statements by Mohammed and passages in the Koran, clearly instructing Muslims to convert Christians

and Jews to Islam, by killing them as a last resort, would cause an angry rampage? But apologies were quick to follow, and since Benedict became the first pope since the 1400s to “retire,” Broglio, who calls himself “Francis” has been in full damage control mode.

According to Francis the pope, the solution to the intractable problem of terrorism and Muslim infiltration of western culture is to deny that there is an Islamic religious component to terrorist attacks, and insist that westerners embrace Muslim immigrants as “the poor.” Sheik Ahmed el-Tayeb (grand imam) tells Muslim immigrants to “meld into” western culture, and says, “Divine religions were revealed to make people happy, not to cause them hardship.”

This could be the start of something big.

It relieves Islam and Muslims of all guilt while imposing a responsibility upon western nations to accept African and Middle Eastern “refugees” by the millions to assuage blame for having made their lives unlivable in their own countries. Call it the ultimate in social justice, and the pope is all in. He’s brought many of the biggest names in prot-



estantism on board and is now working toward bringing Islamic religious leadership into the philosophy as demonstrated by his “historic” meeting with the grand imam of Cairo. It’s starting to look like “green” may be the one-world religion of Bible prophecy.

The two religious leaders

have agreed to meet again for in-depth discussions. For his part, the pope gave the grand imam a letter to take with him, something to consider while they make plans to meet again and bring about world peace. In it, the pope names global warming the real threat to all humanity.

Will “green” emerge as a crucial doctrine in a religion of unity that brings Christians and Muslims together? Will the pope succeed in bringing Islamic leaders to respect him as having the spiritual gifts and connections the Vatican has always claimed? Stay tuned, this will get interesting! □

## Will You Get to Heaven?

*Continued from page 12*

sion seen by Nebuchadnezzar, and interpreted by God through Daniel, it is revealed the Kingdom of God will be ON EARTH!

Read the entire 2nd chapter of Daniel. “Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them, and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (verse 35).

Now notice the INTERPRETATION of the dream in verse 44. “And in the days of these kings [shown by the ten toes, which were smashed by the Stone from heaven] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

God repeatedly uses the type of a mountain as a symbol of a

nation, or a kingdom. The Kingdom, or the Nation of God will consume, destroy, supersede all these worldly kingdoms — and will RULE them ON THIS EARTH!

Describing the events surrounding Christ’s return, and the setting up of His world rule, Isaiah was inspired to write, “And it shall come to pass, in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it.

“And many people shall go and say, ‘Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths, for OUT OF ZION [on this EARTH] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from JERUSALEM, [on this EARTH]” (Isa. 2:2-3). Micah was inspired to write the same thing in his 4th chapter.

Read each of these other vital scriptures! “... when the Lord of hosts shall reign IN MOUNT ZION, and IN JERUSALEM,

and before His ancients gloriously” (Isa. 24:23). “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous BRANCH, and a KING shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice IN THE EARTH. In His days JUDAH shall be saved...” (Jer. 23:5-6). This PROVES this scripture is for the future, and refers directly to the SECOND coming of Christ, since it describes the salvation of the JEWS — a yet future event!

“The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar OUT OF ZION, and utter His voice FROM JERUSALEM ... so shall ye know that I am the Lord your God, DWELLING IN ZION, my holy mountain, then shall Jerusalem be HOLY” (Joel 3:15-17).

“... for the Lord dwelleth in Zion” (Joel 3:21).

“And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them IN MOUNT ZION from henceforth, even FOR EVER!” (Micah 4:7).

*Continued next page*

## Will You Get to Heaven?

*Continued from page 33*

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for lo, I COME, and I will DWELL IN THE MIDST OF THEE, saith the Lord” (Zech. 2:10).

Is this enough? God says OVER AND OVER AGAIN that Christ is coming TO THIS EARTH!

**God says OVER AND OVER AGAIN  
that Christ is coming TO THIS EARTH!**

### **YOUR TREMENDOUS REWARD**

Salvation is God’s FREE GIFT. You can only be saved by the LIFE of Christ (Rom. 5:10) after having been reconciled to God by His death (same verse). But after God’s loving PARDON for your past sins — there is something you can EARN, believe it or not!

Jesus said, “To Him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also OVERCAME, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21).

Overcoming means GROWING in grace and knowledge (II Pet. 3:18). It means growing in ability, in stature and character — becoming more and more LIKE CHRIST! “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of

God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

When we have clearly demonstrated our OBEDIENCE to God — our FAITHFULNESS to His authority, His RULE, His GOVERNMENT in our lives — He WILL THEN APPORTION POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENT TO US!

“Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten

pounds. And He said unto him, Well, thou good servant, because thou has been faithful in a very little, have thou AUTHORITY over ten cities” (Luke 19:16-17).

Yes, Jesus PROMISES A BUSY ETERNITY! He promises RULERSHIP over His world! He guarantees an active, busy, constructive, scintillating, interesting, absorbing, satisfying, happy eternity of RESPONSIBILITY — of WORK!

Think of it! Instead of a lazy, BORING, INTERMINABLE, EMPTY ETERNITY ON A CLOUD — NOTHING TO DO — JESUS SAID, “And he that overcometh and keepeth MY WORKS unto the end, to him will I give POWER OVER THE NATIONS [ON THIS EARTH] and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of a potter

shall they be broken to shivers, even as I received of my Father” (Rev. 2:26-27).

The saints are to REIGN ON THIS EARTH (Rev. 5:10). They are to be kings and priests of God for ONE THOUSAND YEARS — RIGHT HERE ON THIS EARTH (Rev. 20:4)

What a tremendous opportunity! What a GLORIOUS hope! Notice it — WE ARE NOT GOING TO GOD IN HEAVEN — GOD IS COMING HERE!

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, COMING DOWN FROM GOD OUT of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is WITH MEN, and HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be WITH them, and be their God” (Rev. 21:1-3).

How PLAIN it is! NO amount of “rationalization” or arguing, or of merely “supposing” can change these plain, straightforward truths of YOUR OWN BIBLE!

You need to KNOW the wonderful reward God promises those truly living lives of overcoming — and you need to be STRIVING to enter into His glorious Kingdom that is going to be set up HERE on this earth! □



## LETTERS

Dear GTAEA,

I just want you to know that I really enjoy reading mail from you. I thank you so much.

It seems like the things I get from you are the only things I read or hear that I know I can believe anymore. Keep up the good work!

L.B., London, KY

Dear friends,

Thanks for the Holy Day calendar and for your continuing work of God, to witness and warn all those who will listen to what He said in His word.

Only HE offers peace and a solution to the mess this country and world have gotten itself into without him.

V.W., Newton Grove, NC

Dear GTAEA,

Thank you so much for all you do to help myself and others know the real God and His Son. How we are to live for Him and to be added to His family and one day live in His Kingdom!

in God's Love and Grace,  
S.O., Clinton, IA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you so much. You will never know what an inspiration and blessing I receive from the CDs and DVDs of your Dad.

It is marvelous that by sending these teachings Garner Ted Armstrong is still preaching and proclaiming the eternal Truth. May the Eternal bless you, your family, and the entire congregation!

G.B., Isom, KY

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Praise God for your grandfather, your Dad, and you! The USA needs more of your kind. Thank you so much for this information. I agree one hundred percent!

P.D., Pooler, GA

Dear GTAEA,

Thank you so very much for the book *The Real Jesus!* I'm very excited about reading it.

I pray always for your work and all you do! Mark's co-worker letters are great – spot on!

Thanks,  
C.C., Baldwinville, NY

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am very delighted to write to you! My sincere intention is to say "thank you" for the many letters, quarterly magazines and DVD sermons your religious organization has sent me - and for gratis! In a recent package I was overjoyed to receive the requested book entitled *The Real Jesus*. For this, I am indeed thankful.

Sir, let me commend you for the collaborative work being courageously done in delivering the end-time gospel message of witness and warning to humanity. Likewise, the noble duty of keeping GTAEA functional and relevant. May Almighty God continue to bestow His divine blessings on the continuous team effort to persevere with His work.

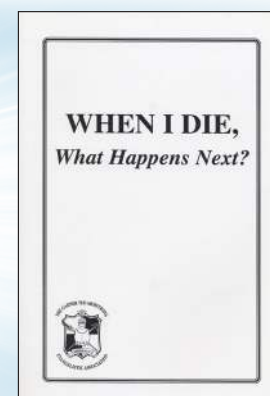
Yours in Christ,  
W.R., St. Lucia, West Indies

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Staff,

Thank you so much for teaching the true word of God, about His Sabbath and Holy Days

Mr. & Mrs. B., Oakgrove, AR

*For more information on this important topic, call to order your FREE Booklet, "When I Die, What Happens Next?" by Garner Ted Armstrong*





**“WHEN YE HAVE GATHERED IN THE FRUIT OF THE LAND,  
YE SHALL KEEP A FEAST UNTO THE LORD SEVEN DAYS ...”**

God’s plan for mankind is illustrated by the annual Holy Days His people are commanded to keep, including the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles looks forward to the Kingdom that Christ will one day establish and rule over here on earth. We are commanded to rejoice before Him for seven days.


All of God’s people are welcome to attend the Feast of Tabernacles at one of our locations. Each Festival location will have daily church services, Bible studies, children’s activities and plenty of fellowship. We’d love to see you there!


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October 17 - October 24



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(903) 561 - 7070  
[www.garnertedarmstrong.org](http://www.garnertedarmstrong.org)

