

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

Vol. 21 No. 2

Second Quarter 2018



The Art of NO DEAL!

COMMENTARY



NO DEAL and the Wrath of Europe

by Mark Armstrong

We've become accustomed to the "Death to America, Death to Israel" chants as a staple of Iranian street protests. But in the wake of the controversial decision to extract the United States from the Obama-era agreement, they've burned a paper copy of the American flag and held a "Death to America" protest inside the Iranian parliament. In addition, Iranians are threatening to go full speed ahead with uranium enrichment and military nuclear capability.

Iran is more than a little angry. A confluence of events, including a stronger alliance between the US and Saudi Arabia was taken as a provocation. Moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem coincided with the announcement that the Trump administration would not uphold perhaps the worst bargain in American diplomatic history, one that stoked tremendous concern among Israel's leadership.

After a year or more of consideration, Tuesday May 8 was the day the verdict was announced on the future of the nuclear "deal" with Iran. It was an arrangement that didn't comprise

any treaty approved by Congress, that's why it was simply called a "deal." It was heavily criticized at the time, not only because it had a "midnight clause" which gave Iran free reign to manufacture and deploy nuclear weapons after a period of several years, but because it involved unknown quantities of cash delivered via cargo planes under cover of darkness, learned after the fact.

With the announcement of America's withdrawal from the arrangement, the drums of war immediately began pounding. The Israeli army reported that unusual troop movements in Syria might be preparatory for some retaliation against Israel by Iranian forces stationed there. Within one hour of the announcement, and concerned that Iranian forces were preparing to attack, Israel struck at an installation on the outskirts of Damascus. Bomb shelters were opened for civilians in the area of the Golan Heights and the U. S. embassy warned against travel to the area.

Sure enough, Iranian forces in Syria unleashed a series of rocket attacks in Israel's general direction. Twenty missiles were

reportedly fired, with some taken down by Israel's Iron Dome defense system. The rest reportedly fell short, landing inside Syrian territory. Israel then unleashed as many as seventy air strikes against Iranian military installations hitting "nearly every target" including launch stations and weapons depots in Syria reportedly killing some 23 Iranians.

Israel's Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman called it a limited engagement which should not be expanded and issued this memorable quote, "When it rains in Israel it pours in Iran." A spokesman for Prime Minister Netanyahu said Russia should exert its influence in Syria to prevent the situation from escalating. Separate reports told of Iranian missiles being fired at longtime enemy Saudi Arabia.

It's no surprise that the secretary general of the UN is expressing "deep disappointment" with President Trump's decision and is reportedly pressuring European nations to continue abiding with the terms of the agreement even in the absence of U. S. participation. That would certainly make trans-Atlantic relations interest-

Continued on page 25

FEATURES



Commentary:
No Deal and the Wrath of Europe 2
Mark Armstrong

Italy Threatens the Future of the European Union 4
Michael Armstrong



Prophecies for the End Time 7
Garner Ted Armstrong

Peter's Bones: Was Peter the First Pope? 10
Dr. James Ricks



Photo credits:

pages 3 and 15 – Cire Nortrevo/Shutterstock
page 5 – Antonio Balasco/Shutterstock
page 13 – (L) Osama Shukir Muhammad Amin/Wikipedia
(R) Oren Rozen/Wikipedia
page 14 – Michelmond/Shutterstock
page 25 – Alexandros Michailidis/Shutterstock
page 31 – Shawn Goldberg/Shutterstock



Prayer Ban Victimization at Santa Fe High 14
Andy Schlafly, World Net Daily

Don't Let Life Happen 16
Garner Ted Armstrong



Bible Study: What is the "Day of the Lord?" 23
Dr. James Ricks



The Greatness of America 27
John Mitchell



LGBTs Turn to Subpoenas to Attack Critics 30
by Bob Unruh, World Net Daily



Italy Threatens the Future of the European Union

By Michael Armstrong

The future of the European Union has been clouded by Italian political turmoil. After elections in March, Italy's path is anything but clear. Attempts have been made to block the formation of a government by populist parties Lega and the Five Star Movement. These populist platforms continue to gain popularity across Europe and pose a serious threat to continued integration. The uncertainty this creates shakes the very foundation of an already fragile European Union.

To call the machinations of European politics convoluted would be a serious understatement. Each country's elections feature a multitude of parties running on platforms that defy comprehension as "liberal" or "conservative" according to the political norms of the United States. To expound the intricacies is not our intent. However, even a limited understanding is indispensable when attempting to appreciate the potential impact of the events transpiring in Italy.

The biggest winner in March's

Italian elections was the Five Star Movement with over 32% of the vote. Many members emphasize that Five Star is a "movement" rather than a political party and insist it cannot be classified in the traditional left-right paradigm. Its platform embraces environmentalism as well as many progressive social programs. But it also vehemently opposes unlimited immigration and is sharply critical of the European Union usurping the right of the Italian people to self-determination.

Lega (Italian for "league") also performed well in the elections. They brought in the third most votes at almost 18%, only 1% less than the Democratic Party. Lega opposes what it calls the "European Superstate" and advocates for the abandonment of the euro. Leaders have even described some eurozone fiscal rules as "enslaving" Italians.

Five Star Movement and Lega have capitalized on Italian frustration with the EU, and opinion polls show more popular support for them today than

at the time of the elections in March. However, disagreements between the two have been great enough to prevent them from forming a government as of yet. Giuseppe Conte, prospective Prime Minister of the Five Star/Lega coalition recently resigned when nominated Minister of Finance, Paolo Savona, was vetoed by President Mattarella.

"I asked for that ministry an authoritative political figure from the coalition parties who was not seen as the supporter of a line that could provoke Italy's exit from the euro," Mattarella said, "The uncertainty over our position within the euro has alarmed Italian and foreign investors who have invested in securities and companies."

The President is supposed to be politically neutral and the veto was without precedent in recent history. This has resulted in calls for his impeachment by leaders of the Five Star Movement. Salvini, the head of Lega, has attributed the move to pressure from other countries and financial lob-

bies. He is quoted as saying, “We won’t have Germany tell us what to do,” that Italy wasn’t a “colony,” and “In a democracy, if we are still in a democracy, there’s only one thing to do, let the Italians have their say.”

Five Star leader Di Maio is also on record saying, “I hope that we can give the floor to Italians as soon as possible, but first we need to clear things up. First, the impeachment of Mattarella... then to the polls.” Should efforts to form a government ultimately fail, another general election would take place, likely strengthening the position of both parties. Regardless, the lingering uncertainty is taking its toll on markets.

Some of Italy’s largest financial institutions lost 20% of their value following news of the veto and the potential for more elections. The effects were also felt in the bond market. The cost of borrowing money went up for Italy, and the value of the euro plummeted. Though some recovery has been made as negotiations to form a government have resumed, this highlights the volatile nature of the situation.

Italy is the third largest economy in the eurozone, and a founding member of the European Union. It is also one of the most indebted nations in the world. An inevitable reality of the common currency is that the fiscal problems of one nation become the problems of all. The Greek debt crisis of recent history is a memorable illustration. Member nations no longer control their own monetary policy and this loss of

sovereignty has led to a great deal of discontent.

While continued and increased integration seems to be the agenda in Brussels, national elections evidence a growing resentment with the status quo. The people of Europe may not be ready to hand over their sovereignty to unelected bureaucrats. Even Angela Merkel, a linchpin of the European Union, faced serious opposition in the most recent German elections. Ground was lost to populist parties and it took her six months to form a government. France’s pro-European stance was also tested by the presidential candidacy of Marine Le Pen.

This begins to get to the crux of the matter. The problems of Italy impact all of Europe. The EU, in its present configuration and with its common currency, could not survive the collapse or withdrawal of one of its largest members. The rise in anti-EU sentiment is extremely concerning to those who have tied their

political careers and even the futures of their nations to the continuation of the Union. The mere prospect of Italy having another set of elections, which would be a de facto referendum on its future participation in the EU, was enough to elicit dire prognostications across the continent. The consensus is that if Italy leaves the euro it would be the end of the single currency.

Latvian finance minister Dana Reizniece-Ozola is on the record saying, “I think we can see what an impact Brexit has already caused to the EU in general and, if Italy fails to form a government, that might be still pro-European and still dedicated to the reforms and getting the country back within the fiscal stance, that might be a bigger harm to the whole of Europe... We could handle Greece, we could and will handle Brexit but Italy will be too much I think.”

There is no denying the fragility of the current Union. It is vulnerable to turmoil from sev-



eral of its members. Instability and uncertainty, especially in the larger economies, is damaging to the value of their common currency. All suffer from the effects. The frustration this creates and the assignment of blame can be a serious hindrance to further cooperation and integration.

of the single currency, and the continuing push towards integration and central authority have all been steps in this direction.

The rise of populism and a resurgence of nationalism may be the beginning of a new chapter for Europe. For years the irreligious liberalism of stereotyp-

Things are definitely changing in Europe. The utterances of the Pope, his departures from traditional Catholic dogma, are startling all by themselves. Sometimes when things change, they do so very quickly. We see strong Germany bound together with unstable Italy and debt laden Greece. The similarity to Daniel's prophecy, the ten toes partly of iron and partly of clay, partly strong and partly weak, is inescapable. On top of that we find European interests increasingly at odds with those of the United States. The Iranian deal is one example and trade in general has been a point of contention.

Will the European Union be the last chapter for Europe? The challenges facing Italy certainly have the potential to unravel the entire European experiment. Will it fall to pieces, only to be reincarnated into something far more sinister? Time will tell, but any major change will certainly cause repercussions felt around the entire globe. For a glimpse into what the future of Europe will look like read the following article, *Prophecies for the End Time*, by Garner Ted Armstrong. □

The rise of populism and a resurgence of nationalism may be the beginning of a new chapter for Europe.

Those familiar with the teachings of the Church of God over the years know what Bible prophecy lays out for the future of Europe. Its history, the Roman Empire, the successive revivals of the so-called "Holy Roman Empire," the preeminence of the Catholic Church and the Papacy, leaves little doubt as to its future role. Even in the aftermath of World War II when much of Europe was still smoldering, the Church taught that it would recover, reunite, and become one of the most formidable powers on the face of the earth. The fall of the Berlin wall, the adoption

ical European philosophy has seemed incompatible with those who "worship the beast" in Bible prophecy. Now financial instability, crippling debt, unsustainable social programs, and mass immigration are changing that. The political platforms that have been most successful of late reflect these changes. Take the Five Star Movement in Italy, with its dedication to protecting the environment but its fierce opposition to immigration as an example. They espouse progressive ideas such as universal Internet access and are now the dominant political force in their country.



LIVE WEBCAST BY
INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH OF GOD

Watch Weekly
FRIDAY AT 9 PM^(EST) • WWW.LULICG.ORG

Stay Connected

lineuponline2810@gmail.com • facebook.com/lineuponline2810
 youtube.com/lineuponline2810 • plus.google.com/+LineuponLine

PROPHECIES FOR THE END TIME

(Excerpts from Iron & Clay)

by Garner Ted Armstrong



The Bible describes something as miry clay, mixed with iron. But iron and clay don't mix! The prophecies describe ten-nations which will be unified together, but only for a short time. What is the unifying agent which will bring that about? For numerous reasons, many expert observers believe Europe will never become a completely cohesive entity. Those reasons include language barriers, cultural identities, historical disagreements and long-standing animosities. Nevertheless, there are as yet unfulfilled CORROBORATING prophecies which predict a cohesive combine of nations described as TEN KINGS which will play a critical role in a tumultuous culmination of end time events.

"Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). The prophet Daniel said, "He [God] revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him...there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets..." (Daniel 2:22-28).

The secret of which Daniel spoke was the interpretation of

Nebuchadnezzar's famous dream, in which he saw a monstrous image. Read the entire second chapter of Daniel to refresh your memory concerning this great event. Daniel showed that the head of gold of the great image Nebuchadnezzar had seen represented Nebuchadnezzar himself and his Babylonian kingdom. Thus it was revealed in the interpretation of this prophecy that king and kingdom are synonymous. Quickly following, Daniel revealed that the four successive world-ruling Gentile empires would consist of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia, and finally, the Roman Empire.

The Roman Empire was described as "...the fourth kingdom [which would be] strong as iron... and whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken [margin: weak]" (Daniel 2:41-42). Some have imagined that

the miry clay of Daniel's vision (chapter 7) which seems to weld the ten toes of the great image together, represent a sticky, bituminous substance, which, even though it is obviously not mixed with iron, is used as a weak bonding agent of some kind, which at least effects a weak union for a time.

Daniel's vision shows that although the hardness of iron is present in the ten governments represented by the toes; there is also the weakness of clay. The bonding agent which will hold the entire system of the future ten-nation central government in Europe together is religion!

The proofs concerning the identity of the world-ruling empires depicted by the fabled image of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2) are too numerous to mention. Most Bible commentaries include ample references to historical sources correctly identifying the kingdoms of Babylon (the head of gold), Persia (the chest of silver), Graeco-Macedonia (the belly and thighs of brass), and Rome (the feet and toes of miry clay and iron). That Daniel could have successfully predicted the rise and fall of all these kingdoms,

Continued next page

including the successive resurrections of the same system (the Roman Empire) down through the centuries, is one of the great testimonies to the inspiration of scriptures; the accuracy of God's Word.

Today, millions of amateur theologians muse about the "beast," leap to incredible, fantastic conclusions based on whimsical theories. Some think the beast is the United States. Some claim it is the Catholic Church. Some think it is a group of Jewish money-lenders involved in a vast conspiracy. Opinions and theories are rife, as Christ predicted they would be. "Many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ [not necessarily that they are Christ, but that HE is Christ! "Preaching Christ!"] and shall deceive many!"

But the identity of the beast has never changed. The culmination of the ancient kingdoms was Rome. Its many revivals down through history are documented. A weak revival of the "Holy Roman Empire," embodying the same races of the heartland of Europe as the days of the Hapsburgs and Otto the Great, occurred during World War II, under Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, who declared the central European alliance the Holy Roman Empire.

The second beast of Revelation 13 is "lamblike," that is, it

masquerades as a Christ-like organization, yet "spoke as a dragon," that is, like Satan!

Bullinger's Companion Bible includes a comparison between Christ's Olivet Prophecy and the seven seals of Revelation. It can be proved conclusively that the "four horsemen of the Apocalypse" represent the progressive-



ly worsening human condition predicted by Christ in Matthew 24. The white horse indicates false christs, false prophets; the rise of the final "false prophet" (11 Thess. 2) who will have the power to perform miracles; "sit in

the temple of God, shewing that he is god," and cause millions to "worship the beast and his image."

In other words, the white horse of the first seal means the unveiling of the false prophet and antichrist, at the head of the "Image of the Beast" (the Babylonish mystery religion) in the time just prior to the Great Tribulation.

The red horse is synonymous with Christ's predictions of "wars and rumors of wars," of the Olivet prophecy. Bullinger correctly shows the exact parallels between the two prophecies; that the gray horse depicts famine, and the black horse death. Christ looked beyond His time into ours; foretold the future, the time in which we live; the times just ahead of us!

John saw, in vision, a great harlot astride a many-headed beast. Christ's prophecies, together with those of Daniel and Revelation, leave no doubt as to the identity of this church-state system. Notice, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee

the judgement of the GREAT WHORE that sitteth upon many waters:

"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.

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

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

The woman is a great, universal, false church! She “sits on” a “beast,” meaning she holds sway and influence over the ten-nation union in central Europe. She CONTROLS the beast!

Clearly, the ten nations exist at the very last days of man’s governments on this earth, just PRIOR to the Second Coming of Christ! Notice, “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings [absolute autocratic power] one hour [a very short time in prophecy] with the beast.

“These have one mind [one policy; one purpose on which they are in complete agreement], and shall give their power and strength unto the beast [they will pool their national economies, raw materials, industry, and their military into one].

“These shall make war with the

Lamb [they will assay to FIGHT CHRIST at His second coming the time setting of this prophecy is impossible to ignore], 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 faithful” (Revelation 17:12-14).

Remember, at the return of Christ, the Beast power, which will then be ensconced in Jerusalem, together with the great

The woman is a great, universal, false church! She “sits on” a “beast,” meaning she holds sway and influence over the ten-nation union in central Europe.

“false prophet” who is the ANTI-CHRIST, will attempt to FIGHT CHRIST!

This is an exact parallel of Daniel 2:44, and preceding verses, where God says the symbolic STONE (Christ) that is seen coming down from heaven like a meteor, smashes the ten toes of the great image. The image represents all the Gentile world-ruling kingdoms from the time of ancient Babylon down to the time of our modern age, the ten toes representing the ten kings (nations) of Revelation 17.

That great false church which has concourse with national governments is identified again in Isaiah 47. Notice it, “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,

I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; UPON THE ANCIENT HAST THOU VERY HEAVILY LAID THY YOKE.

“And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

“Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that

dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

“But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

“For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

“Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee



PETER'S BONES:

Was Peter the first Pope?

by Dr. James Ricks

The internet is buzzing about Pope Francis authenticating the latest discovery of the Apostle Peter's bones. It is a fascinating story of an American billionaire and an Italian archaeologist who worked for many years. They found the bones in Rome and an inscription that was translated by the one person who could translate it, the brilliant archaeologist, Margherita Guarducci. The message read "Peter is here."

This discovery contradicts an earlier discovery of Peter's bones. The supporting evidence has convinced the current Pope to authenticate this find. The

finding of such ancient sacred relics in this world gives the owner authenticity and power. In the 11th century ancient relics and archaeological findings were connected with lots of relic trafficking and forgeries. These findings did help bolster the existence of Christianity in various cities of the ancient world. What does God think of these relics as spiritual items and icons?

Jude 1:8-9, "Likewise, indeed, also these dreaming ones even defile flesh, and despise rulership, and speak evil of glories.

"But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the Devil,

he argued about the body of Moses, he dared not bring a judgment of blasphemy, but said, Let the Lord rebuke you!" (MKJV)

Clearly the devil was prevented by archangel Michael from taking and using the body and bones of Moses for idolatrous purposes. Moses is an even greater Biblical figure than Peter.

No doubt evil forces would have used Moses' bones as an idol. People would have started looking to the bones of Moses instead of the true God. They would have used the bones like a magic talisman. Obviously God stopped that plan. God does not like using ancient relics for spiritual purposes. But this world has and will continue to do so. God does not want any idols used to worship Him. This includes even pictures of what we think God looks like.

Deut. 5:8-9, "You shall not make a graven image for you, any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters beneath the earth.

"You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them. For I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniqui-



The bones of a male of about 61 years of age dating to the 1st century were first identified in the 1960's. In 1968 Pope Paul VI announced them most likely to be the relics of Apostle Peter. Pope Francis revealed the nine bone fragments for the first time in public during a Mass in St. Peter's Square.

ty of the fathers upon the sons to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me.”

1 Corinthians 10:14, “Therefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.”

Whether they have Peter’s bones or not, bones do not advance true worship. True Christianity is based on the Bible. However, the Roman Catholic Church and the Papal line of succession is strengthened in this world by the belief that they have finally got Peter’s real bones.

Peter was never the undisputed leader of all the apostles. Peter is clearly a leader among the Apostles and often the first one to speak up at events like Pentecost. However he was not the leader. Did the other Apostles treat Peter like he was their leader? They did not! During the first major church conference in the history of the church regarding gentiles being exempted from circumcision, James was clearly the leader, and not Peter.

Acts 15:13, “And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me...”

V. 17, “That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.”

V. 19, “Wherefore my sentence [judgement] is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:”

Later the Apostle Paul publicly and openly rebuked Peter for his ethnic prejudice brought on by pressure from visiting Jews

from Jerusalem. If Peter was on a throne of rulership he would not have feared the other Jews nor have been openly rebuked by Paul. Paul would have done it privately.

Paul writes in Galatians 2:11-12, “But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

“For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.”

Some feel the argument for Papal succession may be en-

hanced by the bones of Peter, but it is not supported by the Bible. Peter was a great Apostle and leader of the faithful. He was not considered during his lifetime as THE leader among all the other Apostles. Peter never claimed any such power.

1 Pet. 5:1-3, “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

“Neither as being lords over [overruling] God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

Peter said himself at Pentecost that Jesus is the Rock upon which the church was built. Note Acts 4:11-12:

“This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Was the Apostle Peter ever in the city of Rome?

The answer is we do not know with absolute certainty about Pe-

Some feel the argument for Papal succession may be enhanced by the bones of Peter, but it is not supported by the Bible.

ter ever being in Rome. The Bible, in the Acts of the Apostles, only tells of Paul being the first to arrive in Rome. One must rely upon secular history for both the presence of Peter in Rome and the ascendancy of the Bishop of Rome over other bishops.

Acts 28:16, “And when we came into Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the camp commander. But Paul was allowed to dwell by himself, with a soldier guarding him...”

V. 22 “But we think it right to hear from you what you think. For truly as concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”



Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome, Italy - According to Catholic tradition, the Basilica was built on Peter's burial site.

It is clear that the people of Rome knew very little about Christianity until Paul arrived. The Bible only recognizes Paul as evangelizing the city of Rome. This is the last item mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. We must count on secular historians for Peter's work in the city of Rome.

Most churches outside of the Roman Catholic Church do not accept the ascendancy of the Bishop of Rome. The problem with secular church history is that it is written by the winners. The dominant church powers of the first few centuries control much of church history.

The true church of God was small and scattered and did not have a lot of power. God did not intend the church to become a huge, powerful, political force. Christianity would only become a great moral force in the world.

We cannot be sure of Peter's work in Rome. Maybe he went

later or maybe he did not go at all. The true church had no power to control the historical record. It was prophesied to happen that way. God's true church would be small and scattered, and most would find the path to Christ too difficult to walk. The church would be a small minority.

Matt. 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

The true church would be separated from the world and not seeking worldly power in this age. The real church would be relatively small! We believe much of what historians write about the church is of an apostate organization. Most of the apostasy took place after the lifetime

of the Apostle Peter. He was not the first Pope. The Church he helped build would not be part of this world's society. He was one of the leading Apostles, but his bones convey no spiritual cache—if they even are his bones.

John 17:13-16, "And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

How did the true church of God get derailed and pushed out of the mainstream of this world's society? God allowed deceivers to come into the church to send large parts of the church into worldly, ungodly directions.

1 John 2:19, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Later on, as the deceivers gained more influence and followers, they started to remove the true believers from among them. All such political maneuverings left the true church meager and disbursed and unnoticed by historians.

3 John 1:9-10, "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence

among them, receiveth us not.

“Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.”

The Apostle John told those remaining with the full truth to reorganize around Demetrius.

V. 12, “Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.”

Archaeology can be very helpful in supporting the truth of antiquity. Academia in the past has boasted that the Bible was full of errors. They claimed the Bible contained information that could not be independently and historically verified. But a slew of archaeological discoveries has put a damper upon most of that boasting. Archaeology has

provided the world with some fascinating and amazing affirmations of Scripture’s accuracy and trustworthiness. Israel today is an

Archaeology has provided the world with some fascinating and amazing affirmations of Scripture’s accuracy and trustworthiness.

engine now unveiling many new archaeological discoveries.

The Nabonidus Cylinder 550 BC is one. Critics of the Bible had claimed that Belshazzar was never king of Babylon and that Nabonidus was not his father. No evidence of this existed until the discovery of a magnificent cuneiform cylinder. The cylinder mentioned Belshazzar by name. Scholars were proven dead wrong.

The Tel Dan Stele 850 BC is another such discovery that supports the united kingdom of Da-

vid. It was an upright stone monument with many details carved into it. Another monument with writings to support details in

the book of Kings—including Kings Omri and David—is the Mesha Stele, also known as the “Moabite Stone,” 846 BC.

Digs in Israel have revealed hard physical evidence of Caiaphas the high priest and Pilate of the New Testament. They are the Caiaphas Ossuary and the Pilate Dedication Stone. Archaeology had to prove that writing even existed in the days of Moses when academia wished to deny it to discredit the Bible. Relics can be helpful, but not as spiritual icons or talismans. □



Left: The inscription on the Nabonidus cylinder mentions both King Nabonidus and his son Belshazaar. Right: Tel Dan Stele tells of a conflict which involved the “King of Israel” and the “House of David.”

PRAYER-BAN VICTIMIZATION at Santa Fe High

by *Andy Schlafly, World Net Daily*

Another tragic shooting at a public school leads to another round of liberal demands for gun control. But missing from their clamor is how this shooting by a former football player occurred at the very same high school where the Supreme Court censored prayer at football games in a ruling in 2000.

The ACLU insisted that student-led prayer be banned at this same high school, and the high court ruled 6-3 in favor of the ACLU and against the school in *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*. Ever since, prayer has not been allowed over the loudspeakers at games, prayer the shooter would have heard because he played in many football games there.

Liberals are notably quiet in commenting on how prayer was eliminated at this same school by judicial activism from the Supreme Court. The gun control typically proposed would not have stopped this crime, because it was perpetrated by a shotgun, which is not semi-automatic, and a revolver.

The student killer should have attracted immediate scrutiny for how he would wear a black trench coat on hot Texan days,



and had postings on Facebook that included a “Born to Kill” T-shirt and images of Satan and atheistic communism. Likewise, the former student who shot up Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, was widely known to be a risk for violence, and multiple complaints about him to law enforcement fell on deaf ears before he massacred 17.

Had either student been profiled based on his public behavior, then both tragedies might have been averted, or at least curtailed. A reasonable dress code would have prevented hiding a shotgun in a black trench coat on a hot day, or at least allowed immedi-

ate preventive action to be taken.

Nobody wants airport-style security at every entrance to a public school, but no one wants more carnage either. Yet rather than suggest workable approaches to prevent copycat incidents, senseless attempts to blame President Trump fill the airwaves.

Entering stage left is Jimmy Kimmel, the late-night comedian who broke the record for the lowest Oscars audience ever when he hosted it in March. He insisted that Trump and the GOP are somehow “cowardly” because they supposedly “care more about the support of the NRA than they do about children.”

But none of the usual liberal remedies such as banning assault rifles, a ban on high-capacity magazines, stricter background checks, tougher mental health screening, or closing the so-called gun show loophole would have prevented this tragedy. Yet that hasn't stopped gun controllers from proposing the same litany of legislation.

Knee-jerk appeals to political correctness might boost Kimmel's career after tanking in his Oscars performance. In his record-setting ratings failure for the annual show, Kimmel paid homage to the feminist Me Too movement without challenging the industry for the hypersexual content of so many of its movies.

"The only way we can make a meaningful impact," Kimmel pontificated, "is if we vote for politicians who will do something," without saying what that "something" might be. If he meant banning shotguns and revolvers in Texas, perhaps Kimmel himself was too "cowardly"

to propose something so absurd.

An assistant secretary of education in the Obama administration suggested that parents keep their kids out of school until Congress passes "background checks

education might finally be right for the wrong reason.

But missing from the script is any criticism of Facebook for how it has been the common denominator for many of these

But missing from the script is any criticism of Facebook for how it has been the common denominator for many of these school shootings.

for all gun purchases, a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and funding for gun research."

His former boss Arne Duncan, who was Obama's longest-serving Cabinet member, tweeted: "This is brilliant. What if no children went to school until gun laws changed to keep them safe?"

Not attending public school is something some conservatives have been saying for years, after witnessing the rapid deterioration in culture and values there. It is ironic that Obama's secretary of

school shootings. The killers use Facebook to publicize their wanton desires in seeking their "15 minutes of fame," to paraphrase Andy Warhol.

Meanwhile, if anyone hoped that the courts would defend the Second Amendment based on Justice Scalia's 5-4 decision in *D.C. v. Heller*, that optimism has proven to be unfounded. Only one Supreme Court justice, Clarence Thomas, defends the Second Amendment there, and he alone dissented in criticizing his colleagues' refusal to review a pro-gun control decision from the 9th Circuit.

Make no mistake: If the Democrats take control of Congress and have the votes to block Trump's nominees for judges, courts will toss out the Second Amendment by permitting severe restrictions on gun ownership and mandatory gun registration to be followed by gun confiscation. This has already happened in Great Britain and Australia, followed by predictable rises in non-gun crimes. □



DON'T LET LIFE HAPPEN

Too many people stumble purposelessly through life. Without realizing it, you may have been the victim of circumstances! Read in this article how to live life, not just let it “happen.”

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“What a pity youth has to be wasted on children,” say the middle-aged. “If I had only known at age twenty what I know at fifty,” laments the portly businessman. Complains the humorous placard: “Ve ist too soon olt, und too late schmart.”

But why these nostalgic complaints? Why are so many dissatisfied with the way their lives have gone? Why are so many filled with feelings of bitterness, hopelessness and frustration?

HOW MANY HAPPY?

How many happy people do you know?

Probably not very many. Take the bank president in Nebraska. He had what appeared to be a good job—a fine living—plenty of security. Yet he embezzled over one and one-half million dollars from his own bank. His life was not happy, in spite of his apparent “success.”

Today our people are sick! Our jokes are sick—our “music” is sick; we’re victimized by sick art, sick literature and sick entertainment.

And no wonder—when you consider the millions of sick minds and sick bodies in our societies.

Think about it. You can probably count the number of people you think are “happy” on the fingers of your hands—but it would take a lot of hands and feet to count the number you know are not.

Centuries ago, Paul told Timothy, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boast-ers, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to their parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. From such turn away” (II Tim 3:1-5).

What a prophecy!

Read it again. It describes the precise conditions within our nations right now!

Divorce continues to fill the

courts—countless homes being wrecked and smashed—lives filled with hate, jealousy, fear, disappointment, restlessness, anxiety and frustration.

Juvenile lawlessness stalks the land as never before—and, as so clearly proved by so many authoritative sources, out of all proportion to the population increase.

Are our frustrated youths happy? Are the millions of divorcees happy? Are our over-age, “successful” businessmen, executives, and officials happy?

Are YOU happy?

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

How is it that life becomes such a burden, such an empty, hollow, useless, frustrating thing that literally thousands attempt to kill themselves each year?

What is your life?

Let God answer. He is the one who created life, who put mankind on this earth, and who reveals the reason He gives you every breath of air you breathe.

“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appears for

a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

God shows the temporary span of existence we have in His word. He reveals of what materials we are made. What kind of a nature we have within us. What kind of lives we ought to live—and why!

The Bible is the handbook about life. It tells what man is. Where he is headed. *Why* he is. It reveals God’s great purpose in the creation of human life, and tells us how to get in harmony with that purpose!

The Bible reveals the laws that govern and produce the real thrills, pleasures, satisfactions, successes, triumphs, joys and fulfillments we seek.

You are exactly like Adam was. Made out of the same materials. You have the same nature—and you have the same possibilities. Further, you have the same God who is your ruler! And that

God places before you, right now, during your short span on this earth, the same serious choice!

WHAT WAS ADAM?

Adam was no myth! He was a human being—a man! His Maker was God.

God said, “Let us [there was more than One Great Being involved in the creation] make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gen. 1:26). But to Adam He said: “Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return” (Gen. 3:19).

God made man in the physical form and shape of God (Gen. 2:7), to look like God. But He made man out of a totally different material!

“God is a spirit,” said Christ (John 4:24). But man is flesh! He has no eternal life abiding in him.

God revealed to Adam, speaking to the conscious man, not just to his “body,” “Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt re-

turn.” So Adam was made of red mud (original Hebrew)—of the elements of this earth. He was earthy (I Cor. 15:47). God revealed to Adam what he was. He told Adam that he was a temporal, physical, fleshly, earth-bound, temporary, transitory, human being—without eternal life abiding in him. He was not an immortal soul imprisoned in a body!

WHAT ARE YOU?

You are, unless you have repented and received of the Spirit of God, just exactly like Adam was. You’re composed of the same elements—you’re just as earthy, just as temporary—and just as carnal.

But there was a purpose God had in mind for making man carnal. The whole story of the Bible tells you what you are—why you exist—and where you ought to be headed!

God commanded Adam to live happily! Adam wouldn’t do it. He wanted to conduct the first “scientific” experiment.

When Eve, right in Adam’s presence, began to postulate or speculate concerning the lies of the Devil—she wanted more and more to experiment. She wanted to learn from experience, rather than from the revealed knowledge that had come from God. The Devil had appealed to her vanity.

He said, “Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

He knew better. He was lying. (John 8:44) and he knew



it. But naive Eve felt she ought to explain. “Oh, it’s not as bad as all that,” she might have reasoned—“God hasn’t told us not to eat ANY of the fruit—it’s just that one tree He won’t let us have.” About this time, she probably began to reason, “Well, after all, He did give the garden to us—and it is ours, isn’t it? Then why

etousness, vanity, greed, selfishness. Further, she evidenced a hard core of rebellion in her human heart. And the man? Why, he shared all these emotions—but, unlike the woman, he knew better! (I Tim. 2:14.)

Eve was deceived. Satan appealed to her basic nature, which perfectly embodies all these

points out the terrible penalties for disobedience and allows you to make your own choice!

Too many people have confused ideas about free moral agency! To a woman I know very well, the very fact that God commands us through His laws meant, to her, that God was trying to take away her free choice!

She labored under the delusion that God had left mankind free to choose what is the right way to live (when nearly 6,000 years of human history have proved irrevocably man is unable to do so), instead of whether one will live the only right way.

God allows you a choice! But few are making any choices; few think problems through, weighing all the facts. Instead, like Adam and Eve, most leap into situations impulsively, emotionally—allowing circumstances to rule over them!

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil...I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live” (Deut. 30:15-19).

God urges us to choose life!

God is our Heavenly Father. He loves His frail children on this earth with a full, swelling, boundless, all-encompassing, limitless love that transcends any human comprehension!

Let’s understand. Suppose you have a little, sweet, precious, young son. He is only two years

should God be so unfair,” she reasoned, “to withhold the very best one, and the most desired one for Himself!”

Whatever her thoughts, her actions are clear. “And when the woman saw (lust of the eyes!) that the tree was good for food (lust of the appetite!) and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desired to make one wise (lust of the intellect—intellectual vanity and conceit!) she took (stole!) of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her (Adam was standing docily by, while the wife made the single most important decision of their entire lives—and a most disastrous one. But like a “clod” who allowed his wife to wear the trousers, to rule over him, he meekly followed her in her rebellion) and he did eat” (Gen. 3:6).

What were her motives?

They reveal a lot about you!

Her motives were lust, cov-

motives. Adam’s mind was not deceived—but his bodily drives were just as strong as Eve’s—and so he allowed his lusts to rule over his mind.

It was an impulsive, emotional decision they made that day. And it set the pattern for all of humanity!

GOD SAYS CHOOSE

You have the same human nature Adam and Eve did. It’s a nature that is naturally and automatically against God, and His perfect laws! “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick (margin); and who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9.) “because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8;7).

God is the ruler. He is the boss. He gives you orders you are to obey! But He does not force you to obey! He merely

Instead, like Adam and Eve, most leap into situations impulsively, emotionally—allowing circumstances to rule over them!

of age, and you love him with all your heart!

Suppose you see him perched precariously on a window ledge, high above a street. He sees you enter the room and stands up—grinning at you with a mischievous look on his little face. You are horrified. You know a slight misstep could mean his instant death. You try your best to get his attention. To keep his eyes focused on you—and to plead, to urge, to gently lead, to somehow convince your precious little son that he should come forward, back into the room.

How would you feel? Wouldn't your very being be crying out for him to obey what you know is the sudden difference between life and death?

But what if, just before you reached out to save your son—he rebelled?

What if, in his infantile mind, he decided to find out what one step backward would be like? What if he decided to make up his own mind about which way he

would go—and, being naturally rebellious (as the human heart is), and since you had already so urgently told him what you earnestly, lovingly, pleadingly wanted him to do—what if he decided to step backwards?

We've seen what human nature is. It is vanity, lust, and greed. It is self.

Can we get the point?

God knows what is best for us!

But headstrong, self-willed man just can't believe it! We have refused God's loving concern for us—and decided to go the way of our carnal, vanity-filled, lustful human nature.

Some decide to choose evil. That is, choose the way of society, the way of their friends, neighbors, their relatives, their own environment. Others simply decide not to choose God's way—not realizing they have made a

choice—and the wrong one.

God says, "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would not of my reproof..." (Prov.

1:24-25).

Are you one of the mixed-up, miserable, frustrated, empty people that make up the majority?

Naturally, you are! But it's unnatural to be happy. It's unusual to be joyful. It's rare to have real peace of mind, security, a sense of purpose and direction.

Let's understand why.

We've seen what human nature is. It is vanity, lust, and greed. It is self. It is total, ingrown, introverted, inward, self-centered, egoistic self!

And that's the very reason human nature is unhappy!

What are the "fruits" produced in the lives of all the people you know who are living in the way that just comes "naturally" to them? "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [lawlessness], idolatry [covetousness, lust], witchcraft, hatred, variance [instability], emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness,



revelings, and such like...” (Gal. 5:19-21).

Sound like anyone you know?

These are the natural outcome of a way of living that is most appealing to carnal human nature. They’re the things that will just seem to automatically “happen” to you. You may not always intend it that way—but somehow, all those horrible “works of the flesh” just seem to happen to most people.

Why? Because they don’t have the one missing ingredient that would change their whole lives!

You are NOT “all there”! You’re not complete—unless you have received of the missing ingredient that changes your very nature.

God made man—and He made man to need, and to need desperately, God’s Holy Spirit! Without it, it is utterly impossible for any human to live a happy life!

With it, life can become full of meaning, bountiful, beautiful, harmonious, joyful, happy, success-

ful, purposeful! But this is not all!

God says, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Rom. 8:9).

You were born to be begotten! You are only part there until you have repented, been baptized, and, by the laying on of hands by God’s chosen servants, received the Spirit of God. In the book written from the man’s point of view, Ecclesiastes, Solomon views life. He surveys all aspects of life—every gamut of human emotion, each experiment, every pleasure, every lust and vanity.

Finally, disgusted with the sum total of it all, he says, “Therefore I hated life, because the work [the way of life] that is wrought under the sun is grievous to me, for all is vanity and striving after wind” (Eccl. 2:17).

Yes, even Solomon became a potential suicide!

But at the conclusion of this important book, he was inspired to write, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His Command-

ments, for this is the whole of man” (Eccl. 12:13). Translators added the word “duty,” which appears in italics, indicating it was not in the original.

But the intended meaning is clear. It is the knowledge of God, the Fear of God, the obedience to His Commands (which is only possible by the receiving of His Holy Spirit) that makes you complete!

It changes your whole perspective. It changes your outlook, your point of view, your opinions, your very thought processes, your reasoning. It changes your attitude, it lifts your spirit, it enlivens, energizes, vivifies. It’s the most precious, priceless, bountiful blessing a loving Father could ever give you—a part of His own LIFE!

You need to thoroughly understand why you were born, and what you should be doing about it.

You need God’s Holy Spirit. Without it, life will just “happen” to you. With it, you will happen to life! □

You Tube

Watch us online!

Find Sabbath sermons from the **Intercontinental Church of God.**

Updated each week with messages from a variety of inspiring speakers.



WORLD NEWS RECAP

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

FIFTY TALIBAN COMMANDERS KILLED AND NO ONE NOTICED

The Taliban has reportedly conducted a “Spring Offensive” reign of terror across Afghanistan, gaining territory, attacking Police stations and killing officers. Apparently some fifty of their leaders gathered for a secret meeting, and the result looked much like what we saw in Syria. A particular residential compound went up in a ball of smoke and dust leaving everything around virtually undisturbed.

The men killed are described as the top echelon of Taliban commanders and believed to be at a planning session for further operations. Military spokesmen were quick to point out that the strike won’t mean an end to Taliban mayhem in Afghanistan, but it certainly represents a setback for their cause.

The Taliban quickly dismissed the report as propaganda. They called it an attack on a residence where a handful of civilians were killed.

You won’t see much of this in the mainstream news. One major network offered it as, “The US said...” which indicates a degree of skepticism about the authenticity of the report. It is doubtful you’ll see any panels of seven to discuss the ramifications. A report like this doesn’t fit the narrative.

ANGLICAN SOB STORY

Apparently there is still competition between the Anglican and Catholic hierarchies. Not to be outdone by the pope’s blessings bestowed on homosexuality, the Anglican church is openly calling for trans-gender priests as part of their current “diversity drive.” Apparently they think

that “young people” will be attracted back into the fold if the doctrines of political correctness are incorporated into the “faith.”

Here’s proof, from a quote in Britain’s Guardian. “The guidance, titled ‘welcoming and honoring LGBT+ people,’ (not enough letters in the alphabet to ID all perversions) warns that the church’s reputation as being unwelcoming towards gay and transgender people is stopping young people attending.”

The “Church” already called on the British Government to outlaw so-called “conversion therapy.” Political Correctness holds that there is no cure, and if there were it would be discriminatory and hateful. Leaders have gleaned that the Anglican Church is regarded as “homophobic and transphobic” and it’s costing them. So, the answer is obvious. Trans-sexual priests! That ought to fix it.

Australia already has one, and he doesn’t look much like a female. “She” apparently dressed up in grandma’s clothes in the attic as a little boy, and never recovered. It’s a sympathetic story, but it goes on and on, and on. “She,” while still a he, married Britain’s first female Anglican priest and the story really gets interesting. You see, Australia’s first trans-woman “priest” was ordained in 1986, but only recently decided to become a woman, after the discovery of some secret knickers.

The story, written with contrived emotion, is carried at length with lots of photographs and shouldn’t be described further here lest we burst into hilarity. This ain’t Tootsie or Mrs. Doubtfire. It’s a comedy, but laughter is verboten! You can read it courtesy of ABC (Australia Broadcast Corporation, Meet Australia’s first transgender priest).

Continued next page

CLIMATE CHANGE RELIGION

Good news doesn't get a lot of press. The roaring economy, record low unemployment and the scandalous reports of the US becoming energy independent is anything but good news to the mainstream purveyors of information. So the pope himself is getting involved. He's hosting a meeting in Rome to include CEO's of the major energy producers and their investors to warn that their successes are contributing to "climate change," the current euphemism for "global warming."

This meeting is crucial, particularly in light of America's departure from the Paris Climate Accords, the gutting of EPA regulatory mandates and other environmental outrages committed by you know who. It's all on the corporations now to enforce the doctrines of political correctness, as current White

House leadership has turned its attention, and ours, to other matters. With the weight of the Vatican, and the cooperation of corporate executives under the premise of belief in man-made "climate change" as a Christian prerogative, global warming can be revived as a crisis in everyone's mentality. We'll see.

IRISH REFERENDUM REPEALS BAN ON ABORTION

A majority if Irish voters turned out May 26 to repeal the Eighth Amendment of their constitution, the one that provided protection for unborn children. The debate preceding the referendum highlighted the issues that routinely characterize the debate; rape, incest and abnormal fetal development. How abortion laws in Ireland will change remains to be seen. But the outright ban has been repealed, with the details yet to be addressed. □

Prophecies

Continued from page 9

suddenly, which thou shalt not know" (Isaiah 47:5-11).

Notice that it is the great false church, under the FALSE PROPHET, who is the antichrist, that CONTROLS the ten-nation combine that is to PUNISH our peoples!

God commands, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts:

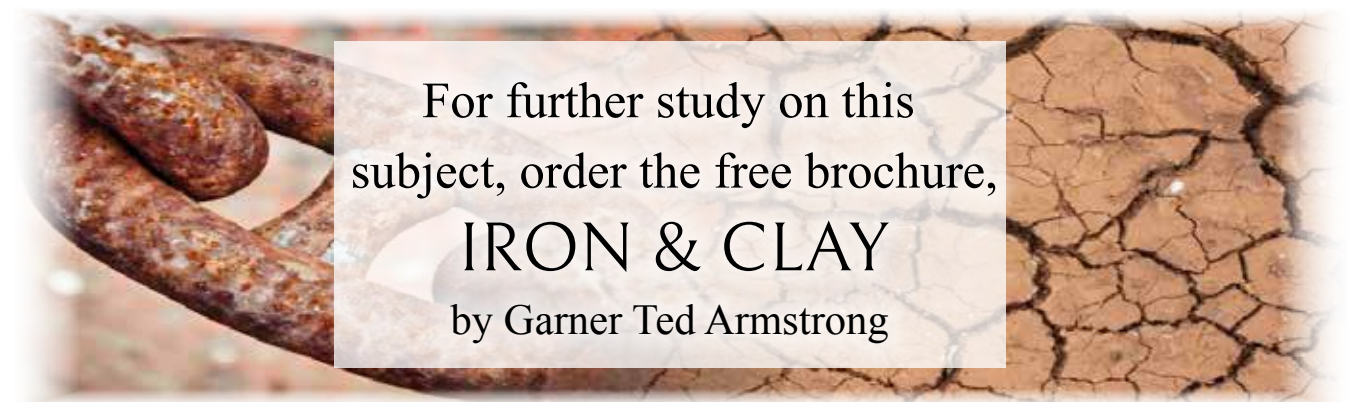
and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:6-8).

Jesus Christ commanded, "REPENT, and believe the Gospel!" On the day of Pentecost, Peter cried out, "REPENT, and be baptized, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!"

To those who heed God's commands; who accept the invitation of Jesus Christ, God says,

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the HOUR OF TRIBUL [GREAT TRIBULATION], which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

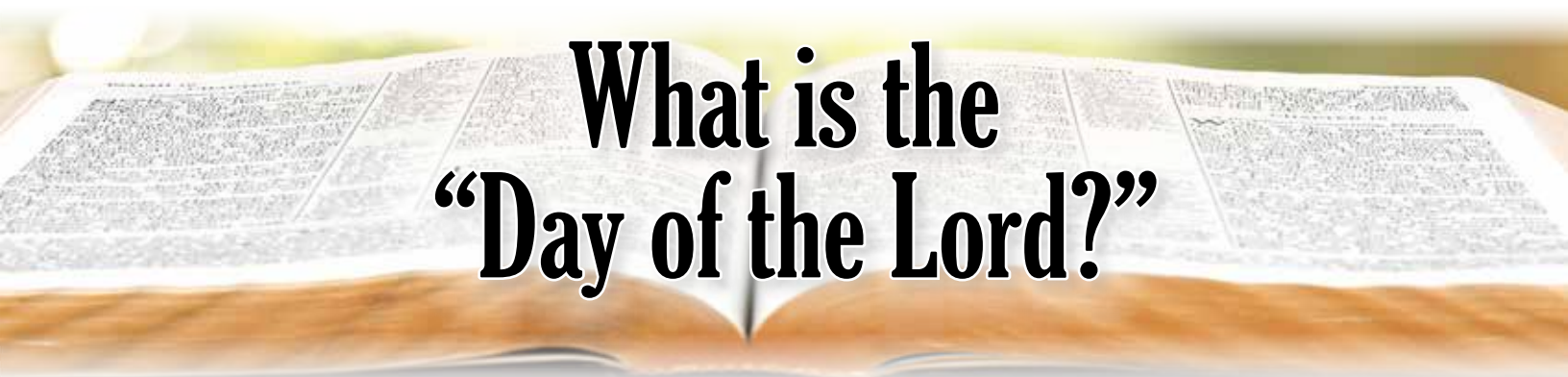
Thanks be to God for His TRUTH; for an understanding of prophecy: for His calling to be a PART OF THE WORK OF HIS WATCHMEN, preaching witness and WARNING to a sin-sick, dying world! May God give you the personal conviction to act on what you know. □



For further study on this subject, order the free brochure,
IRON & CLAY
by Garner Ted Armstrong

BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James Ricks



What is the “Day of the Lord?”

THE WORLD'S DESPERATE SEARCH FOR THE SABBATH CHANGING SCRIPTURE

The world does not want to admit that they inherited Sunday from the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Church copied it from the Roman Empire's pagan sun worship. The Catholics boldly state that Protestants are following Papal authority when they accept Sunday for the Sabbath.

Many have combed the Bible for evidence of the authority to alter the Sabbath. They simply cannot find it. What they do find is the New Testament Church arguing over whether to make an exception regarding the circumcision of Gentiles. Not a change of the circumcision law, but whether to make exceptions for adults. Obviously adult circumcision was much more traumatic than infant circumcision.

No debate of any kind over altering the Sabbath Law can be found. It is like looking for the missing link in evolution. They can make up something without any solid evidence. What is the best they can come up with in the New Testament? It is the 'Lords Day'. It is not the real evidence they are seeking. They willfully misunderstand it.

Rev 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet..."

Note that no discussion of the change in the Sabbath law is involved. They just assume it means a change existed. They assume the terms "Day of the Lord" or "Lord's Day" means Sunday. But do the Old and New Testament scriptures support this as-

sumption? They clearly do not. Remember both the conference in Acts 15 and Paul's final visit to Jerusalem that the brethren were zealous for the law. We do not mean Jewish oral law or all of their traditions which Christ criticized. But the written law which surely would have included all of the Ten Commandments.

Acts 21:20-24, "And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

"And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

"What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

"Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

"Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law."

The rumors about Paul were based on envy and ethnic bias over the many gentiles he was converting from raw paganism to worship of the true God. Those rumors were nothing but lies. Paul preached that the purpose of the law was to guide us but not to save us. The law defines right behavior and wrong, sinful behavior. Some of the Jewish critics misunderstood Paul and the Gospel. You cannot earn salvation

Continued next page

BIBLE STUDY

but a person could be disqualified by not repenting of sinful works.

Romans 3:20, “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Romans 3:31, “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

One establishes the law by admitting to having made an error in conduct that requires repentance. The Church and Paul clearly believed in the law, which includes the Sabbath right in the middle—or heart—of the Ten Commandments.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE LORD’S DAY?

One should use the entire Bible to define and better understand the terms used in the Bible. After reviewing a number of these verses we will see the true meaning of the term. A review of all scriptures reveals:

Jer. 46:10, “For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.”

Joel 2:31, “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”

1 Cor. 5:5, “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

2 Cor. 1:14, “As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

1 Thes. 5:2, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

2 Thes. 2:2, “That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.”

Without question the “Day of the Lord” and “Lord’s Day” refers to the cataclysmic events at end of this age when Jesus comes back to take this world by force. It is the day of the Lord’s Vengeance—the

day of the Lord’s victory over evil! It is also associated with the expression “That day.” One key to understanding these terms is to remember that they are always associated with the span of time during which God personally intervenes in history to accomplish his plan.

WHAT DID THE APOSTLE PAUL REALLY MEAN BY THIS TERM?

The book of Revelation is about the vengeance of God and the events at the end of the age. John was writing material revealed to him about this day of God’s vengeance. He, in his spirit, saw the “Day of the Lord” or “Lord’s Day.”

The theme of the Book of Revelation is God’s vengeance on Satan’s society, fulfilled on the Lord’s Day. This day is the Second Coming of the Messiah!

The events of the Day of the Lord will represent the end of the age of mankind’s self rule. It is the end of the age of mankind’s defiance toward God. It is the end of the current age! The millennium of God-ruled paradise will begin with Christ’s return. It will be a wonderful day for God’s people and the Jews as well.

Zech. 8:3, “Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.”

Zech. 8:23, “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”

Jesus’ second coming will be joyous for the physical people of God. They will be rescued from the satanic oppression of Babylon. It will be even more glorious for the spiritual sons of God. We will be born into the family of God. Wow!

Romans 8:16-19, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

BIBLE STUDY

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

“For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

IS THE DAY OF THE LORD A PARTICULAR DAY OF THE WEEK?

The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ will be a happy day for the people of God after the violence and tumult of tribulation.

Sunday, as the “Day of the Lord,” or the “Lord’s Day,” was not ratified by the Catholic Church until the council of Laodicea (363-364 AD) several centuries later. The council forbade keeping the Sabbath any longer. This was the result of an obvious apostasy from the original gospel.

The Apostle John was, like others, a Sabbath keeper in the first century when he wrote the Book of

Revelation. Further, it does not matter on which day of the week John saw his vision. It could have been any day of the week. What is important is that John was taken in the Spirit to be shown what the “Day of the Lord,” at the end of the world, would be like so that he could provide a warning message. The Book of Revelation is both a warning, and as such, is also a blessing to all believers.

Rev. 1:3, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

It is easy to misinterpret the above scriptures if one already has a Sunday bias, or a “Sabbath law is revoked” bias. “I was in the spirit on the Lord’s Day, and heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet.” But the day mentioned in Revelation is an enormous turning point in all mankind’s history. We believe we are now living very close to the time referred to in those apocalyptic prophecies. The Day of the Lord is indeed at hand. □

No Deal

Continued from page 2

ing, as if they weren’t already.

You’ll remember the recent State visit by French President Macron and his wife, immediately followed by a less formal visit from Angela Merkel of Germany. Both were explained as attempts to convince the president to leave the deal in place while perhaps building upon it to address areas of concern. Whatever hopes they had must have been dashed with the announcement of a full revocation and withdrawal from the United States.

John Kerry, who signed the pact as Secretary of State has met recently with some of the international parties to the “deal,” try-

ing to find some method of saving it. His meddling bordered on scandal, as it was in direct contravention of U. S. foreign policy strategy.

The president’s opponents worry that rescinding the arrangement has driven a wedge

between the U. S. and primarily European allies. Sure enough, the Europeans began worrying aloud within moments of the announcement of the cancellation. They, both national and EU leaders, are reportedly working to come up with something that President



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron at an EU leaders summit, March 2018.

Continued next page

Trump can agree to which would at least save aspects of “the deal,” and therefore save face for European bureaucrats that signed on.

But that effort appears doomed. European media is livid at President Trump for the perceived slight against its diplomats. The real reason national and EU leaders are upset is the financial bonanza their major corporations stand to gain by doing business with Iran. It turns out that France’s *Airbus* has contracted to build over 100 airplanes for Iran in a multi-billion dollar contract. The French energy flagship *Total* has entered into highly profitable plans with Iran. Germany also has lucrative energy and technology business arrangements with Iran, and public statements imply they intend to pursue them in defiance of the renewal of American sanctions.

European nations and corporations that continue to trade with Iran face the prospect of running afoul of renewed U. S. sanctions. Simply stated, they may have to risk business relations with the



France’s *Airbus* plans to build over a hundred airplanes for Iran.

The real reason national and EU leaders are upset is the financial bonanza their major corporations stand to gain by doing business with Iran.

United States if they persist.

According to German flagship *Der Spiegel*, President Trump has thrown the alliance into chaos. Here’s a sample. “The most shocking realization, however, is one that affects us directly: The West as we once knew it no

longer exists. Our relationship to the United States cannot currently be called a friendship and can hardly be referred to as a partnership. President Trump has adopted a tone that ignores 70 years of trust. He wants punitive tariffs and demands obedience.”

Relations have been dicey since the president assumed office. Our president embodies every uncouth American stereotype of the traditional European view. For Trump to cancel an agreement that promised massive profits, against the wishes of European leaders and diplomats, is being treated as the ultimate insult. It may well contribute to a “wedge” that leads to lasting acrimony between Europe and the United States. □



French energy company *Total* has a lucrative contract with Iran.



The Greatness of America

by John Mitchell

We hear the popular words that together, “We will make America prosperous again. We will make America safe again. We will make America great again,” repeated over and over again in the political rallies our President conducts. No doubt they are wonderful words and they stir the hope that it will be possible to see America this way again. But words are not enough.

Soon we will be observing the 243rd anniversary of the founding of our nation, The United States of America. Never has there been such a nation in the history of humanity, except ancient Israel under King Solomon. When you study the nation of Israel under Solomon you find so many parallels to the founding and blessings of America.

The Bible is so very plain in its description of what it takes to have a blessed, prosperous, happy, and safe nation; equally plain is when we see man’s unlearned lessons of history repeat themselves. It is as true today as it was then. When a nation’s leaders and a nation’s people turn from and no longer acknowledge Almighty God as Lord of that nation, that nation and its people are doomed

to the ash heap of history. As it was with Israel of old, so shall it be with America today, unless there is a national and personal repentance of our sins, coupled with national and personal prayer and fasting (yes, that too) and seeking Almighty God in spirit and truth.

It is only by the greatness of God that America has been great! With all her faults, America is still the greatest place on earth to live! Let’s talk about that for a bit. First, look and consider the great beauty of this nation. From sea to shining sea we have every conceivable beauty of God’s creation. Seashores, mountains, prairies, lakes, rivers, forests, Muir Woods, Lake Tahoe; we could go for an hour listing them. But, for all its natural beauty, that is not what makes America great.

AMERICA’S GREAT FREEDOMS

The trend for many years in America has been anti-Americanism and anti-patriotism. The UN is doing much to strip us of our sovereignty. Our teachers are teaching our youth “revisionist” history to undermine the character and integrity of our founding fathers. They teach that our

founders were not motivated by principle but by property; were motivated by greed and desire for wealth. Is that true?

Well, permit me to take a stroll down America’s “memory lane” and let us see what type of men and women they were. Read the words of the people and leaders who were imbued with true principles and integrity as they carved and shaped this new nation of freedom...

“No nation has ever existed or been governed without religion. Nor can be. The Christian religion is the best religion that has been given to man and I, as Chief Magistrate of this nation, am bound to give it the sanction of my example.” — Thomas Jefferson

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”—Patrick Henry, Statesman and Orator

“Never forget, Americans, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you’re practical people. Like others, I’ve marvelled at your factories, your skyscrapers, and your arsenals.

Continued next page

But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God-loving, God-fearing, God-worshipping people.”— General Romulo, General of the Philippines

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”— George Washington, 1st U.S. President

“While we give praise to God, the supreme disposer of all events, for His interposition on

God.”— James Madison, the fourth president, known as “The Father of Our Constitution”

“We all can pray. We all should pray. We should ask the fulfillment of God’s will. We should ask for courage, wisdom, for the quietness of soul which comes alone to them who place their lives in His hands”— Harry Truman, 33rd President

“I conceive we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world...that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by the

Independence

“The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America...Our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal.”—Ronald Reagan, 40th President

OUR GUILT CONSUMES US

For many, many years, America has been slowly turning its back on the God who made her great. Today, as ancient Israel did, we are rejecting God to a point which He will not tolerate any longer. The space of time for national repentance is about over. In the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 28, verses 1, 15, and 20 we find that the nation that does not have God as its Lord will reap destructive curses. Why? “Because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby you have forsaken me.”

Forsaking God was accelerated in America when on June 25, 1962, the US Supreme Court removed prayer in our nation’s schools. On that day, 39 million of our impressionable youth were denied their God given freedom to open their school day with prayer. And so was every generation since. The Ten Commandments were removed from the classroom walls. The worship and word of God was forsaken and replaced with the worship and word of “secular humanism.”

Every foul and abominable sin is openly displayed in America. The state has become the object of worship. Those in positions of current liberal leadership feel guilty that God has blessed us so and that they must take it

When you study the nation of Israel under Solomon you find so many parallels to the founding and blessings of America.

our behalf, let us guard against the dangerous error of trusting in, or boasting of, an arm of flesh...If your case is just, if your principles are pure, and if your conduct is prudent, you need not fear the multitude of opposing hosts.”— John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence

“Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers.”— John Jay, the first Supreme Court Justice

“We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of

promoting and speedily bringing in the holy and happy period when the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established.”— Samuel Adams, American Revolutionist and signer of the Declaration of Independence

“We think it is incumbent upon this people to humble themselves before God on account of their sins...[And] also to implore the Divine Blessing upon us, that by the assistance of His grace, we may be enabled to reform whatever is amiss among us, that so God may be pleased to continue to us the blessings we enjoy.”— John Hancock, American Revolutionist, and signer of the Declaration of

away and “re-distribute” our blessings to other nations. Our former president traveled the world on his “apology tour” for America. He demeaned us everywhere he went and every time he opened his mouth.

AMERICA’S GREATNESS

Today there is a desperate effort underway to undo the damage done to the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Our current president openly speaks of his trust in God and is working hard to repeal the many onerous regulations and administrative orders that have crippled freedoms in America. But he cannot without the help of the citizens of this nation.

Listen to the words so often referred to by former president Ronald Reagan, found in II Chronicles 7:14 of the Bible: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

The solution is not in the white house, the state house, or the court house. The solution to restoring America lies in your house and my house. A poem by Jessie Alberta Silvernail Card reads thus:

“So long as there are homes where fires burn; and there is bread;

“So long as there are homes where lamps are lit and prayers are said;

“Although people falter through the dark; and nations grope;

“With God Himself behind these homes we still have hope.”

AMERICA IS STILL GREAT

Despite all our problems, the USA is still the greatest nation on earth. When you hear the “Star Spangled Banner,” “God Bless America,” “It’s a Grand Old Flag,” “My Country Tis of Thee,” Americans should snap to and pay attention. When you see elderly men and women wearing VFW or American Legion hats marching in a parade, perhaps stooped over and slightly out of step from age

or disability, show them appreciation and respect. When you see the young men and women of our current armed forces in a parade ramrod straight and marching in perfect cadence, maybe with Air Force jets flying overhead; when you hear the stirring melodies of our different military branches boom out; when the Honor guard carrying that beautiful American Flag passes by, stand with your right hand over your heart and understand its meaning.

There are 13 Stripes representing our original 13 colonies. The red stripes represent the blood that has been shed by men and women from the first shot at Concord to found this nation to the shots ringing out in Iraq and Afghanistan today to keep it free. The white stripes represent the light that comes from God. The blue background represents the vast expanse of America and the white stars our 50 States.

Americans hearts should swell with proper pride in this magnificent country. Don’t be ashamed to get a lump in your throat, and tears in your eyes. When you see, either at the Local Cemetery, or overlooking the Normandy Beach of France’s WWII Cemetery, or at the Arlington National Cemetery, those white crosses or Jewish Stars of David standing in long, long rows or the bronze military markers that lie flat on the graves of veterans, realize that America’s greatness and freedom has come at a very high price! Enjoy the freedoms which have come at a very high price to others, but are free to us! □



LGBT'S TURN TO SUBPOENAS TO ATTACK CRITICS

by Bob Unruh, *World Net Daily*

LGBT activists using court subpoenas to attack innocent bystanders have put a second organization in their bull's-eye, with confirmation from the nonpartisan Center for Military Readiness it is facing demands for copies of its emails, correspondence, and more, even though it is not party to the pertinent lawsuit.

WND reported last week a similar demand was presented to Liberty Counsel.

Instead of providing the information the LGBT groups demanded, Liberty Counsel filed an objection with the court.

"We will not be bullied or intimidated. This unbelievable invasion of privacy must be exposed and fought, not just for our organization, but to protect the right for anyone to freely communicate with their political or military leaders," said Mat Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel.

His organization defends civil rights in court but is not part of the lawsuit, *Doe vs. Donald Trump*, brought by the GLBTQ Legal Advocate and Defenders and National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Nonetheless, the court sent

Liberty Counsel a seven-page demand for records of its communications with the president, the vice president, the office of the president, the Department of Defense and others.

"The subpoena was requested by two of the most aggressive LGBT activists groups," Liberty Counsel explained.

Further, the organization was given only two weeks to compile the documents.

"This subpoena is one of the most onerous and frivolous Liberty Counsel has ever seen and is intended to intimidate. If it was allowed to stand, then anyone could use a lawsuit to harass other people and groups with whom they disagree. It would also significantly chill the free speech of any future groups in their communication with governmental officials. It is a gross overreach of judicial power to target and subpoena groups for no other reason than that they supported a politician or general's decision," Liberty Counsel said.

The LGBT activists are suing the government for banning gender-confused people from military service.

CMR got similar demands,



The US Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the Colorado baker who refused to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding.

and now Elaine Donnelly, president, is pointing out, “Under Article II of the U.S. Constitution, President Trump has every right to review and change his predecessor’s policies affecting military personnel who identify as transgender or suffer from gender dysphoria. Four federal district judges have tried to usurp presidential power, ordering the Trump administration to continue Obama-era policies.”

She continued, “LGBT activist lawyers have served three subpoenas on the Center for Military Readiness as a ‘non-party’ in the litigation. They are demanding the right to search through private emails from the first day of the Trump presidential campaign, to the present, and beyond. It appears that they are trying to prove what amounts to a conspiracy theory. In their minds, President Trump did not announce a change



The Ontario Bar Association represents 17,000 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers and law students from across the province.

“As we have since our founding 25 years ago, CMR will continue to report on and analyze complex military/social issues. This includes the new policies regarding transgenders in the military which were announced on Friday, March 23. As reported in

out that 994 service members with gender dysphoria have accounted for some 30,000 mental health visits in just the past few years.

“CMR is prepared to defend its right to communicate with government officials, without being forced to allow those who oppose CMR’s policy positions to violate our First Amendment rights to speak and to petition government officials on matters of national defense,” the CMR announcement said.

Liberty Counsel said the lawsuit prompting the demand for documents “is retaliation for military policy based on facts with which these individuals and groups disagree.”

“It is an attempt by these radical groups to bully and intimidate this organization. GLAD and NCLR are using subpoena power to deliberately harass pro-faith and pro-family groups like Liberty Counsel, who are not in any way related to the lawsuit.” □

The LGBT activists are suing the government for banning gender-confused people from military service.

in policy for pro-defense reasons. He must have been motivated by personal ‘animus’ against transgenders, not the advice of military leaders. None of this is true.”

She said, “The subpoenas seek to violate our First Amendment rights of free speech, and to punish CMR for engaging in public policy discussions as an independent source of information and analysis. CMR refuses to be intimidated, silenced, or deterred from our mission.

this article, President Trump approved recommendations he received from Secretary of Defense James Mattis on February 22.”

The CMR noted the basic facts of the argument: Trump’s policy change promotes military readiness, asserts sound priorities, honors previously commitments, allows participation by gender non-conformation individuals “if they meet medical and deployment requirements,” and more.

Interesting, the report points

Jesus Christ likened himself to a shepherd. Over and over again, the analogy of a shepherd caring for his sheep is used to describe the relationship between the Lord and His followers.

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

John 10:11&14.

How does the shepherd know His sheep? And how do the sheep know their shepherd?

Is there an identifying sign between God and His people?



Call, write, or visit us online to order your FREE sermon
"The Hickory Flute"
on CD by Garner Ted Armstrong



Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association
PO Box 747, Flint, Texas 75762
(903) 561-7070
www.garnertedarmstrong.org

