

WATCH

ABANDON SHIP



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COMMENTARY

British

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

In Popular Rebellion Against the EU and Angela Merkel

by Mark Armstrong

IT may take up to two years before all the details are settled, but the British people have taken a stand to free their nation from the convoluted legal, financial, and political entanglements inherent in EU membership. With horror stories coming from every European capital, and it's own

socialism, multiculturalism and political correctness, wasn't going so well. It's been no secret that the southern European nations have broken their own backs by pursuing socialist programs and "green energy." Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal have all been under extreme economic duress,

millions of Muslims from the Middle East and northern Africa into Europe. There were already serious problems with vast unassimilated and unemployed populations in crime-ridden, terrorist-infested ghettos.

Mrs. Merkel multiplied the problem exponentially by demanding that all EU members accept their "fair share" of foreigners. The results are indisputable. While police departments and government agencies tried to minimize the extent of "petty crimes" against civilians and society, the news managed to get out anyway.

The crime wave sweeping Europe followed the movements of the Muslim immigrants across Europe. Gangs of underage youths were committing muggings, robberies and sexual assaults wherever they roamed. Europe had already seen plenty of examples of terrorism over recent years, but the great Muslim migration brought about a cascade of mass murders across Europe. Apparently the British had seen enough, and didn't want to cede what remained of their sovereignty in order to be a "partner" in the destruction sweeping Europe.



Theresa May became Britain's P.M. when David Cameron resigned after the "Exit" vote. She is orchestrating Britain's divorce of the EU.

problems out of control from an ongoing immigrant onslaught choreographed by the EU, the British people voted for a return to national sovereignty. Obviously the European Union experiment, guided by the dictates of

requiring debt renegotiations and bailouts.

Suddenly the Prime Minister of Germany, Angela Merkel, for all intents the leading voice of the EU because of Germany's economic strength, invited

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EUROPE: SUICIDE BY JIHAD

by *Guy Millière*

Originally published by Gatestone Institute

THE March 22 *jihadi* attacks in Brussels were predictable. What is surprising is that they did not take place sooner. What is also surprising is that more people were not killed. It seems that the authors of the attacks had larger projects in mind; they wanted to attack a nuclear power plant. Others may succeed in doing just that.

In the last two decades, Belgium has become the hub of jihad in Europe. The district of Molenbeek in Brussels is now a foreign Islamist territory in the heart of Belgium. It is not, however, a lawless zone: sharia law has effectively replaced Belgian law. Almost all the women wear veils or burqas; those who do not take risks. Drug trafficking and radical mosques are everywhere. The

police stay outside and intervene only in cases of extreme emergency, using military-like commando operations. Other areas of Belgium, such as Shaerbeek and Anderlecht have the same status as Molenbeek.

The Belgian authorities have allowed the situation to deteriorate. The situation in the country now is virtually equivalent to a surrender.

They seemed to hope that willful blindness and accepting the unacceptable would permit the country to be spared. It did not.

The attack on Belgium's Jewish Museum on May 24, 2014 should have served as a warning. It did not. That "only" Jews were the target led the Belgian government to underestimate the threat.

The jihadi who wanted to kill passengers on train from Amsterdam to Paris, on August 21, 2015, prepared his attack in Brussels. That three American heroes neutralized him before he could start shooting again led the Belgian government to think the danger was not large.

The jihadis who struck Paris on November 13, 2015 had also organized their attacks from Molenbeek, but the blood was not spilled in Belgium. Belgian authorities perhaps assumed that Belgium would be spared. They spoke of "imminent danger" for a day or so, but never increased security.

One of the organizers of the Paris bombings, Salah Abdeslam, Europe's most wanted terrorist criminal, was able to live peaceful-

- In the last two decades, Belgium has become the hub of jihad in Europe. The district of Molenbeek in Brussels is now a foreign Islamist territory in the heart of Belgium. It is not, however, a lawless zone: sharia law has effectively replaced Belgian law.
- One of the organizers of the Paris bombings, Salah Abdeslam, was able to live peacefully in Molenbeek for four months until police decided to arrest him. Belgian police knew exactly where he was, but did nothing until French authorities asked them to. After his arrest, he was treated as a petty criminal. Police did not ask him anything about the jihadist networks with which he worked. Officers who interrogated him were ordered to be gentle. The people who hid him were not indicted.
- Europe's leaders disseminated the idea that the West was guilty of oppressing Muslims. They therefore sowed the seeds of anti-Western resentment among Muslims in Europe.
- Hoping to please followers of radical Islam and show them Europe could understand their "grievances," they placed pressure on Israel. When Europeans were attacked, they did not understand why. They had done their best to please the Muslims. They had not even harassed the jihadists.

ly in Molenbeek for four months until police decided to arrest him. Belgian police knew exactly where he was, but did nothing until French authorities asked them to. After his arrest, he was treated as a petty criminal, not a jihadist terrorist. Police did not ask him anything concerning the jihadist networks with which he worked. Because he was hurt during police operations, officers who interrogated him were ordered to be gentle. The people who agreed to hide him for so long were not considered suspects and were not indicted.

The Brussels jihadist attacks took place two days later.

Despite the worst attacks on Belgium soil since World War II, Belgian authorities do not seem ready to change their behavior.

After the attacks, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel denounced “violent and cowardly acts” and stressed his “determination,” without saying what he intended to do. He did not speak of the necessity of changing the Belgian laws to make them more effective. He did not mention any enemy. He never used words such as “jihad” or “radical Islam.”

He behaved and talked as most of his European counterparts did. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls used more courageous words and said many times he is fighting “radical jihad” and “Islamism.” The French parliament passed laws allowing what is still impossible in Belgium: police searches at night. But France stands alone, and effectively the situation in France is no better than in Belgium. Islamist enclaves ex-

ists in many suburbs. Whole cities are controlled by thugs and radical imams: cities such as Roubaix, Trappes, Aubervilliers and Sevran in the northeast of Paris.

Islamist enclaves also exist in other European countries: Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and Sweden.



Abdelhamid Abaaoud (left), one of the planners of the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, was – like many terrorists in Europe – from Molenbeek, Belgium. Philippe Moureaux (right) was mayor of Molenbeek for 20 years, thanks to his alliance with radical Islamists.

European leaders have been making choices. After World War II, they decided Europe would be a region of the world where war would be banished and all problems solved through diplomacy and appeasement. They gradually abandoned financing defense and security activities. Instead, they built welfare states. They thought that taking care of people from cradle to grave would suppress anger and conflicts. They denied the existence of totalitarian dangers and the necessity of showing strength. To this day, their statements indicate that European leaders think both the Berlin Wall and the Soviet empire fell thanks to the benevolence of Mikhail

Gorbachev, not thanks to the determination of Ronald Reagan. To this day, they seem to think that Islam is essentially a religion of peace and that the jihadis belong to a tiny, marginal sect.

Decades ago, Europe’s leaders adopted a general policy of “openness” to the Islamic world

in general, and the Arab world in particular. They decided to welcome migrants from the Muslim world by hundreds of thousands but without asking them to integrate. They made cultural relativism and multiculturalism their guiding principles. They acted as if Islam could mingle in the Western world harmoniously and without difficulty. Europe’s leaders disseminated the idea that the West was guilty of oppressing Muslims and had to pay for its sins. They therefore sowed the seeds of anti-Western resentment among Muslims in Europe.

When in the Muslim world jihadis started to kill, Europe’s leaders wanted to believe that the

Europe: Suicide by Jihad

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attacks would take place in the Muslim world only. They thought that by not interfering with what European jihadis were planning, they would not risk jihadi attacks on European soil.

When Jews were attacked, Europe's leaders decided that the problem was not jihad, but Israel. They stressed the need not to "export Middle East conflict in Europe." Hoping to please followers of radical Islam and show them Europe could understand their "grievances," they placed increasing pressure on Israel. They also increased their financial and political support for the "Palestinian cause."

When Europeans were attacked, they did not understand why. They had done their best to please the Muslims. They had not even harassed the jihadists. They still do not know how to react.

Many of them now say privately what they will never say in public: it is probably too late.

There are six to eight million Muslims in France, and more than thirty million in Western Europe. Hundreds of jihadis are trained and ready to act -- anytime, anyplace. European intelligence services know that they want to make "dirty bombs." Surveys show that tens of thousands of Muslims living in Europe approve of jihadi attacks in Europe. Millions of Muslims living in Europe keep silent, behave as if they see nothing and hear nothing, and protest only

when they think they have to defend Islam.

European political leaders know that every decision they make may provoke reactions among the Muslims living in Europe. Muslim votes matter. Riots occur easily. In France, Belgium, other European countries, Islamists are present in the army and police forces. In the meantime, Islamist organizations recruit and Islamic lobbies gain ground.

European governments are now hostages. The European media are also hostages.

In most European countries, "Islamophobia" is considered a crime -- and any criticism of Islam may be considered "Islamophobic." People trying to warn Europe, such as the Dutch MP Geert Wilders, despite an apparently biased judge and forged documents against him, are now on trial.

Books on radical Islam are still published but surrounded by silence. Books praising the glory of Islam are in every bookstore. When Bat Ye'or's *Eurabia* was published in Europe, she was denounced and received hundreds of death threats. Bruce Bawer's *While Europe Slept*, published in the U.S., was not even available in Europe. Ten years later, the situation is worse.

Political movements expressing anger and concerns are rising. All are demonized by political power holders and the media. They have almost no chance of gaining more influence.

Populations are gnawed by fear, frustration and impotence. They are looking for answers, but

cannot find them. A few hours after the attacks on Brussels, a man on Belgian television said that Europe is on the verge of suicide.

Europe looks like a dying civilization. European governments created a situation that can only lead to more attacks, more massacres, and maybe unspeakable disasters. Europe's leaders continue to react with speeches and a few police operations.

If some European governments decided to restore their abolished borders, it could take years, and most European leaders would probably disagree with such a policy. Meanwhile, millions more "migrants" will enter Europe, and among them many more jihadis. In spite of the mayhem created in Germany by "migrants" who arrived in 2015, Angela Merkel said she would not change her decisions. No Western European government dared to disagree with her, except Viktor Orbán in Hungary, a lone voice of dissent.

In Brussels, as in Paris earlier, people gathered where the attacks took place. They brought candles and flowers to mourn the victims. They sang sentimental songs. They cried. There were no shouts of revolt against jihad. Members of the Belgian government called on the Belgian people to avoid reactions of violence, and declared that Muslims are the main victims of terrorism.

In Europe's near future, more people will bring candles, flowers and songs to mourn victims. Another two or three jihadis will be arrested. But nothing will be done. □

THE BEAST OF PROPHECY

by Garner Ted Armstrong

The following article was written and published only one year before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, during the second term of Ronald Reagan while the Soviet Union still existed and was led by Mikhail Gorbachev. The tearing down of the wall and subsequent reunification of Germany was such an unexpected and earth-shaking event that analysts and news organizations were breathlessly falling all over themselves to grapple with the new reality and what it would mean for Europe, Russia and the world. Portions of the article we didn't include dealt with the bleak state of political and economic affairs in Russia, and the opportunity for a reconfiguring of Europe as east-block nations broke away from communist totalitarianism.

Since that time we've seen the rise of the European Union dominated by the economic and political power of Germany, and the creation of the single currency, the euro. Under the quasi-socialist doctrines of Europe several of the southern nations have teetered on the brink of bankruptcy requiring the renegotiation of debt in addition to outright bailouts with political strings attached. Open borders between member nations of the EU was supposed to have contributed to greater economic opportunity for all, and it might

have worked out that way if not for the massive influx of millions of Muslims into all the European nations, courtesy of Germany and its Prime Minister Angela Merkel. The recently installed pope's romanticism of "poor immigrants" undoubtedly played a part in the welcoming of a vast and unruly population that has spawned numerous terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, and a crime wave of rapes, assaults and robberies that, along with serious economic instability, now threaten the political fortunes of the EU.

This article goes right to the heart of end-time Bible prophecies, and a central power in the heart of Europe that will hold sway over much of the world. Once again, the world was stunned to see the British vote themselves out of the EU. The combination of economic weakness and Muslim influx were both potent issues that contributed to that outcome, and once again readers of our letters and publications were NOT surprised even though the world at large was caught off guard. Europe is in for more upheaval before the prophecies contained in this article are fulfilled. But the British exit out of the EU was foretold and expected, and will no doubt be seen to have contributed to further changes ahead for Europe.

As many articles in these pages have repeatedly emphasized, the BEAST John saw in vision represents a common union of TEN NATIONS in the same general region as the previous resurrection of the Roman Empire down through history. God's angelic messenger said to John, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings [symbols of

nations; governments; dictators or absolute rulers over countries], which have received NO KINGDOM as yet [the precise time in which WE LIVE, in Bible prophecy!]; but receive power as kings one hour [perhaps only a year, or a very few years] with the beast.

"These have one mind [a united policy], and shall give their power and strength [the powers of

kings or dictators is absolute: this means their combined economic, industrial, military might] unto the beast [pooling the combined might of TEN great nations].

"THESE SHALL MAKE WAR WITH THE LAMB, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and

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Beast of Prophecy

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faithful” (Revelation 17:12-14).

If you have not yet read our booklet *What is the Mark of the Beast?* please write for your free copy immediately!

world, no, nor ever shall be.

“And except those days should be shortened [supernaturally cut short by God’s intervention!], there should no flesh be saved [all humanity would be annihilated!]: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21, 22).

TIME; the time of TRIBULATION]: it is even the time of JACOB’S TROUBLE; but he shall be saved out of it!” (Jeremiah 30:7).

Jacob is ISRAEL! Dying Israel, however, crossed his hands, blessing his grandchildren Ephraim and Manasseh, the two children of Joseph, saying, “... and let MY NAME be named on THEM ...” (Genesis 48:16). Jacob is, primarily, EPHRAIM and MANASSEH, Britain and the United States!

Notice the prophecy says Ephraim and Manasseh will be under a YOKE, like a harnessed ox; a symbol of SLAVERY! “For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Eternal of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him [Israel reduced to performing servant’s work for an occupying power!]” (Jeremiah 30:8).

Now, WHO will lay this YOKE of slavery on our peoples? Listen! “Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, the lady of kingdoms. I was wroth with my people [the coming tribulation], I have polluted mine inheritance and given them into thine hand: thou didst show them no mercy; upon the ancient has thou very heavily LAID THY YOKE” (Isaiah 47:5-6).

This “daughter of Babylon”; the “lady of kingdoms,” who claims, “I AM, and none else beside me” [a blasphemous claim!] is described as a great MOTHER



The Holy Roman Empire at it’s largest, during the 13th century.

The time element of this prophecy is impossible to misunderstand! Notice the ten nations come together to form a supranational conglomeration of nations — called, figuratively, “the beast,” just before the second coming of Christ!

It is this BEAST power that is used to bring about the GREAT TRIBULATION on the western world — particularly the time of the national punishment to come against God’s people in the United States and Britain, together with northwestern Europe and the Commonwealth countries!

Jesus said, “For then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the

The Tribulation is described as a UNIQUE time; totally unprecedented. Now, notice, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for thy people [Daniel’s people were the people ISRAEL]: and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time...” (Daniel 12:1).

There cannot be TWO such times! This is describing the SAME time of GREAT TRIBULATION as that described by Christ! Notice that the tribulation is coming specifically on ISRAEL!

“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it [the SAME

CHURCH!

Notice! "... I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow [she is 'married', politically and spiritually], neither shall I know the loss of children [she has protesting daughters who come out from her]" (Isaiah 47:8).

Turn to and read the 27th chapter of Revelation. Here, that same great "lady of kingdoms," or a "mother church" which has political concourse with the governments of this world, is described! "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore [God labels political intercourse between church and state WHOREDOM] that sitteth upon many waters [many peoples; nations] with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

"... I saw a woman [symbol of a false church] SIT UPON A SCARLET COLORED BEAST [the woman controls the beast; rides upon it, steers it, directs it!], full of names of blasphemy ['holy', etc.] having seven heads [the Roman Empire has had SEVEN distinct empirical eras] and ten horns [the final ten national dictators, or kings].

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her for-

nication:

"And upon her forehead was a name written, 'MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH'" (Revelation 17:1-5).

An ancient limerick is perhaps a convenient analogy. It goes:

**Which city is it that has seven famous hills
and is the headquarters of an ancient mystery religion;
with the symbols of ancient Babylon in her liturgy and her rituals?**

"There once was a lady from Niger, who smiled as she rode on a tiger, they returned from the ride with the lady inside, and the smile on the face of the tiger."

Notice this "daughter of Babylon" is the great false church, having concourse with many governments, who RIDES, controls, the BEAST! It is a Church-State marriage!

Which great universal church is called the "MOTHER" church? And which nation, unique among nations, is called, NOT the "motherland," but the Fatherland?

Now read Revelation 17:15-18! God says the ten governments who do the whore's bidding will "HATE the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

"For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast [all ten nations, at the behest of the great false

church, will AGREE to a multinational union!] until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth!" (Revelation 17:18)

What city has had the power to set up and depose kings? Which city is it that has seven

famous hills (Revelation 17:9) and which is the headquarters of an ancient mystery religion; with the symbols of ancient Babylon in her liturgy and her rituals?

Now, notice! "O Assyrian [Germany!], the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him [Germany!] against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets ... yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease [the great tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble, will be over!], and mine anger in their destruction ... And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing [at the second coming of Christ]" (Isaiah 10:5-27, excerpted).

An unholy marriage is to

Beast of Prophecy

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occur between the great false church and the ten nations in Europe. The leading nation to be the instrument of God's punishment against sinning Israel is ASSYRIA, which is identified as modern Germany! Germany is the FATHERland; Rome represents the MOTHER church! The YOKE of slavery is laid upon God's people by TWO powers; both Assyria and the "lady of kingdoms," of Isaiah 47!

Notice the vision Daniel interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar! The final ten toes of the great image, which represented the successive world-ruling empires from Nebuchadnezzar to this modern time; the ten toes being the final ten kings, are seen as "mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (Daniel 2:42, 43).

And the time setting of this prophecy about a church/state mixture of TEN NATIONS who are allied together, forming the BEAST?

Note it well! "And in the days of these kings [the TEN kings represented by the ten toes] 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 [see Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 20:4] and it shall stand FOR

EVER" (Daniel 2:44).

The ten horns of the beast of Revelation 17 fight Christ at His coming; are broken, crushed — and Christ sets up His kingdom on earth. The ten toes of the image seen in Daniel 2 are identical.



David Armstrong shaking hands with an East German soldier during the fall of the Berlin Wall.

THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

For decades our church has been shouting out a witness and a warning over television and radio about a coming BEAST in Europe! During all those years, I confidently predicted that Russia and the United States would NOT become involved in a mutually destructive world war; that the United States would some day be shocked to discover that our Marshall Plan dollars have helped build a Frankenstein in Europe!

In dozens of articles and hundreds of broadcasts and all during these many years we have contin-

ued to hammer home that theme! During all that time we have repeatedly insisted such a united Europe would necessarily include several eastern European nations!

Think about it for a moment. Think back to the days of Nikita Krushchev; to the building of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban missile crisis. Think back to those bleak times during the depths of the cold war. How could we have known? How could we have confidently predicted, more than twenty five years earlier, that a divided Europe would not remain indefinitely; that the two Germanys would finally reunite; that Soviet-dominated nations such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, perhaps Hungary, and others in Eastern Europe would come out from behind the "Iron Curtain"; would become part of a third power bloc in the world, a part of a "United States of Europe"?

I'll tell you how we knew. It is because God has revealed the identity of the peoples of the United States and Britain; of northwestern Europe — yes, and the identity of the nation of Germany, in Bible prophecy!

For decades, we have written how the coming United States of Europe would come about as a result of economic upheavals, followed by political unrest; the overthrow of existing governmental structures; new security arrangements.

And now, we stand poised on the brink of a whole new era in geopolitical realities! What we are seeing is the steady, inexorable fulfilment of prophecy! □

BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James Ricks



Grace

MISUNDERSTOOD

LAW & GRACE: THE BASICS

MUST it always come down to God's Law versus God's Grace? May the two never coexist in the life of a Christian? Law and grace, contrary to the beliefs of mainstream Christianity, do not contradict each other, but work together. If the Law no longer existed, we wouldn't have to worry about breaking it and grace would therefore not be needed. However the Law not only exists, but it still applies to us today!

Revelation 22:14 plainly says, "Blessed are they that do His Commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." If we want to live forever in God's Kingdom we have only to keep His Commandments. Matthew 5:17 explains that Christ did not come to destroy the Law. Why in the world would God want to be surrounded for all eternity by a bunch of reprobates?

However, if there is no grace, all is lost, for no one is perfectly obedient to the Law. Note how Paul explains that grace does not negate the law in Romans 3:20, 30-31, 6:1-2. Romans 12:3 tells us that God has given each of us a measure of faith to grow as our part in the process. We access grace

through our faith, which leads to our salvation.

A scribe, trying to trap Jesus, asked which was the greatest of the Commandments. They had clever comebacks to respond to whatever answer our Lord gave. But Christ stated that the purpose of the Law was to demonstrate how to love God (The first four) and how to love mankind (included in the last six). See Mark 12:28-31. Christ informed the Pharisees that the Sabbath was meant to serve mankind not the other way around. Jesus went out of his way to violate their stifling Sabbath rulings. Note Mark 2:27. God's Laws are good for us when properly administered in love!

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

The purpose of the law is not, nor has it ever been, the achievement of salvation; It is to help us grow spiritually and keep us out of trouble. The law is for our benefit but never do we EARN salvation thereby. Ephesians 2:9 reminds us that our salvation is not because of works lest any man should boast. We cannot earn spiritual points to pay off our salvation. It is a free gift. Note Job 35:5-8. Some of the Jewish groups had a perspective of earning salvation by using the law. That is not the purpose of the law and we cannot be that perfect.

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BIBLE STUDY

However, God wants us to walk obediently and when we slip, to repent and continue in the way that is right. Even though we are under grace and not the law, Paul explains that we should “walk obediently in newness of life.” See Romans 6:4; 14-15, 7:7.

GOD’S GRACE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Grace is not a new doctrine that started at Pentecost. No, grace was a factor in the Old Testament as well. Jonah knew of God’s generous grace. That is why he ran away from warning Nineveh, Israel’s enemy. He was afraid God would be gracious to them. An example of how Jonah could have felt would be if one of us was commissioned to go preach to ISIS. See Jonah 4:2.

God, through Elisha was gracious to a pagan general. See II King 5:18-19. David often received of God’s love and graciousness. The very God of the Old Testament period was the one who became a man, Jesus Christ. Grace was every bit at play in the Old Testament as the New.

Jesus referred in Matt 12:3-4 to an old historic event in which God allowed David, in an emergency, to violate some temple food laws. Why? Because God is gracious, not petty. People seem to think the God of the Old Testament was like a computer: He would blindly push the smite button no matter the details. What a terrible misunderstanding of God! Noah was also saved by grace. He was not perfect either. See Gen. 6:5-6.

PAUL’S STRUGGLE WITH JUDAIZERS

In Acts 15 we read that Paul convened a ministerial conference in AD 49 to handle the controversy some Judaizers were creating in God’s churches. The Gentiles were being told by certain Pharisees that they could not be saved without circumcision, even though God gave the Holy Spirit to uncircumcised Gentiles in a very public manner (see Acts 10:44-45, Acts 15:7-11). The conference decided to

continue following God’s lead and to not require circumcision of Gentiles. The Judaizers could not refute this policy openly and fairly so they went into stealth mode, working behind Paul’s back. After he had started a new congregation in the empire, they would infiltrate and attempt to make “good Jews” of them all.

Remember that for years Christians — though a new and diverse group — were still considered a sect within Judaism. These Pharisees nearly undermined the Galatian church with the more Jewish approach of earning your salvation by keeping the traditions of Judaism and being circumcised. Christ himself criticized many of those traditions.

These Judaizers “strained at a gnat while swallowing a camel” Note Matthew 15:2-6. The Pharisees knew circumcision would be a barrier to any Gentiles joining the church. They also hoped to gain favor with other Jews. It was just the normal human ethnic bias exploited by the devil throughout history. See Galatians 2:11-14.

Paul admonished them; they were no longer living by all the Jewish customs so why try to force Gentiles in that direction? He was shocked at how soon the Galatians were undermined by their Judaizing. He said that any new gospel was an apostasy (Galatians 1:8-9) Paul explained to them that the law and grace are partners and both are needed for salvation. (Galatians 2:17-18)

Paul wonders about the church at Galatia, “Who bewitched you” to move away from the importance of faith and grace in addition to obedience to God’s Law. In Galatians 3 he goes on to explain that the law is not against faith and grace, but works together with them. How could you realize your need for forgiveness if you did not know what you had done wrong?

FAITH DEMANDS OBEDIENCE

Paul employs an allegory comparing the human method of using Hagar, Sarah’s handmaid, to produce the promised heir and the spiritual method of faith in the LORD’s promise of Abraham’s fu-

BIBLE STUDY

ture son. The spiritual method was linked by faith with heavenly Jerusalem. The physical method was linked with worldly Jerusalem, where the people were enslaved by a litany of burdensome rules (Galatians 4:24-27).

The Pharisee's approach is a self-righteous form of trying to earn our salvation. They were attempting to separate the church from the balanced, sound leadership of Paul. Paul condemns their pretense and warns that they are not fully obeying God's Law themselves. They operate in selective obedience. (Galatians 6:12-13)

The yoke of dictatorial religious leaders was

indeed heavy, but Jesus said His yoke is light. Paul states that we are to remain free of a religious system that enslaves its followers under oppressive rules (Galatians 5:1-3). Yet he reminds us to not abuse our freedom by going again into sin (breaking God's Law). Truly mature Christians are both free and obedient! (See Galatians 5:13.)

All of God's churches need to guard against the infiltration of "new" doctrines that were not delivered to us from the Bible, including the misconception of salvation by works, instead of through faith and the mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ or that grace somehow nullifies the perfect Law of God. □

Further scriptures to study on this subject:

- **Mark 12:28-31 – Keeping the greatest Commandment.**
- **Mark 2:27-28 – Who the Sabbath is really for.**
- **Romans 3:30-31, 6:1-2 – Faith and the Law work together.**
- **Ephesians 2:8-10 – Faith is shown through our works.**
- **Acts 10:44-45 – Holy Spirit given to both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **Galatians 2:17-18, 3:21 – Refraining from a sinful life.**

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GERMANY'S RAPE CRISIS

by Soeren Kern - Originally published by Gatestone Institute

MANY of the rapes are occurring in mixed-gender shelters, where, due to a lack of space, German authorities are forcing thousands of male and female migrants to share the same sleeping areas and restroom facilities.

Conditions for women and girls at some shelters are so perilous that females are being described as “wild game” fighting off Muslim male predators. But many victims, fearing reprisals, are keeping silent, social workers say.

At the same time, growing numbers of German women in towns and cities across the country are being raped by asylum seekers from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Many of the crimes are being downplayed by German authorities and the national media, apparently to avoid fueling anti-immigration sentiments.

On August 18, a coalition of four social work organizations and women’s rights groups sent a two-page letter to the leaders of the political parties in the regional parliament in Hesse, a state in west-central Germany, warning them of the worsening situation for women and children in the refugee shelters. The letter said:

“The ever-increasing influx

of refugees has complicated the situation for women and girls at the receiving center in Giessen (HEAE) and its subsidiaries.

“The practice of providing accommodations in large tents, the lack of gender-separate sanitary facilities, premises that cannot be locked, the lack of safe havens for women and girls — to name just a few spatial factors — increases the vulnerability of women and children within the HEAE. This situation plays into the hands of those men who assign women a subordinate role and treat women traveling alone as ‘wild game’.

“The consequences are numerous rapes and sexual assaults. We are also receiving an increasing number of reports of forced prostitution. It must be stressed: these are not isolated cases.

“Women report that they, as well as children, have been raped or subjected to sexual assault. As a result, many women sleep in their street clothes. Women regularly report that they do not use the toilet at night because of the danger of rape and robbery on the way to the sanitary facilities. Even during daylight, passing through the camp is a frightful situation for many women.

“Many women — in addi-

tion to fleeing wars or civil wars — are also on the run for gender-related reasons, including the threat of forced marriage or genital mutilation. These women face special risks, especially when they are on the run alone or with their children. Even if they are accompanied by male relatives or acquaintances, this does not always ensure protection against violence because it can also lead to specific dependencies and sexual exploitation.

“Most female refugees have experienced a variety of traumatizing experiences in their country of origin and while on the run. They are victims of violence, kidnappings, torture, rape and extortion — sometimes over periods of several years.

“The feeling to have arrived here — in safety — and to be able to move without fear, is a gift for many women. ... We therefore ask you ... to join our call for the immediate establishment of protected premises (locked apartments or houses) for women and children who are travelling alone....

“These facilities must be equipped so that men do not have access to the premises of the women, with the exception of emergency workers and security

personnel. In addition bedrooms, lounges, kitchens and sanitary facilities must be interconnected so that they form a self-contained unit — and thus can only be reached via lockable and monitored access to the house or the apartment.”

After several blogs drew attention to the letter, the *Landes-FrauenRat* (LFR) *Hessen*, a women’s lobbying group that originally uploaded the politically incorrect document to its website, abruptly removed it on September 14, without explanation.

The problem of rapes and sexual assaults in German refugee shelters is a nationwide problem.

In Bavaria, women and girls housed at a refugee shelter in Bayernkaserne, a former military base in Munich, are subject to rape and forced prostitution on a daily basis, according to women’s rights groups. Although the facility has separate dorm rooms for women, the doors cannot be locked and men control access to the sanitary facilities.

Approximately 80% of the refugees/migrants at the shelter are male, according to Bavarian Broadcasting (Bayerischer Rundfunk), which reports that the price for sex with female asylum seekers is ten euros. A social worker described the facility this way: “We are the biggest brothel in Munich.”

Police insist they have no proof that the rapes are taking place, although a police raid on the facility found that guards hired to provide security at the

site were trafficking drugs and weapons and were turning a blind eye to the prostitution.

On August 28, a 22-year-old Eritrean asylum seeker was sentenced to one year and eight months in prison for attempting to rape a 30-year-old Iraqi-Kurdish woman at a refugee shelter in the Bavarian town of Höchstädt. The reduced sentence was thanks to the efforts of the defense attor-



ney, who persuaded the judge that the defendant’s situation at the shelter was hopeless: “For a year now he sits around and thinks about — about nothingness.”

On August 26, a 34-year-old asylum seeker attempted to rape a 34-year-old woman in the laundry room of a refugee facility in Stralsund, a city near the Baltic Sea.

On August 6, police revealed that a 13-year-old Muslim girl was raped by another asylum seeker at a refugee facility in Detmold, a city in west-central Germany. The girl and her mother reportedly fled their homeland to escape a culture of sexual vi-

olence; as it turns out, the man who raped the girl is from their country.

Although the rape took place in June, police kept silent about it for nearly three months, until local media published a story about the crime. According to an editorial comment in the newspaper *Westfalen-Blatt*, police are refusing to go public about crimes involving refugees and migrants

because they do not want to give legitimacy to critics of mass migration.

Police chief Bernd Flake countered that the silence was aimed at protecting the victim. “We will continue with this policy [of not informing the public] whenever crimes are committed in refugee facilities,” he said.

Over the weekend of June 12-14, a 15-year-old girl housed at a refugee shelter in Habenhausen, a district in the northern city of Bremen, was repeatedly raped by two other asylum seekers. The facility has been described as a “house of horrors” due to the spiraling violence perpetrated

Germany's Rape Crisis

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by rival gangs of youth from Africa and Kosovo. A total of 247 asylum seekers are staying at the shelter, which has a capacity for 180 and a cafeteria with seating for 53.

Dozens of other cases of rape and attempted rape remain unsolved.

Meanwhile, the raping of German women by asylum seekers is becoming commonplace. Following are a few select cases just from 2015:

On September 11, a 16-year-old girl was raped by an unidentified “dark-skinned man speaking broken German” close to a refugee shelter in the Bavarian town of Mering. The attack occurred while the girl was walking home from the train station.

On August 13, police arrested two Iraqi asylum seekers, aged 23 and 19, for raping an 18-year-old German woman behind a schoolyard in Hamm, a city in North Rhine-Westphalia.

On July 26, a 14-year-old boy was sexually assaulted inside the bathroom of a regional train in Heilbronn, a city in southwestern Germany. Police are looking for a “dark skinned” man between the ages of 30 and 40 who has an “Arab appearance.” Also on July 26, a 21-year-old Tunisian asy-

lum seeker raped a 20-year-old woman in the Dornwaldsiedlung district of Karlsruhe. Police kept the crime secret until August 14, when a local paper went public with the story.

On June 9, two Somali asylum seekers, aged 20 and 18, were sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison for raping a

tral Munich.

On April 16, a 21-year-old asylum seeker from Iraq was sentenced to three years and ten months in prison for raping a 17-year-old girl at festival in the Bavarian town of Straubing in August 2014. On April 7, a 29-year-old asylum seeker was arrested for the attempted rape of a 14-year-old girl in the town of Alzenau.

On March 17, two Afghan asylum seekers aged 19 and 20 were sentenced to five years in prison for the “particularly abhorrent” rape of a 21-year-old German woman in Kirchheim, a town near Stuttgart, on August 17, 2014.

On February 11, a 28-year-old asylum seeker from Eritrea was sentenced to four years in prison for raping a 25-year-old German woman in Stralsund, along the Baltic Sea, in October 2014.

On February 1, a 27-year-old asylum seeker from Somalia was arrested after attempting to rape women in the Bavarian town of Reisbach.

On January 16, a 24-year-old Moroccan immigrant raped a 29-year-old woman in Dresden.

Dozens of other cases of rape and attempted rape — cases in which police are specifically looking for foreign perpetrators (German police often refer to them as *Südländer*, or “southerners”) — remain unresolved. Following is a partial list just for August 2015:

On August 23, a “dark skinned” man attempted to rape a 35-year-old woman in Dort-

21-year-old German woman in Bad Kreuznach, a town in Rhineland-Palatinate, on December 13, 2014.

On June 5, a 30-year-old Somali asylum seeker called “Ali S” was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison for attempting to rape a 20-year-old woman in Munich. Ali had previously served a seven-year sentence for rape, and had been out of prison for only five months before he attacked again. In an effort to protect the identity of Ali S, a Munich newspaper referred to him by the more politically correct “Joseph T.”

On May 22, a 30-year-old Moroccan man was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison for attempting to rape a 55-year-old woman in Dresden. On May 20, a 25-year-old Senegalese asylum seeker was arrested after he attempted to rape a 21-year-old German woman at the Stachus, a large square in cen-

mund. On August 17, three male “southerners” attempted to rape a 42-year-old woman in Ansbach. On August 16, a male “southerner” raped a woman in Hanau.

On August 12, a male “southerner” attempted to rape a 17-year-old woman in Hannover. Also on August 12, a male “southerner” exposed himself to a 31-year-old woman in Kassel. Police say a similar incident occurred in the same area on August 11.

On August 10, five men of “Turkish origin” attempted to rape a girl in Mönchengladbach. Also on August 10, a male “southerner” raped a 15-year-old girl in Rinteln. On August 8, a male “southerner” attempted to rape a 20-year-old woman in Siegen.

On August 3, a “North African” raped a seven-year-old girl in broad daylight in a park in Chemnitz, a city in eastern Germany. On August 1, a male “southerner” attempted to rape a 27-year-old woman in downtown Stuttgart.

Meanwhile, parents are being warned to look after their daughters. Police in the Bavarian town of Mering, where a 16-year-old girl was raped on September 11, have issued a warning to parents not to allow their children to go outside unaccompanied. They have also advised women not to walk to or from the train station alone because of its proximity to a refugee shelter.

In the Bavarian town of Pocking, administrators of the Wilhelm-Diess-Gymnasium have warned parents not to let their

daughters wear revealing clothing in order to avoid “misunderstandings” with the 200 Muslim refugees housed in emergency accommodations in a building next to the school. The letter said:

“The Syrian citizens are mainly Muslim and speak Arabic. The refugees have their own culture. Because our school is directly next to where they are staying, modest clothing should be worn in order to avoid disagreements. Revealing tops or blouses, short shorts or miniskirts could lead to misunderstandings.”

Police in the Bavarian town of Mering have issued a warning to parents not to allow their children to go outside unaccompanied.

A local politician quoted by Die Welt newspaper said:

“When Muslim teenage boys go to open air swimming pools, they are overwhelmed when they see girls in bikinis. These boys, who come from a culture where for women it is frowned upon to show naked skin, will follow girls and bother them without their realizing it. Naturally, this generates fear.”

The increase in sex crimes in Germany is being fueled by the preponderance of Muslim males among the mix of refugees/migrants entering the country.

A record 104,460 asylum seekers arrived in Germany in August, bringing the cumulative total for the first eight months of 2015 to 413,535. Germany expects to receive a total of 800,000

refugees and migrants this year, a four-fold increase over 2014.

At least 80% of the incoming refugees/migrants are Muslim, according to a recent estimate by the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland, ZMD), a Muslim umbrella group based in Cologne.

The asylum seekers are also overwhelmingly male. Of the 411,567 refugees/migrants who have entered the European Union by sea so far this year, 72% have been male, 13% women and 15%

children, according to calculations by the United Nations Refugee Agency. Information about the gender of those arriving by land remains unavailable.

Of the asylum seekers arriving in Germany in 2014, 71.5% of those between ages 16 and 18 were male; 77.5% in the 18-25 age group were male; as were 73.5% of those between 25 and 30, according to German migration statistics. Data for 2015 is not yet available. □

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“Thou Shalt Not Kill” Is Absolute

by Jim Josephsen

IN a recent video message sent to the 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, having convened in Oslo, Norway, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, better known as Pope Francis, welcomed their efforts as a way to promote the right to life of all persons. Among the words Pope Francis intoned, not only in his video message, but as presented in other conversations and letters consistent with his ideology: “Nowadays the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person.” “Capital punishment is an offense to the inviolability of life and to the dignity of the human person.” “[Capital Punishment] likewise contradicts God’s plan for individuals and society, and his merciful justice.”

The Pope acknowledged society’s need to protect itself from aggressors, but said, “When the death penalty is applied, people are killed not for current acts of aggression, but for offences committed in the past. Moreover, it is applied to people whose capacity to cause harm is not current, but has already been neutralized, and who are deprived of their freedom.”

Capital Punishment is the punishment handed out for crimes such as murder, espio-

nage, treason, and when warranted, lesser crimes such as rape, adultery, incest, sodomy. For this article, the crime of murder is the focus of discussion.

Consider the logic: Capital punishment should not be executed because the murderer, the killer of another human being “committed [an act] in the past.” That murderer is now a person “whose current ability to cause harm is not current.” It was a mistake, a bad decision. Whether he or she meant it; oh well it happened back then, whenever. He or she is now sort of “neutralized.” Now incarcerated, deprived of liberty (as though that really fixes the problem or is cost effective), we can just forget about it. Forget about the fact the victim no longer has liberty, not even deprived liberty; not even life.

Murder — the willful and premeditated taking of another person’s life. No matter how that life is taken, murder is brutal, ugly, messy, cruel, vicious, insensitive, cold, evil, heartless and inhumane. Oh, and it is a sin.

No matter how you look at it, murder is death and it is irrevocable. Murder puts a stain on spouses, children, family, friends, loved ones, community and society. It is a slap in the face of the Creator.

That is why God gave the sixth commandment. For clarification, the commandment “Thou Shalt Not Kill” should actually read, “Thou shalt do no murder.” The Hebrew word *ratsach*, which in the King James Version Bible is translated “kill”, actually means “to dash, to murder, man slayer.” Giving the commandment, “Thou shalt do no murder,” God differentiates accidental, unintentional killing or killing when it comes to war from deliberate, premeditated, presumptuous, intentional murder.

The Pope went on to say of capital punishment, “[I]t’s an offense to life, contradicts God’s plan and serves no purpose for punishment.” He also stated, “The commandment, ‘Thou shalt not kill’ has absolute value and applies both to the innocent and to the guilty” and “it must not be forgotten that the inviolable and God-given right to life also belongs to the criminal.”

The Pontiff sounds compassionate and logical, promoting humanism and the sensitivities of the 21st century. His words reflect the soft sounding tone of liberal political correctness prevalent today. Why the Pope even sounds like he might know God. In addition to his comments are

all the other civil, social, psychological, political, legal and moral arguments attempting to justify the abolition of the death penalty.

However, is what the Pope pontificates in accord with what God has to say about the matter? After all, it is God's word on the subject that counts. God's word has relevance. God's Word and His Will naturally promote a healthy, wholesome, dignified, decent and safe society, when obeyed. It is what God has already said, as a matter of His divine will, that takes into account both criminal and victim. God's wisdom, when implemented, achieves justice and mitigates criminal behavior. God's directive on the matter was issued long ago.

If mankind would hearken to the wisdom of God, to the laws of God and understand the required penalty for murder, then society would be better off, peaceful and most importantly, human life and the "dignity of the human person" would be respected and esteemed. Justice would be righteously served.

God settled the matter long ago with words that are immutable, absolute, and inalterable; for God, who cannot lie, changes not. And His word changes not.

"Whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God, He made man" (Genesis 9:6).

God created male and female in the "image of God," looking (in their physical features and form) as God looks, in His likeness (Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2). In

James 3:9, we read once again human beings are made after the similitude or in the likeness of God.

God was direct and to the point, unequivocal in His command pertaining to the "inviolability and God-given right to human life." Even before His laws were codified with the giving of the Ten Commandments;

even before His laws, statutes and judgments were given to the Children of Israel for that nation to promote and preserve a civil, decent, manageable society and government, God had something to say about the death penalty and capital punishment.

God laid it out plainly. A murderer, one who sheds the blood of another human being, must be put to death. A murderer forfeits his or her life. Why? Because the victim is made in God's image. God holds man and woman as precious in His sight and sets them apart from all His other creations. In God's sight, wisdom and will, man is created special and is precious, worthy of esteem. Men and women are to be respected, not murdered.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou hast visited him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and has crowned him with glory and hon-

or. Thou hast made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands" (Psalm 8:4-6).

So precious to God is the life of a man or woman that for another human being to commit murder requires the forfeiture of the murderer's life. Done! When committing murder, a human being is showing contempt for another human being and conse-

God settled the matter long ago with words that are immutable, absolute, and inalterable.

quently, is showing contempt for God. God then requires a punishment. God therefore, long ago, established the justification for capital punishment.

God has given the responsibility to His creation to make sure the death penalty is executed. In Romans 13:1-4, the Apostle Paul, speaking of the responsibility of government, including the duties of law enforcement and a judicial system states, "[F]or he [a government with law enforcement, a judicial system, and the principles of governing] is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid, for he [that government] does not bear the sword in vain [for nothing], for he is the minister [servant] of God to execute wrath [punishment] upon the one who does evil."

God stipulated that a murderer is guilty of sin, of a crime, and as such the death penalty is the required and necessary punish-

Thou Shalt Not Kill

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ment. God put in place the principles and practice of government, including judicial fundamentals. God sanctions law enforcement and judicial systems within governments, giving these agencies the right and responsibility to execute the death penalty, when necessary. To neglect the death penalty, when handed out to unmistakable and obvious murderers, is also a violation of God's will.

Jesus Christ admonished, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Clearly, Christ distinguished two levels of personal responsibility for the individual. One, the responsibility the individual must maintain toward physical government and two, the responsibility the individual must maintain with regard to spiritual concerns and obedience toward God.

Jesus Christ also acknowledged that Caesar (government) has his (its) responsibilities. Of course, Jesus Christ knew of the inherent corruptions and failings within any government that functions separately from God and God's laws (Luke 22:25). Nevertheless, Christ acknowledged that government has requisite responsibilities, one of which is to keep civility and orderliness among its citizenry. Jesus Christ understood as Paul did, that government is a servant of God to

administer justice. How effective each government or system of governing is, is another matter. God did establish laws which, if adhered to, weed out corruption and prevents judicial injustice within government. Still, God holds governments responsible to execute His requirement as pertaining to capital punishment.

Another element of justice and judicial prudence pertaining to capital punishment when required is found in Ecclesiastes 8:11. Here God, through King Solomon admonishes, "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, the hearts of the sons of men are fully given to do the evil." Very easily understood: when you postpone the punishment due, the result is people thinking they can get away with more evil.

Unlike the Pope's concept of justice, God's justice is just and equal across the board, to be swift and certain. God holds human life in such high esteem that he requires a life for a life. The lesson is then indelibly set in the minds of the witnessing public. God's mandate for any well governed, law-abiding, safe, free, and civil society is to put the evil out from among you (cf. Deuteronomy 13:5, 17:7, 19:9; 22:21-24 and 1 Corinthians 5:13). Not in vengeance or retribution but as a way to maintain a dignified and respectful society.

There is one more element of God's will, God's purpose and promise, "God's plan" (as the Pope calls it) which 21st century humankind and a deceived reli-

gious community does not understand. God, through Jesus Christ, will resurrect every human being that ever lived, including murderers (John 5:27-29 and Revelation 20:11-15). God established a time in the future when all who have died will be brought back to life and all will have their opportunity to truly know God's mercy, to seek his forgiveness and to choose whether or not to accept God's gracious salvation.

Because life is precious and the human being is esteemed, inviolable in the sight of God, created in His image, God requires justice. His justice with regard to murder and capital punishment is simple and easily understood. Whoever sheds man's blood, whoever commits murder, forfeits his or her life and shall be put to death. Man's judicial system is the servant of God to execute the punishment. God will then, at a later time, at their resurrection, deal specifically with these individuals.

Murdering a fellow human being, made in the image of God, requires the death penalty. What can be more absolute than that? God does not play games when it comes to the inviolability of life. It is obvious that men and even men who claim to speak for God are woefully ignorant of God's will, of "God's plan for individuals," of God's righteousness and of God's "merciful justice." The Capital Punishment debate is just one more witness of a world ignorant of God's wisdom and will, and disobedient to God's laws. □



At a Glance: Europe and America In Prophecy

Excerpts from the revealing book by Garner Ted Armstrong explain the end time roles of the United States of America and a powerful United Europe. When we understand the promises made by God to Abraham and who the beneficiaries of those blessings are, we find how modern man fits into the plan of prophecy and what our future holds.

IN many ways, the Bible could be called the story of “one man’s family.” In only a few short chapters, one sixth of all the history of the world is covered; from creation until the flood of Noah, a period of approximately one thousand years.

Then follows the account of the overspreading of the earth by Noah’s children; the attempt at racial amalgamation and the tower of Babel; the dividing of the nations and confusion of their languages — all within but a few chapters. By the twelfth chapter of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we begin reading of a man named “Abram,” who was called of God for a great mission in life. Turn to this vital twelfth chapter, and read it with your own eyes.

“Now the Eternal had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee:

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen.12:1-3).

What a promise!



“And I will make thy seed [your children—your progeny to follow] as the dust of the earth [numbering hundreds of millions]: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered” (Genesis 13:14-16).

God is not promising that Abram’s children would become but a small, struggling nation in the Middle East! This is not a description of “Israel” of

this modern time—a nation surrounded by hostile Arab nations, struggling for survival.

The Jews in modern Israel hardly comprise a nation so large; a people occupying all points of the compass who number “as the dust of the earth.”

Later, God expanded on this marvelous promise to Abram! He promised Abraham’s grandson, Jacob (whose name was changed to “Israel”), “And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed!”



Jacob had twelve children. The story of Jacob’s two wives, Leah and Rachel, is found in chapter 28 through chapter 31 of the book of Genesis.

Leah was the mother of the following children: Dinah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

Rachel’s maid, Bilhah, bore Jacob two sons, Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah, Leah’s maid, bore Gad and Asher.

Finally, Rachel, Jacob’s choice for a wife and the one for whom he had labored so long, bore Jacob two sons, Joseph, and Benjamin.



Now we come to a Bible truth so simple, and yet so profound, that it is surprising that millions of churchgoing, professing Christians do not understand it! That has to do with the identity of “the House of Israel,” and “the House of Judah.”

Few seem to understand that not all Israelites

Europe and America

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Texans (legal residents) are Americans, so it is true that all Jews are Israelites! But all Israelites are not Jews!

The term “Jew” is a nickname for the progenitor of the Jewish race, “Judah.” Judah is one of the children of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel.



Later, God appeared unto Jacob, “And God said unto him, thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but ISRAEL shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

“And God said unto him, I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation [singular] and a company of nations [multiple nations!] shall be of thee, and kings [plural] shall come out of thy loins!

“And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac to thee I will give it, and to thy seed [multiple seed—millions!] after thee will I give the land” (Genesis 35:10).

The promises which had been made unconditional to Abraham now passed on to Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel! Much of the remainder of the book of Genesis is taken up with the story of how the jealous brothers sold Joseph, Israel’s favorite son, into Egypt; how God allowed this to happen in order to provide a place for the family to endure the searing drought which would take thousands of lives in Palestine, and how the result was the birth of a new nation in captivity.

Toward the end of the book of Genesis is a fascinating chapter (chapter 49) giving strong clues as to the modern identity of the many tribes of the “House of Israel.”

In the preceding chapter (Genesis 48) is the vitally important account of how the name of Isra-

el passed upon Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph’s two sons! But the most important verse is verse 16. Read it again!

“The angel [messenger] which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and LET MY NAME BE NAMED ON THEM, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

Which tribes, then, according to your Bible, should wear the name of Israel? Judah? No. Simeon or Levi? No.

The name of the House of ISRAEL was very clearly passed down to the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, in that order!

Ephraim was prophesied to become a company of nations, and his brother, Manasseh, a great single nation!

These two brothers were to possess the names of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or ISRAEL! They, uniquely among the other children of Jacob, were to have the name of “ISRAEL” upon them!

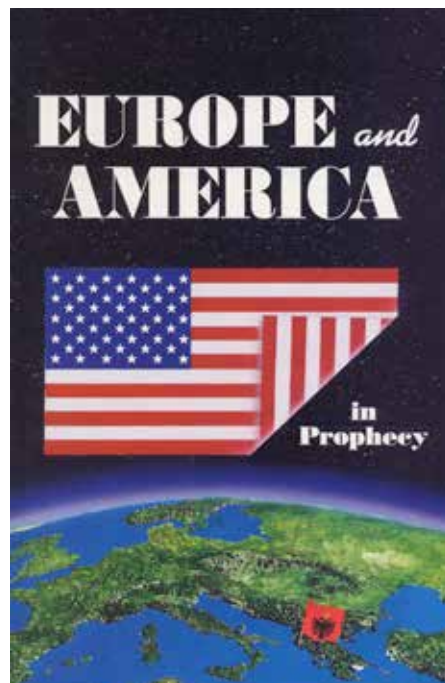
Yet millions of professing Christians remain blissfully ignorant of these vitally important scriptures which clearly identify the “lost ten tribes,” or the “covenant people,” prophesied to in-

herit the national greatness promised to the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!



The history of God’s new nation is unfolded in the books of Joshua when they entered into the promised land; Judges; the period under God’s system of Judges, like a theocracy under God, culminated in the rebellious call for a KING to rule over them in 1 and 2 Samuel, like other nations. The king was Saul. Under Saul, Israel found itself heavily taxed; military conscription of young men occurred, warfare ensued, and the people had no real peace.

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel detail the reign



of Saul; his evil character. While issuing a royal decree that any witch was to be put to death or expelled from the land, Saul sought to the infamous Witch of Endor in an attempt to receive a message from Samuel, then dead. He continually tried to kill David, becoming jealous of him because of his military prowess; his popularity.

Then comes David's accession to the throne, and the enlargement of the kingdom.



David, as the grandfather of Rehoboam, the first king in a long line of rulers over the southern kingdom, was given an unconditional promise from God.

The covenant with David had nothing to do with the birthright promise; the promise of RACE. Instead, it concerned the sceptre promise, the promise of GRACE; the lineage through which Christ would be born.

For a full understanding of the covenant God made with David, turn to and read all of 2 Samuel the seventh chapter.

Notice particularly verses 12 through 17: "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

"He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

"I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

"But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

"And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever.

"According to all these words, and according to this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David."

The genealogy of Jesus Christ proves how God kept this promise to David. Read Luke 3:23 to the end of the chapter and you will read of Jesus' "legal" genealogy through His foster father, Joseph, back to Adam. Verses 31 and 32 include Jesse, David's father, and David himself.

Each year, at "Christmas" time, little chil-

dren are schooled in repeating the angelic enunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ. Millions hear these words repeated each year, yet none seem to understand what they mean.

The angel said to Mary, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS.

"He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the House of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).

What does this scripture tell you?

It tells you, in incontrovertible and plain language from the inspired Word of God, that the throne of David will still remain as a viable throne—meaning a position of rulership over a nation—right up until the second coming of Christ!

Notice! "Behold the days come, saith the Eternal, 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, and Israel [a different nation] shall dwell safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSENSSS" (Jeremiah 23:5, 6).



David's throne will still be extant at the time of the second coming of Christ. David himself will be resurrected at that time, and sit on a throne over the 12 tribes of Israel, yet under authority of the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is prophesied to come to "inherit the throne of His father David," proving that throne still exists.

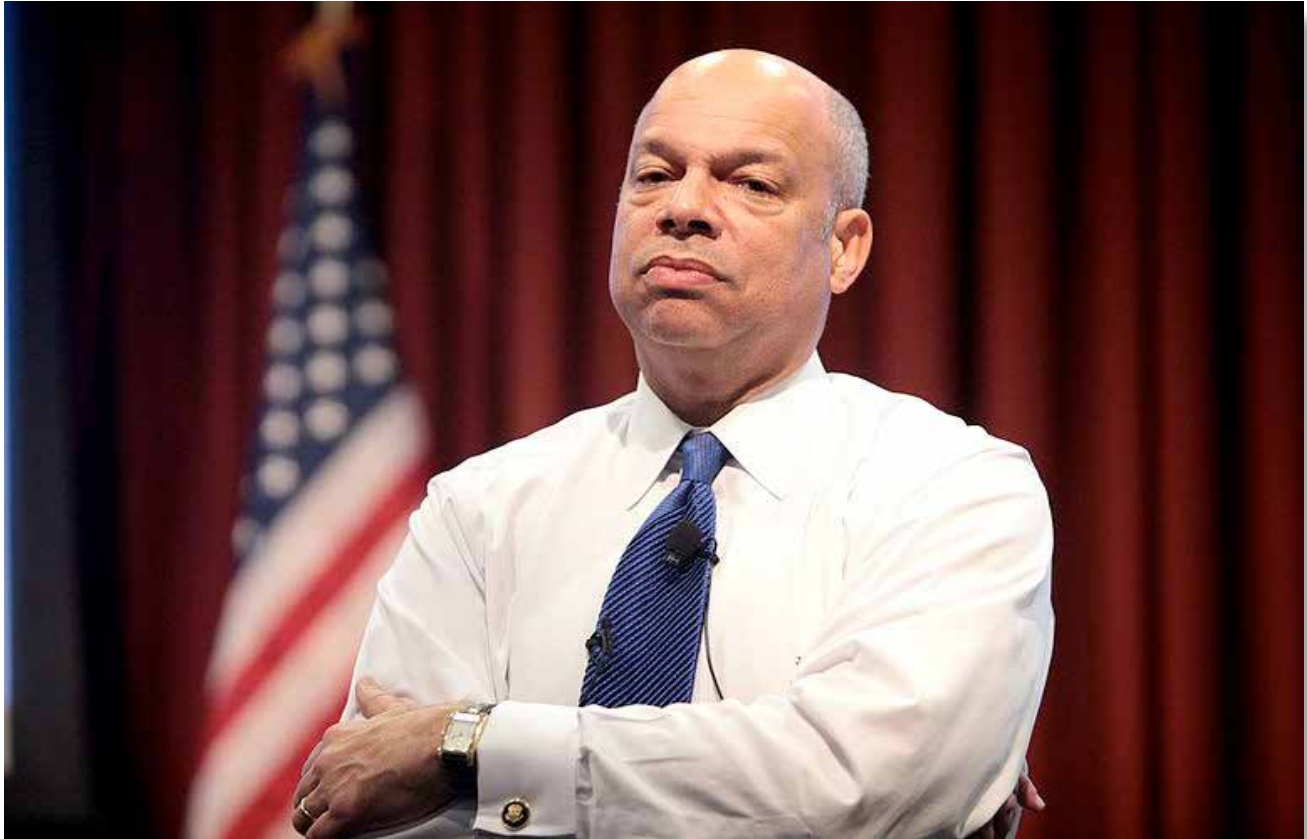


David is followed by his son, Solomon, and the temple is built; the kingdom further expanded, until it reached its zenith; a prosperous, wealthy, vibrant nation which was the greatest known on earth at that time.

Under Solomon, metals were mined from far away England; Solomon's ships sailed into the Atlantic; circumnavigated Africa. They brought



Homeland Security boss' love-in with Hamas front group



WASHINGTON - Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told the annual convention of a Hamas-Muslim Brotherhood front group Saturday night in Chicago that, thanks to the Obama administration, its struggle for full acceptance in America “is one you will win.”

The group Johnson addressed is the Islamic Society of North America, an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest terrorist-financing trial in the nation’s history.

In 1991, the Muslim Brotherhood, the super-umbrella network of Islamist ideology from which terror groups such as al-Qaida

and Hamas arose, listed ISNA as one of its main fronts. Declassified FBI memos said ISNA is a component of the Muslim Brotherhood, which sees its “work in America as a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within.”

In 2007, the U.S. government labeled ISNA a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood entity and an unindicted co-conspirator in a terrorism-financing trial involving the Holy Land Foundation funneling money to Hamas. The label was upheld in 2009 because of “ample” evidence linking ISNA to Hamas. Several years ago, IS-

NA’s Canadian affiliate lost its status as a charity because of its accounting discrepancies and links to Pakistani terrorists.

ISNA is known for its enforcement of Saudi-style Islam in mosques throughout the U.S. The Holy Land Foundation, to which ISNA was linked by the Justice Department, was found guilty in 2008 of raising money for the Hamas terrorist organization. Holy Land founders were given life sentences for “funneling” \$12 million to Hamas.

ISNA also was named in a May 1991 Muslim Brotherhood document, “An Explanatory Memorandum on the General

Strategic Goal for the Group in North America,” as one of the Brotherhood’s likeminded “organizations of our friends” who shared the common goal of destroying America and turning it into a Muslim nation, according to Discover the Networks.

Like ISIS, the Muslim Brotherhood seeks to create an Islamic caliphate.

But Johnson didn’t mention any of that in his talk Saturday night. Instead, he conducted something of a “love-in” with the audience – comparing the plight of Muslims in the U.S. with the struggle of black Americans during the Jim Crow South his own grandfather is said to have experienced.

Many American Muslims have been critical of his department and federal law enforcement agencies for what they view as discriminatory surveillance and prosecution of American Muslims. In his speech, Johnson did not speak to surveillance practices directly but acknowledged a common experience of discrimination and disrespect among American Muslims.

Johnson was the first sitting Cabinet secretary and the highest-ranking U.S. official to address an ISNA conference. He told the crowd of hundreds of Muslim religious and political leaders, activists and professionals that he hoped his appearance at the conference serves as a precedent for future appearances by officials of his rank. And he compared the Muslim American struggle for recognition, respect and equal rights to that of other

American religious, racial and ethnic communities. He spoke of his grandfather, an accomplished African American sociologist who lived and died in the Jim Crow South but whose grandson is now the secretary of homeland security in the administration of a black president.

“Do not despair,” Johnson told the crowd. “If you know

group of terrorists attempting to hijack your religion.”

He said: “Tonight I will not look at this large group of Muslims before me in this room through a homeland security lens. Tonight I will not talk about counterterrorism. Tonight I will simply address you as who you are, ‘my fellow Americans.’”

“Tonight I speak especially

“Your struggle for full acceptance in this country is one you will win.”

American history, take comfort in learning from it.”

He called his appearance before the group a “privilege” and said he hoped future “government officials of my rank will attend your annual convention. President Obama has made it a priority for his administration to build bridges to American Muslim communities.”

“In 33 months as your secretary of Homeland Security, I have personally visited American Muslim communities in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Detroit, Dearborn, Chicago, Columbus, Houston, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles,” he said. “I have come to know many of you, and I hope you know me. You have heard President Obama and me call out the discrimination and vilification you face in the current climate. You have heard us say that the self-proclaimed Islamic State is neither Islam nor a state; you have heard us say that it is a

to the young people in this audience, and to the parents worried about your future,” said Johnson. “Many of the young people in this room worry that, because of the current climate, your religion, your skin color, and your attire, because of that you will never win full acceptance in this country. I come before you tonight to assure you this is not true. Your struggle for full acceptance in this country is one you will win.”

He said he was confident of this because his own African-American ancestors traveled a similar road.

“I hear your stories of discrimination, vilification, and of the efforts to tar you with the broad brush of suspicion,” he continued. “I hear about the bullying and physical attacks that Muslims are experiencing nationwide. They are familiar to me. I recognize them. I look out on this room of American Muslims and I see myself. I see a similar struggle that my African-Ameri-

Continued next page

DHS Love-In With ISNA

Continued from page 25

can ancestors have fought to win acceptance in this country. Realize it or not, your story is the quintessential American story. Your story is an American story, told over and over again, generation after generation, of waves of people who struggle for, seek, and will eventually win your share of the American dream. Know the history of this country

mist militants have been given a platform to incite violence and promote hatred,” states Emerson. Emerson cites an ISNA conference in which al-Qaida supporter and Palestinian Liberation Organization official Yusuf Al Qaradawi was invited to speak.

Emerson further reports that in September 2002, a full year after 9/11, “speakers at ISNA’s annual conference still refused to acknowledge [Osama] bin Laden’s role in the terrorist attacks.”

ISNA also has held fundrais-

terror-financing plot and Wahhaj in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Muhammad Qatanani, another key ISNA leader, was arrested and convicted by Israel in 1993 for being a member of Hamas. Homeland Security sought to deport him because of his terror link, saying in a 2008 court filing, “It is certainly suspicious when a person who has been convicted of being a member of, and providing services, to Hamas, who has personal ties to a Hamas militant leader, and a Hamas fundraiser also sends undisclosed cash to the West Bank.”

Another radical American Muslim cleric, Zaid Shakir, spoke at a previous ISNA convention that featured former President Jimmy Carter. According to the groundbreaking book, “Muslim Mafia,” Shakir in speeches to Muslim audiences has said Islamic law permits Muslims to attack U.S. military planes – including ones carrying 82nd Airborne paratroopers out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“Islam doesn’t permit us to hijack airplanes filled with civilian people,” Shakir said. “If you hijack an airplane filled with the 82nd Airborne, that’s something else.”

Shakir exhorted the Muslim faithful: “Jihad is physically fighting the enemies of Islam to protect and advance the religion of Islam. This is jihad.”

Dr. Mark Christian, born and raised a devout Sunni Muslim with strong ties to the Egyptian military and the Muslim Brotherhood who later converted to Christianity and founded the

Dr. Mark Christian characterizes ISNA’s goal as bringing about “the establishment of Islamic supremacy over North America.”

and you will know that – whether it’s Catholic Americans, Jewish Americans, Mormon Americans, Irish Americans, Italian Americans, Japanese Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, or Muslim Americans - this will be true.”

ISNA, through its affiliate, the North American Islamic Trust – a Saudi government-backed organization – reportedly holds the mortgages on 50 to 80 percent of all mosques in the U.S. and Canada.

According to terrorism expert Steven Emerson, ISNA “is a radical group hiding under a false veneer of moderation” that publishes a bi-monthly magazine, *Islamic Horizons*, that “often champions militant Islamist doctrine.”

The group also “convenes annual conferences where Isla-

ers for terrorists, notes Discover the Networks. After Hamas leader Mousa Marzook was arrested and eventually deported in 1997, ISNA raised money for his defense. The group also condemned the U.S. government’s post-9/11 seizure of Hamas’ and Palestinian Islamic Jihad’s financial assets.

Nevertheless, Johnson who runs the Cabinet-level federal agency specifically created for and charged with combatting terrorism delivered an impassioned speech on the subject of Muslim empowerment in America.

“Do not despair,” Johnson told the crowd. “If you know American history, take comfort in learning from it.”

At least two ISNA board members, James Badawi and Siraj Wahhaj, were listed as unindicted co-conspirators – Siraj in the Holy Land Foundation

Global Faith Institute, wrote last year that of the 21 violent attacks on domestic American targets perpetrated by domestic Muslim jihadists, at least 12 of those attackers and possibly as many as 17 regularly attended or were significantly linked to Islamic Society mosques.

He characterizes ISNA's goal as bringing about "the establishment of Islamic supremacy over North America."

Muzzamil Siddiqi, ISNA president 1996-2000, current member of Fiqh Council, said: "By participating in a non-Islamic system, one cannot rule by that which Allah has commanded. But things do not change overnight. Changes comes through patience, wisdom and hard work. I believe that as Muslims we should participate in the system to safeguard our interests and try to bring gradual change for the right cause, the cause of truth and justice. We must not forget that Allah's rules have to be established in all lands, and all our efforts should lead to that direction."

"The Oklahoman who beheaded his co-worker and attempted to behead another was a regular at his local ISNA mosque," writes Christian. "Same with the Fort Hood shooter, Nidal Hasan, who spent a great deal of his off-duty hours at his local Islamic Society mosque, steeping his brain in the readily available radicalism-du-jour that appears to be an all-too-common thread among ISNA facilities."

The Islamic Society mosque in Boston that was the worship



Islamic Center mosque in Dearborn, MI. Michigan has one of the largest Arab populations outside of the Middle East.

home for the Tsarnaev brothers responsible for the Boston Marathon bombing also was home for the following:

Abdurahman Alamoudi, the mosque's founder and first president, who in 2004 was sentenced to 23 years in prison for plotting terrorism. In 2005, the Treasury Department issued a statement saying Alamoudi raised money for al-Qaida in the U.S.

Aafia Siddiqui, an MIT scientist-turned-al-Qaida agent who in 2010 was sentenced to 86 years in prison for planning a New York chemical attack. Known as "Lady al-Qaida," she is related to 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed. ISIS has tried to trade her release for journalist hostages.

Tarek Mehanna, who in 2012 got 17 years in prison for conspiring to use automatic weapons to murder shoppers in a suburban Boston mall.

Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a mosque trustee and Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader banned from the U.S. after issuing a fatwa that called for the killing of U.S. soldiers.

According to a Muslim Brotherhood operative, more than half of the mosques in the West were either founded or acquired by Islamic Society.

"The Islamic Society is no friend to America," writes Christian. "Its doctrine of domination is obvious and indefensible. Our failure to investigate and respond appropriately has cost the lives of many in our nation and will take many more, should we permit our leaders to dismiss our concerns as 'Islamophobia.'" □

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Empire Strikes Back

Continued from page 2

Analysis of the British referendum shows that it was the over 50 crowd that turned out in large numbers to vote for an EU exit. If it had been up to the nation's youth, Brexit would never have happened.



For those familiar with the sermons, radio and television programs of Garner Ted Armstrong and the teachings of the Church of God over the years, you'll know that a major event has just transpired that the Church insisted would happen, based on Bible prophecy, over a period of many decades.

That is the news of Britain's political, economic and military divorce of the European Union. The mainstream media was so confident it just couldn't happen that they barely reported on the opposing referendum campaigns until the very last minute. Even then there was little doubt among the chattering classes that Brits

would not dare vote to do something so brash, so politically incorrect, so contrary to the One World pursuit of "social justice!" Even though British opinion polls showed there was no chance of an exit vote from Europe, the American president felt obliged to visit London personally and lecture British voters about their own identity and intentions. That,

according to a bevy of reporters and analysts, surely would put the outcome of the referendum solidly on the side of the EU. They couldn't have been more mistaken!

The surprise outcome shocked the all-powerful, all-important officials and diplomats of the EU. One could only wish to have seen the looks on the faces of Jean-Claude Juncker, Angela Merkel, Christine Lagarde, Francois Hollande when they read the headlines on the morning after the British votes were tallied. Sure, they were caught completely off guard, but also insulted, angry and worried for the future of their beloved European Un-

ion, as well they should be. But there are a substantial number of people who weren't shocked or surprised in the least about this historical moment. It has been understood, and taught as a part of the Church's understanding of Bible prophecy, that England would not be part of the final configuration of European nations that will comprise the "ten kings" of end time Bible prophecy.

This development can be viewed alongside another earth-shaking occurrence that also took the world by surprise. It was equally unlikely and unforeseen by the intelligentsia until it actually happened. That was the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany. When it transpired back in 1989, we published quotes from articles and letters, statements dating back decades proving that the Church of God foretold of this world-changing event, and that it had to take place if Bible prophecy was to be believed.

Now we're watching the tragic humiliation and degradation of all of western civilization in real time, moment by moment, one shattering event after another. How many examples of *jihadist* terror must we witness and experience before someone gets a clue that radical devotion to the "religion" of Islam is incompatible with freedom and with every blessing of liberty?

We've witnessed radical Muslim attacks and murders in Boston, Ft. Hood, Chattanooga, Oklahoma City, San Bernardino, Orlando, and others in the United States, along with Paris, Brus-

sels, the truck massacre in Nice, France and the grisly news never seems to slow down. A young refugee from Afghanistan using a knife and an ax, stabbed and bludgeoned some 19 people on a German train, injuring three critically shouting, “allah akbar” all the while. Close on the heels of that is the report of a Moroccan stabbing a mother and her three young girls (ages eight, 12 and 14) in a French resort area for being “inappropriately dressed.” They were wearing shorts and t-shirts, if it was any concern of the demented Muslim next door.

Every 48 hours or less, there’s another butchery at the hands of a Muslim immigrant. While Europe is in the middle of a massive wave of Muslim immigrant crime, authorities and investigators are nearly always quick to say, “They weren’t radicalized!” No, they hardly ever are these days. But there seem to be quite a few with “mental instability.” So they’re not Islamic zealots, they’re just crazy! We’ll need an expert psychiatrist to determine whether the two are mutually exclusive. But then that just might violate Sharia.

The authorities (who coincidentally authorized the influx of “refugees” now nearing one and a half million people) have gone to great lengths to cover up the murders, rapes, assaults and muggings, as you’ll see if you have the time to catch up on European news. Little of this is being reported in our mainstream news, because it certainly doesn’t fit the narrative we’re supposed to believe. You know, the one about

how strong multiculturalism makes us? How Muslims have nothing to do with terrorism?

What were the Europeans thinking when, already suffering economic crises, they decided it would be a good idea to flood the continent with over a million Muslims who have no comprehension of or sympathy for western culture or civil society? It would take more than a couple of pages to outline the numerous

It is now only a matter of time before the EU collapses under the weight of its own folly.

murderous Muslim attacks of the past week alone. You’ve heard of the pregnant woman butchered by a machete-wielding immigrant? The priest in Normandy who was made to kneel in his church while a convicted Muslim terrorist wearing an electronic ankle bracelet cut his throat? The daily intimidation by groups of bearded men who threaten citizens and their children? The Somali who butchered a female American tourist in London, slashing and wounding several others?

In addition to an illegal alien crime wave throughout the United States, we’re being told that our national impulse toward empathy requires that tens of thousands, soon to be hundreds of thousands of Syrians, Iraqis, Somalis and others need to be brought in to and fully supported by the United States. If we slammed the door in their face,

well, “that’s just not who we are.”

The insistent rhetoric about “who we are” raises an interesting point! Western leaders continually claim that our basic culture, indeed our heritage revolves around the “values” of multiculturalism, “gay rights,” “green energy,” and empathy for refugees. The pope made the welcome of “refugees” the defining platform of his reign. It would be interesting to know how much influence his state-

ments and sentiments had over the decisions of Angela Merkel.

Regardless, Europe is in the middle of a mighty backlash that may well take down the teetering EU. People are now living through the terror that has been thrust into their midst, and seeing what has become of the relative peace and safety that existed before they had millions of displaced Muslims roaming their streets. Angry demonstrations are becoming common. Right wing parties are on the march, and their leaders are gaining support. It is now only a matter of time before the EU collapses under the weight of its own folly. What comes next may represent a full swing of the pendulum to a kind of religious/economic authoritarian fascism that will represent the last chapter of European history.

Western civilization has earned the blight we see by

Continued next page

Empire Strikes Back

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turning away from God and His Laws. Our culture has turned to an ideology of self-worship, where society's "goodness" is regarded as having progressed well beyond Divine dictates. God condemns homosexuality throughout His Word. Western civilization has embraced "gay marriage," and leveled the charge of bigotry (of all things) against any and all critics. Western civilization has concluded that man, not God, can alter if not control the climate by government mandate. Western civilization holds that an individual has the power and the right to "choose" his or her own gender, changing it with doctors, hormones and surgeries.

Talk about "playing God!"

The leaders of Western civilization have determined that we must clasp to our collective bosom virulent heathen enemies and just deal with the consequences. That's how GOOD we are. We're so good that we wouldn't dare insult a "religion" that influences hundreds of thousands of bloodthirsty killers. No, we must import them into our own neighborhoods and ignore the obvious dangers. Don't worry, law enforcement will intervene in the aftermath of a mass murder and be ever so careful to find some explanation other than the preachers of radical Islam.

Western civilization has "progressed" beyond natural laws, and beyond reality, which according to the brilliant elite, doesn't really exist. God and

the Bible have been kicked out of school, out of government and out of higher education. Our societies have sanctified sins God condemns throughout His Word, Old Testament and New. And here we are, facing perilous threats from our enemies as never before. The threat of terror overshadows every public event. Iran is working with North Korea, consulting and cooperating on nuclear weapons. China has become aggressive, claiming international waters with their military and warning of war with Japan and the United States if anybody gets in their way. We will keep watching and warning as the breakdown plays out in Europe, and what comes next for the United States and the nations of the British Commonwealth. □

Europe and America

Continued from page 23

Africa. The Queen of Sheba, probably Hatshepsut of Egypt, was overwhelmed at Jerusalem, with its terraced gardens, fountains, magnificent temple and buildings; splendid homes, great treasuries of gold, silver, and precious stones.

But Solomon became corrupted in his old age; he built temples to the pagan gods of his many wives and concubines, neglected the affairs of government, allowed other forces to prevail. As a result, one of Solomon's servants, Jereboam, brought the northern ten tribes to the brink of civil war with Judah, and those associated with the Jews in and around Jerusalem, including Levi, Simeon, and portions of Benjamin, who had contiguous borders.

The kingdom was divided; Jereboam set up a provisional government in Samaria, to the north, and Rehoboam, Solomon's son, continued on the throne in Jerusalem, as the king of Judah.

strange and exotic birds and animals from India and from

Now, there were two distinct nations; The House of Israel, to the north, with the capital city of Samaria, under Jereboam, and the House of Judah, consisting mostly of those of the tribe of Judah, together with many Levites and Simeonites, with their capital city of Jerusalem. Never were those of the ten tribes to the north called Jews! The "Jews" were of Judah, from which the term "Jew" derives.

Not one percent of ministers know about the separate national histories of Israel and Judah; about the removal of Israel into captivity; about the subsequent loss of their identity down through history; about the seven times which would expire while they were deprived of their national inheritance. Therefore, they cannot know of the actual identity of Britain and the United States in the Bible; cannot know of God's repeated warnings to our peoples. □



*This is but a brief look into Garner Ted Armstrong's eye-opening book **Europe and America in Prophecy**; see the back cover for information on how to order your own free copy today!*

LETTERS

Dear Mark & GTAEA,

Thank you so much for the magazine and booklets; also for the newsletters. Thank you for keeping us so well informed. It sure is a scary world out there.

May God continue to bless you all and keep you strong in His great work. I am praying for you all daily. Please remember me too!

D.J.C., Salinas, KS

Dear Members & Coworkers,

Thanking God for all of you that are working hard to get God's word to all the people. I for one am thankful for you all and for all the books and letters.

May God keep blessing all of you with wisdom, understanding and knowledge. I am so glad the Lord brought you all into my life. It made a difference in my life to know the real and true God and I say again God Bless You!

I.C., Savannah, GA

Dear GTAEA,

The music on Pentecost was mighty beautiful. Thank you for the putting out of God's truth. You all are very important. From the janitors up, it's a job of serving well done.

My minister is John Mitchell. He does a fine job. You all do.

Sincerely,

B.N., Townsend, MT

Dear Mark,

Hope all is well in Tyler. We had a great day at Pentecost with everyone.

Also tell everyone hello and we enjoy so much the WATCH magazine. Tell Stan we love his sermons and we love you all.

M.&A.P., Evansville, IN

Dear GTAEA,

I am thankful for all you do to get God's word out to so many. I was Baptised on June 25th of this year into God's Holy Church.

I am so grateful and thankful to your Intercontinental Church for welconing me and helping me learn so much of God's word and what I am here for. I am now a part of God's family!

S.O., Clinton, IA

Dear GTAEA,

Thank you so much for the booklets, letters and CDs I have received for the past year. I am 75 years old, was always made to go to church, learned a lot of the

Bible, but I always had questions.

I never got the answers I wanted until I got your booklets and listened to you on CW4 Bristol, TN. I listen to you every Sunday morning. Keep up the good work!

E.G., Bakersville, NC

Dear Mr. Armstrong & GTAEA,

Thank you for the great letter of June 27, 2016. I was delighted to see an article by Michael Armstrong in the recent WATCH.

Thank you all for what you do... Mr. Mark, you "watch" like Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong!

Thank you so much,
F.F., Great Falls, MT

Dear GTAEA

I am thrilled to be re-connected with GTA. Years ago I listened to him when he was spokesman for the Worldwide Church of God in the 1970s. An awesome speaker and a common sense maker. I love his father also!

Thank you for the literature you have sent me along with his books and DVDs. I love you guys!

In Christ,
R.H., Atlanta, MI

You Tube

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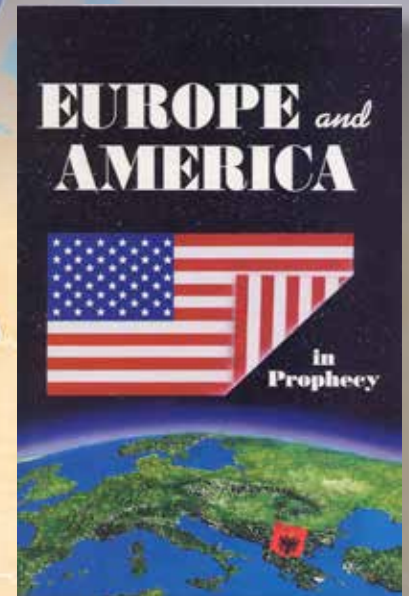
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Are Bible prophecies merely the literature of a bygone age?

Are they the dead, ancient fragments of literature from a forgotten race; histories, genealogies, myths? Or is one third of the Bible which is prophecy actually relevant — meaningful to US; to our children and grandchildren in this modern age?

Where is the throne which Christ will inherit at His return? Where are Israel and Judah today? Who are they whose rejection of God will bring about the time of Jacob's trouble, the Great Tribulation?



Europe and America in Prophecy

by Garner Ted Armstrong
will answer these important
questions and more.

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