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REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



AMERICA AND ISRAEL:

A FRAYING BOND?

THE
REAL TRUTH

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ARTICLES

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■ **CROSSING POINT:** The Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul, Turkey (seen behind the Dolmabahçe Mosque), is one of only two that connects Europe and Asia.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

America and Israel: A Fraying Bond?

The once unwavering alliance between the United States and Israel is showing signs of strain.

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■ **EXTENDED HANDS:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and United States President Barack Obama reach out to shake hands during a joint press conference at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem (March 20, 2013).

PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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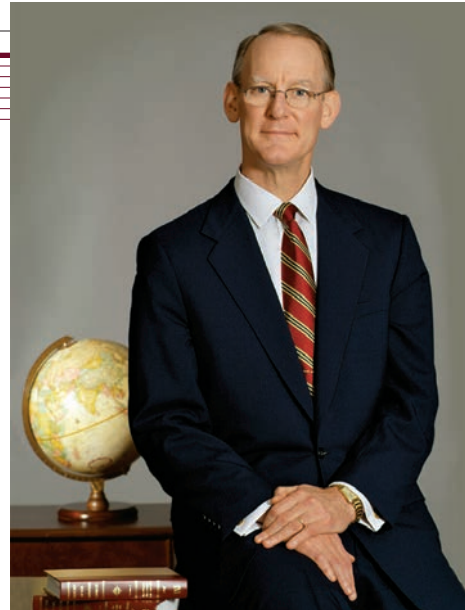
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The True Church— Identifying It Part 2

MOST CHURCHGOERS think that accepting Jesus as their Savior makes them His followers. Most also assume that doctrines believed, traditions practiced, and church affiliation count little, if at all.

This could not be more wrong!

Who and What Is God?

In this series on the true Church of God, we have been examining what the Bible *really* says about its identity. Jesus taught, “And every one that hears *these sayings of Mine* [meaning Christ’s instruction, doctrines, commands—His teachings—the truths He brings], *and does them not*, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand” (Matt. 7:26).

Teachings are everything! In fact, in every regard, they define and identify the true Church. We will survey as many as one article will permit.

First, consider who and what is God? The ancient Greeks had 30,000 gods. The Hindus reportedly have *five million*. Judaism teaches God is a single Person. Many believe God is a kind of “inner goodness” within everyone. Others that He is a “metaphysical idea.” Most

traditional churches teach God is a trinity—*one Being*, but *three Persons*. And millions believe there *is* no God.

God *does* exist and His existence **CAN BE PROVEN!** The single most important biblical truth is the *identity* of the true God! And the first of the Commandments requires people to worship only Him.

The God of the Bible said, “Let *US* make man in *OUR* image, after *OUR* likeness...” (Gen. 1:26). God was not talking to Himself. Nor was He confused. God is plainly more than one Person. The Hebrew word for God is *elohim*. It is a *uni-plural* word—in this case, meaning one God, but more than one Person. God and Christ represent *two* Beings, composing one Godhead. Together, they represent the “Us” and “Our” of this verse.

John 1 contains a crucial—and eye-opening—statement about the true nature and identity of God. It states, “In the beginning *was* the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God. The same was in the beginning *with* God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” (vs. 1-2, 14).

The only way the Word could both *be* God and be *with* God is if they are *separate* Beings. One Person, the Word, who became Jesus Christ, came to Earth and “dwelt among men,” until His crucifixion as the Savior

of mankind. The other, the Father, who resurrected Jesus from the dead, remained in heaven and was the One to whom Jesus prayed.

The Godhead now has TWO SEPARATE BEINGS—Father and Son! If God were a trinity—three Persons or Entities in *one* Being (with the Holy Spirit the supposed third Person)—Christ’s death and role as Savior would have been *impossible*.

God is not conjoined triplets where one-third of *one* Being can die—without affecting the other two-thirds of the same Being.

The trinity (called a “mystery that cannot be understood”) denies God’s *Master Purpose* for mankind. It pictures God as closed and triune with no room for expansion in His Father/Son family relationship!

Christ’s Church understands and teaches the identity of the true God.

Mankind’s Great Purpose

Now consider the purpose for mankind. Let’s reread Genesis 1:26 with a different emphasis, “...Let Us make man in Our *image*, after Our *likeness*...” It is not within the scope of one article to disprove the fiction of evolution and prove the truth of a literal creation. The fact is that God *did* create man. But we must ask, *why?* For what *purpose?*

The belief of nearly all professing Christians is that they will “die and go to heaven.” Yet, Christ stated, “...*no man has ascended up to heaven*, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man...” (John 3:13). The belief that “*heaven is the reward of the saved*” is a *fable!*

In His first recorded sermon, Jesus taught, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit *the earth*” (Matt. 5:5). He knew Christians do not go to heaven—they inherit THE EARTH! (In fact, Jesus was quoting Psalm 37:11.) God’s Plan is to give RULERSHIP of Earth to Christ and the resurrected saints who will REIGN with Him. It has *never* been His Plan that people merely “roll around heaven all day,” “ride clouds,” “play harps,” or “walk the streets of gold, in front of the pearly gates.”

God’s purpose for humanity is infinitely greater than the inventions of deceived men!

The book of Revelation, which is Christ’s revealing of events prior to and following His Return, explains, “And has made us unto our God *kings and priests*: and we shall *reign on the earth*” (5:10). Many refer to Christ as King of kings, but never question who are the *other* “kings.” These are the resurrected saints! Daniel 7:18, 22 and 27 plainly reveal that the returning Christ and the saints inherit all kingdoms of *this world*.

The Father says Jesus is “His Son, that He might be the FIRSTBORN among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29). Many *more* sons and daughters will soon be added to God’s Family. They will enjoy the same things that God Himself enjoys. God is a Family—a Household! (Read Ephesians 3:15 and I Timothy 3:15.)

True Christians have the Spirit of God. This makes them sons of God: “For as many as are *led by the Spirit* of God, they are the *sons of God*” (Rom. 8:14). Now consider this: “Beloved, *now* are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be *like Him*; for we shall see Him *as He is*” (I John 3:2).

Christ is called the firstborn among *many brethren* (the true Christians who follow later), because those added to God’s Family—in the resurrection to occur at Christ’s Return—are going to be “like Him.” They are not like something else. Christ is God. Being “like Him” means being part of the God Family with Him.

God is a Father who now has one (born) Son. But soon there will be *many more*. God is reproducing Himself by developing His character in yielded, conquered, Spirit-begotten and led human beings.

The apostle Paul said the ministry teaches and edifies the Church so that it can grow into the “stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13). A Christian copies and builds the character of Jesus Christ to qualify for membership in the God Family. The

marvelous, awesome human potential offered to everyone who truly repents—changes—and believes is that they will be born into the very Family of God. What a sobering yet exciting opportunity and future responsibility! How glorious is the future of Christians! May God help you understand what He has offered to all who seek *Him* first—above all else (Matt. 6:33)!

The true Church teaches the INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL that lies ahead for every one of God’s people.

This truth is connected to the true gospel. Revelation 12:9 states, “Satan...deceives *the whole world*...” What a staggering statement! The truth about a subject as vital as the message Christ brought would be no exception.

The True Gospel

The first recorded words spoken by Christ during His earthly ministry were, “Repent you, and *believe the gospel*” (Mark 1:15).

But what *is* the gospel? Those who would be true Christians are told they must believe it. Mark also wrote, “Jesus came...preaching the *gospel of the kingdom of God*” (vs. 14). There is no gospel but the KINGDOM OF GOD. Of course, the world focuses on the *Person* of Jesus rather than on the *message* He brought. It is almost entirely ignorant of the KINGDOM OF GOD—the governing Family of God with Christ and His saints.

Professing Christendom has assumed the belief of numerous manmade gospels. This is one of the greatest distinctions between the many denominations and sects of the world and the true Church.

Rather than focusing *on* Himself, or teaching a gospel *about* Himself, Jesus came to reveal the Father. Yet the Father and His role as Supreme Head of the divine Family of God is almost entirely unknown today. As Savior and High Priest, Jesus brought reconciliation—access to the Father—saving us by His Resurrection (Rom. 5:10).

The true Church understands Christ’s vital role as mediator to the Father—but also has Him in proper

perspective. It does not overly focus on Him by constantly speaking of “adoring Jesus” and “His precious blood.” Neither does it see Him as merely dead on the cross or a baby in the manger, among other popular views that invariably reduce Christ.

The true Jesus Christ brought a message about a coming WORLD GOVERNMENT—the kingdom of God!

Paul warned those who would believe or teach another gospel, “I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel*: which is not another; but there be some that *trouble you*, and would *pervert the gospel* of Christ...If any man preach any *other gospel* unto you than that you have received, *let him be accursed*” (Gal. 1:6-7, 9).

Satan does not talk directly to human beings. He works through his servants—his ministers. The Bible teaches that the devil has *his* ministers—and they invariably teach a false gospel. Paul warned of being “beguiled” into accepting “another Jesus” who brought “another gospel” through “another spirit” (II Cor. 11:3-4). He went on to describe the cunning of Satan’s ministers: “For such are false apostles, *deceitful workers*, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for *Satan* himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* also be *transformed* as the *ministers of righteousness*...” (vs. 13-15).

The true Church has always had to be careful—vigilant—about the dangers of false ministers entering it and perverting the doctrines of God.

All but one gospel are *counterfeits* designed by the devil to replace the towering truth of God’s soon-coming kingdom. Let’s read: “...the *god of this world* has *blinded* the *minds* of them which believe not, lest the *light of the glorious gospel* of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (II Cor. 4:4).

God, for His own supreme purpose, has opened the truth of the gospel and its meaning to only a very FEW—and

has put them into His Church. The rest of the world remains blinded for now. Satan does not want mortal humans to receive and enjoy what is denied to him.

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus foretold, “...this *gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached [Mark 13:10 adds “published”] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then shall the end come*.”

The Church that Christ built has the knowledge of His true gospel. That Church preaches the kingdom of God until the end of this age comes (Matt. 24:46).

Another, and related, truth must be covered here. God’s principle is to tithe on one’s income. This is because “the tithe is God’s”—and it is “holy to Him.” (The Hebrew means “*tenth*.”) In Malachi 3:8-10, God condemns as “robbers” those who do not both *pay* Him His tithes and *give* Him offerings! But He promises there to “open the windows of heaven” and pour tremendous blessings on those willing to “prove Him” regarding this promise. Faithful tithing is the way God finances preaching the kingdom to the world and the warning message to the modern descendants of ancient Israel. Christ affirmed the law of tithing in Matthew 23:23—and other New Testament verses confirm Christ’s words.

God’s Church teaches the truth about tithing, and its connection to preaching the true gospel. You have been permitted to come into contact with the knowledge of the true gospel, and the understanding that you can be a part of God’s Church *now*—as well as His kingdom, His governing Family, *later!*

But first comes a life of testing. These tests come in various ways.

The Sabbath Test Command

There is one command that sets God’s people apart from all others—and it is the *test command*: “Remember the *Sabbath day*, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: but the *seventh day is the Sabbath* of the LORD your God: in it you shall not do any work...” (Ex. 20:8-10).

God gave the Sabbath from Mount Sinai, through Moses, to Israel. While most people are familiar with this story, they are *not* aware that God commanded the Sabbath be kept *FOREVER!* It was never “just for the Jews” or “just for Israel.” It predates the first Israelites, which includes Jews, by over 2,000 years.

The God of the Old Testament declares, “For I am the LORD, *I change not*...” (Mal. 3:6). Paul was inspired to record, “Jesus Christ *the same yesterday*, and *today*, and *forever*. Be not carried about with various and strange doctrines...” (Heb. 13:8-9).

I Corinthians 10:4 identifies Christ as the “Rock” of the Old Testament. Almost none recognize that the Lord of the Old Testament was also the *New Testament* Lord who came as “the Word”—and was Jesus Christ. In other words, Christ is the One who inspired both Malachi in the *Old Testament* and Paul in the *New Testament* to record that He is a God who does not change! His people are to hold only to truth, avoiding all wrong (or “strange”) doctrines.

This permanence applies to the Sabbath. This is why, in the *New Testament*, Jesus said, “Therefore the Son of Man is *Lord also of the Sabbath*” (Mark 2:28).

Yet, Sunday is commonly referred to as “The Lord’s Day.” While the true Lord’s Day of the Bible is actually the prophesied Day of the Lord—the Day of His Wrath (see Joel 2:1-11; Rev. 1:10, 15:1 and 7, among many others)—the term has become synonymous with Sunday. But why? The reason is simple. If Sunday can be established as the day Jesus was resurrected, it can be a means of validating and “authorizing” the *unauthorized* keeping of Sunday by this world’s churches—in place of God’s Sabbath!

More than the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition collapses if Jesus was in the tomb a full 72 hours (late Wednesday to late Saturday) instead of the commonly believed 36 hours of late Friday to early Sunday. The

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AMERICA AND ISRAEL: A FRAYING BOND?

The once unwavering alliance between the United States and Israel is showing signs of strain.

BY JUSTIN T. PALM

IT WAS 1948. World War II had ended three years prior. Adolf Hitler's extermination campaign had killed six million Jews, with millions of Jewish survivors without a home country. The 1917 Balfour Declaration from Great Britain had promised support of a permanent homeland for the

Jews in the land of Palestine. Momentum for the creation of a Jewish state began to build.

The story was recounted in a *Washington Post* article "Washington's Battle Over Israel's

Birth": "The British planned to leave Palestine at midnight on May 14. At that moment, the Jewish Agency, led by David Ben-Gurion, would proclaim the new (and still unnamed) Jewish state."

■ **STATE VISIT:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and United States President Barack Obama walk together after a joint press conference at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem (March 20, 2013).

PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Despite opposition, President Harry Truman was determined to support the Jewish people. The paper continued: “The Jewish Agency proposed partitioning Palestine into two parts—one Jewish, one Arab. But the State and Defense departments backed the British plan to turn Palestine over to the United Nations. In March, Truman privately promised Chaim Weizmann, the future president of Israel, that he would support partition—only to learn the next day that the American ambassador to the United Nations had voted for U.N. trusteeship...”

“With only a few hours left until midnight in Tel Aviv, [Clark] Clifford [one of President Truman’s aides] told the Jewish Agency to request immediate recognition of the new state... Truman announced recognition at 6:11 p.m. on May 14—11 minutes after Ben-Gurion’s declaration of independence in Tel Aviv. So rapidly was this done that in the official announcement, the typed words ‘Jewish State’ are crossed out, replaced in Clifford’s handwriting with ‘State of Israel’” (emphasis added).

Being in such close contact, the U.S. and new Jewish state were able to nearly simultaneously announce the news.

The official press release from Washington stated: “This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional Government thereof. The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel” (The National Archives).

It is interesting to note that, “President Harry Truman, an avid student of the Bible and its prophecies regarding the return of Jews to the Holy Land, was the first world leader to recognize Israel in 1948, a moment some Christians believe began a new prophetic era for events in the Middle East” (*USA Today*).

Over the intervening 65 years, America and Israel have moved forward as veritable brother nations. As with any familial relationship, there

have been tensions, but both governments claim today that diplomatic ties have never been better.

Yet cracks are beginning to appear in the unique relationship between Washington and Jerusalem.

Historically Strong Connection

America and Israel have stood by each other—for better or worse—in times of peace and in times of war. This alliance has been especially significant for Israel given its hostile neighbors. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee notes that Israel has only been recognized by two of its 22 Arab neighbors. Through the decades, the pressures of wars, terrorist acts, differing religious ideologies, politics and conflicting personalities have tugged at the ties that have bound America and Israel. The relationship has weathered all storms that have crashed against its shores.

United States presidents—from multiple parties—have long championed the special relationship with the Jewish people. (Unless otherwise noted, all quotations come from the *Jewish Virtual Library*.)

John Adams (1797-1801): “The Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation...[God] ordered the Jews to preserve and propagate to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme, intelligent, wise, almighty sovereign of the universe...[which is] to be the great essential principle of morality, and consequently all civilization” (*America’s God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*).

John Quincy Adams (1825-1829): “[I believe in the] rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation.”

Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921): Reacting to the Balfour Declaration, he stated, “The allied nations with the fullest concurrence of our government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth.”

John F. Kennedy (1961-1963): “This nation, from the time of President Woodrow Wilson, has established and continued a tradition of friendship with Israel because we are committed to all

free societies that seek a path to peace and honor individual right...”

Ronald Reagan (1981-1989): “Since the foundation of the State of Israel, the United States has stood by her and helped her to pursue security, peace, and economic growth. Our friendship is based on historic moral and strategic ties, as well as our shared dedication to democracy.”

George H.W. Bush (1989-1993): “The friendship, the alliance between the United States and Israel is strong and solid—built upon a foundation of shared democratic values, of shared history and heritage that sustain the moral life of our two countries. The emotional bond of our peoples...transcends politics...”

Bill Clinton (1993-2001): “America and Israel share a special bond. Our relations are unique among all nations. Like America, Israel is a strong democracy, as a symbol of freedom, and an oasis of liberty, a home to the oppressed and persecuted...The relationship between our two countries is built on shared understandings and values...”

George W. Bush (2001-2009): “The alliance between our governments is unbreakable, yet the source of our friendship runs deeper than any treaty. It is grounded in the shared spirit of our people, the bonds of the Book, the ties of the soul...”

Barack Obama (2009-present): “We stand with Israel as a Jewish democratic state because we know that Israel is born of firmly held values that we, as Americans, share: a culture committed to justice, a land that welcomes the weary...”

Diplomatic Dialogue

On the 61st anniversary of Israel’s Independence (April 28, 2009), President Obama described America’s ties to Israel: “The United States was the first country to recognize Israel in 1948, minutes after its declaration of independence, and the deep bonds of friendship between the U.S. and Israel remain as strong and unshakeable as ever.”

In his 2013 State of the Union Address, the president said, “[America]

will stand steadfast with Israel in pursuit of security and a lasting peace.”

Some Israeli leaders have made similar statements. Ehud Barak, Israel’s former deputy prime minister and minister of defense, told *CNN*, “I think that from my point of view as defense minister [our relations] are extremely good, extremely deep and profound... administrations of both sides of [the] political aisle [are] deeply supporting the state of Israel and I believe that reflects a profound feeling among the American people... But I should tell you honestly that this administration under President Obama is doing in regard to our security more than anything that I can remember in the past.”

Over the last few years, *military* ties between these two nations have increased. In March 2012, President Obama affirmed that the United States will “always have Israel’s back” (*CBS*). America and Israel reportedly worked together to create the “Stuxnet” computer virus that damaged a number of Iranian nuclear reactors in 2010. They also unified “to develop sophisticated military technology, such as the David’s Sling counter-rocket and Arrow missile defense systems...” (ibid.).

In 2011, Israel—which only holds 3 percent of the Middle Eastern population—was the recipient of 25 percent of all U.S. exports to this region. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy estimates that since 1949, the United States has provided Israel with \$115 billion of economic, diplomatic and military support. Israel also exports vital military technologies to America.

Signs of Strain

Despite statements by both countries about the strength of their bond, new challenges are testing the endurance of the alliance. Distrust is growing. Leaked documents show that the two countries may be spying on one another: “US intelligence agencies have carried out counterintelligence operations against Israel, a secret report published by The Washington Post revealed...”

“According to the report, Israel is the only US ally that American counter-

intelligence officials suspect of spying on the United States. The other countries listed as targets of counterintelligence operations are adversaries or rivals of the US” (*The Jerusalem Post*).

Israelis are becoming increasingly skeptical of whether they can depend on American support. For instance, after Hillary Clinton visited Israel in late 2012 as secretary of state, a *Jerusalem Post* poll asked, “Do you think the US has Israel’s back?”

Only 15.1 percent of Israelis polled answered, “Yes, the US is Israel’s strongest ally.” Amazingly, 55.8 percent answered, “No, Israel cannot depend on the US.”

Over the past few years, two main points of contention have arisen: (1) construction of settlements in “disputed” areas that have been proposed for a future Palestinian state and (2) how to deal with Iran’s nuclear program.

Settlement Issue

Amid a push by President George W. Bush’s administration to reignite stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the relationship between these two countries began to be tested. The U.S. and Israel started to publicly disagree with each other in 2008. During this time, *Guardian* reported, “The US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice... accused Israel of undermining peace talks as Israel announced plans to build thousands more homes in settlements in east Jerusalem.

“Upon arrival in Jerusalem to help the faltering peace talks, Rice expressed her frustration at the Israeli housing ministry announcement of plans to build 1,300 more homes in Ramat Shlomo, a settlement on Palestinian land in east Jerusalem which was captured in the 1967 war...”

“Even as Rice was issuing her strongest criticism of settlement construction to date, Jerusalem’s city council unveiled plans to build 40,000 new apartments throughout the city, including units in east Jerusalem, over the next 10 years.”

In 2011, during a visit to Israel that included *Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack, and other senior writers,

I stood at a high point in east Jerusalem overlooking settlement areas while touring the town of Ma’ale Adumim.

The beautiful, perfectly manicured city of approximately 37,000 residents—complete with parks, schools and shopping malls—also contained half-constructed buildings. The apartment buildings had been dormant for many months after the Israeli government stopped construction in that area.

To Israel, settlement-building means providing housing for growing communities. To America and much of the world, these construction projects are a sign that Israel will not budge in peace agreement negotiations with the Palestinians.

In 2009, Mrs. Clinton, who was acting as secretary of state, clearly articulated that Washington “wants to see a stop to settlements—not some settlements, not outposts, not ‘natural growth’ exceptions... That is our position. That is what we have communicated very clearly” (*The New York Times*).

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was visiting Washington in March 2010, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden traveled overseas to Israel. During Mr. Biden’s stay, Jerusalem announced that it would build 1,600 homes in east Jerusalem.

An article in *The Washington Post* at the time stated, “...it thwarted what was supposed to be a celebration of fresh negotiations on talks toward an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. The Obama administration now says that failure to resolve the Middle East conflict is harming U.S. national security interests in the region.

“...Netanyahu ‘pushed the envelope with Obama,’ said Yossi Beilin, a former Israeli peace negotiator, referring to haggling over a full settlement freeze that had precluded a resumption of peace talks. Now that Obama has pushed back, Netanyahu ‘is worried and afraid,’ Beilin said.”

Today, the settlement issue remains unresolved. In August 2013, an article in *The Hill* reported, “The [U.S.] State Department... criticized Israel for

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Part 1

Bridging the TURKEY-EU DIVIDE

The many differences between the European Union and Turkey will soon be overridden by one motivating factor.

BY EDWARD L. WINKFIELD
AND SAMUEL C. BAXTER

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, it should not work. Turkey—a 99.8 percent Muslim nation—has a running bid to join the European Union. Everything seems to be against these two entities working closely together.

History: The Ottoman Turks overran the Roman Empire's eastern capital of Constantinople in 1453.

Religion: Europe, aka Christendom, is the home of Catholicism and birthplace of Protestantism. For centuries, Turkey was the seat of Islam's caliphate.

Politics: A June 2013 row between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan exemplified this point. It started with a crackdown on an anti-government protest. Ms. Merkel decried the police reaction as “much too harsh.”

The Associated Press described the political friction: “The demonstrations were sparked by a police crackdown on environmental activists in Istanbul May 31, but protesters also criticized what some regard as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's authoritarian style of leadership.”

According to *Reuters*, Ms. Merkel stated, “Turkey is an important partner but...our European values of the freedom to protest, freedom of opinion, the rule of law and religious



■ **STORMING THE STREETS:** Turkish protesters shout slogans while marching to Taksim Square in Istanbul just before clashes with police (Sept. 10, 2013).

PHOTO: OZAN KOSE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

freedom, are always valid and are not negotiable.”

While the squabble between Berlin and Ankara (the Turkish capital) meant a slight delay in renewed EU-membership talks, the Middle Eastern nation’s bid for membership was never truly in danger.

A spokesman for Ms. Merkel told AP: “Neither the chancellor nor the government are in any way questioning the accession process...It’s not about whether, only about how the accession process is continued.”

The Europe-Turkey courtship has been going on for about 100 years, and the situation embodies the cliché, “Politics makes for strange bedfellows.”

Caught in the Middle

Turkey’s geographical location means difficult relations with surrounding countries. To the northeast is Russia by way of Georgia and Armenia. To the southeast is Iraq and Iran. Syria is

to the south and European borders of Bulgaria and Greece to the west.

This patchwork-quilt neighborhood has made diplomacy a veritable tight-rope act. And for a while, Ankara succeeded in keeping its head down.

Yet times are changing, as an extended quote from *Foreign Policy* magazine explains: “Not so long ago, Turkey seemed to have found the elusive formula for foreign policy success. Its newly-adopted philosophy, ‘zero problems with neighbors,’ won praise both at home and abroad as Ankara reengaged with the Middle East following a half century of estrangement. It expanded business and trade links with Arab states, as well as Iran, lifted visa restrictions with neighboring countries, and even helped mediate some of the region’s toughest disputes, brokering talks between Syria and Israel, Fatah and Hamas, and Pakistan and Afghanistan.”

But the publication explained that now the “zero problems” approach

has reached an end: “By blowing the regional status quo into oblivion, the Arab Spring forced Turkey out of this policy of non-interference. Ankara has struggled with the notion that it could not bend the region to its will: In Libya, before it ended up helping unseat [Moammar Gadhafi], Turkey argued that the West had no business intervening against him. In Syria, it has broken completely with [Bashar] Assad, embroiling itself in a conflict that shows no sign of ending. And in Egypt, of course, it is setting itself on a collision course with the most populous state in the Arab world.

“The extent to which Turkey has since ditched its softly-softly approach to the region has been surprising. One of the commandments of ‘zero problems’ was what Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu referred to as ‘equidistance’—that is, the refusal to take sides in regional disputes. This was always something of a myth, particularly when it came to the

Israeli-Palestine dispute, where the government seldom missed a chance to bolster its regional and Islamic credentials by slighting the Israelis. But in the wake of the Arab Spring, equidistance appears to have gone into the gutter.

“It’s not only in Egypt where Turkey is now seen as a partisan actor, rather than a neutral problem-solver. In Iraq, [Turkey] has openly defied Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s government, accusing it of fomenting sectarian strife and going behind its back to negotiate oil deals with the Kurdish Regional Government, which administers the country’s north. In Syria, it has lent unqualified support to the anti-regime rebels, letting them operate freely on its soil, turning a blind eye to their atrocities, and reportedly criticizing the United States for branding the al Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra a terrorist group.”

The fact that Turkey’s political opinions are often at odds with the West makes its close ties with the European Union even stranger.

From Adversaries...

Complicating matters between the two powers, tensions between Europeans and Turks go back thousands of years. Roman Emperor Constantine created an eastern capital in Constantinople, which today is Istanbul—Turkey’s largest and most populated city. As the classical Roman Empire waned, the eastern leg flourished as the Byzantine Empire, with famous rulers including Justinian I.

By the 1400s, fading Byzantine glory left a power vacuum to be filled by the Ottoman Turks. In 1453, the Turks seized Constantinople. The Turks had superior fighting forces and firepower, which included a cannon that could hurl a 1,000-pound projectile over a mile.

Among the spoils of victory was Justinian’s Hagia Sophia—a cathedral with one of the largest domes in the world. The structure was converted into a mosque and in 1935 became a museum.

At their individual zeniths, the rival Roman and Ottoman empires held many

of the same regions including parts of what are today known as Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Greece and some Balkan states, among others.

From 1453 until the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire in 1922, the office of Turkish sultan was synonymous with political and military prowess. During the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent, the famed ruler made a declaration that demonstrated his

“Complicating matters between the two powers, tensions between Europeans and Turks go back thousands of years. Roman Emperor Constantine created an eastern capital in Constantinople, which today is Istanbul—Turkey’s largest and most populated city.”

sweeping power: “I am God’s slave and sultan of this world. By the grace of God I am head of Muhammad’s community. God’s might and Muhammad’s miracles are my companions. I am Suleyman, in whose name the hutbe [Friday sermon] is read in Mecca and Medina. In Baghdad I am the shah, in Byzantine realms the Caesar, and in Egypt the sultan” (*The Arab World: An Illustrated History*).

Yet Europe did not rest on its laurels during this time of Turkish dominance. It had an answer to Ottoman’s

Islamic kingdom: the Holy Roman Empire, with each ruler crowned by the pope himself.

Animosity continued with long-time military conflicts, including the Ottoman-Hungarian wars from 1366 to about 1526 and the Ottoman-Hapsburgs wars between 1526 and 1791.

With this history as a lone guide, improved relations between Europe and Turkey seem impossible.

...To Allies

Yet something curious happened early in the 1900s. A German-Turkish alliance in 1914 at the start of World War I began nearly a century of improved relations. The two nations also signed a nonaggression pact in 1941 during World War II.

Diplomatic olive branches were not extended to Germany alone. Soon, Turkey was consistently seeking close ties with all of Europe.

In 1952, Turkey became the first and only Muslim nation to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The move bolstered the West’s position against Soviet Russia.

Turkey then applied in 1959 for an associate membership in the European Economic Community, the precursor to today’s EU.

The Islamic nation’s bid succeeded as the two powers signed the “Ankara Agreement” in 1963, which declared they were both determined “to establish ever closer bonds between the Turkish peoples and the peoples brought together in the European Economic Community.”

Turkey applied for a full EEC membership in 1987, and, in 1997, the Luxembourg Council summit declared Turkey eligible to become a full-fledged EU member.

Membership talks opened in 2004, and, in 2008, the European Council set up an Accession Partnership for Turkey, which aimed to assist Turkish authorities in meeting membership criteria.

Reacting to slow progress on the accession process, the EU and Turkey

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THE GAMBLING PLAGUE

PART 1

Gambling is exploding in popularity and, for many, has progressed from a pastime to something much worse.

LIKE A DISEASE, it spreads throughout the nations of the world infecting virtually every household, young and old, rich and poor, ignorant and educated. From high-stakes casinos and online poker games to government-run lotteries, penny-ante bingo matches, and office pools, gambling is everywhere—and is becoming more common with each passing year.

The practice of gambling can be described as staking something of value on the outcome of an event that involves chance, in hopes of gaining objects of value that have been staked on the event by others. In other words, *risk* motivated by *riches*.

The history of this practice stretches to nearly the beginning of human history. In the modern age, as technology expands and the character of individuals and nations declines, gambling is quickly becoming an epidemic.

Types of Gambling

Modern gambling exists in many forms, which vary in popularity among different cultures and groups. These include: (1) betting on sports or games of skill, including horse and dog races, football, baseball, basketball, hockey, boxing prizefights and others; (2) card games, including

poker and blackjack, which may be played at casinos or in private homes; (3) dice games such as craps; (4) lotteries and “scratch-off” games (typically sanctioned by state or federal governments, with tickets sold at stores); (5) bingo; (6) mechanized betting such as electronic slot machines (known as “one armed bandits”) and video poker; and (7) other casino games including roulette, big six, and keno.

In a world connected by instant communication, gamblers can also place bets on an endless array of world events, including the elections of successors to popes or presidents!

A method of organized public betting often used at horse or dog tracks is the pari-mutuel system, which translates to “mutual stake” in French. This system pools bettors’ money and distributes winnings in proportion to the amount wagered. Its intent is to facilitate tax collection and prevent theft.

Growing Problem

The growth of gambling in wealthy, developed countries has exceeded overall population growth, as ever larger percentages of individuals yield to the temptation. Many of these nations are so prosperous that even those considered below the poverty line enjoy a standard of living that is higher than the majority in the developing world. Yet these peoples still seek easy avenues to increase their net worth.

Gambling, both in its legal forms and otherwise, has long been one of the most popular methods of pursuing this goal. Recent statistics gathered in these countries bring the expanding scope of the problem into focus.

United States: According to the American Gaming Association’s 2013 State of the States report: “Nearly one-third (32 percent) of the U.S. adult population gambled in casinos during 2012. This is a significant increase from

the 27 percent who visited casinos to gamble in 2011.”

Of the 76.1 million people who spent time and money in casinos last year, nearly half make more than \$60,000 per year. The trade group also reported that in 2012, commercial casinos across the U.S. earned a little more than \$37 billion in gross gaming revenue.

Gambling in some form is legal in all states except Hawaii and Utah. Forty-three of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, conduct lotteries. Also, many of these states participate in combined multi-state lotteries such as Powerball.

A Gallup Poll in 2008 noted that nearly half of Americans participated in state lotteries—the most popular form of gambling.

Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that the capital of the American gaming industry, Las Vegas, Nevada, is still getting back on its feet after a recession that saw skyrocketing unemployment and foreclosure rates. The population of Las Vegas grew 22 percent to 583,756, according to 2010 census data.

Robert Lang, an urban expert at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV), told *USA Today* that “Nevada held on to its population gains largely because the recession ‘was so large and universal that it froze people in place even if there were no jobs.’”

“The flood of people coming into the state has slowed,” the media outlet reported. “‘In the ‘90s, our population growth was driven by migration, accounting for 72%. Since 2000, it’s about 57%,’” Jeff Hardcastle, the state demographer, told the newspaper.

Still a popular destination, more than 368 million people visited Sin City in 2011, compared to a paltry 6.7 million visitors in 1970, according to the official city of Las Vegas website. More than 19,000 conventions were held in Las Vegas in 2009. UNLV’s Center for Gaming Research statistics show that Nevada’s Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, took in \$9.4 billion in gambling revenue as of October 2013.

The Wynn Las Vegas hotel has been symbolic of the city’s “golden age.” At a total cost of \$2.7 billion at the time of its opening in 2005, it is the most expensive casino resort in the world, with *each room* carrying an average construction cost of \$1 million. It established a new benchmark of opulence, featuring a manmade mountain, a three-acre artificial lake with a 70-foot waterfall, a golf course, 18 restaurants, an art gallery, exclusive shops, and an in-house Ferrari-Maserati dealership.

Canada: Since 1992, net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals, and casinos has mushroomed from \$2.7 billion (CAD) to \$13.7 billion in 2011, according to a Statistics Canada report. Revenue generated from casino gambling represents 34 percent of the gaming industry while revenue from lotteries represents 27 percent. Revenue from slot machines located in venues other than casinos represents 21 percent of the industry and video lottery terminals represent 19 percent. Forty-six percent of households with incomes under \$20,000 spent an average of \$390 on gambling that year while 75 percent of households with incomes of \$80,000 or more spent an average of \$620.

United Kingdom: The British gambling industry took in gross revenue of 6.2 billion pounds, or \$9.7 billion, between October 2011 and September 2012.

According to the British Gambling Prevalence Survey, 73 percent of Britain’s population—about 35.5 million adults—took part in some form of gambling during 2010. The National Lottery was the most popular activity, with about 59 percent of adults participating. Men were more likely to gamble than women—75 percent as compared to 71 percent.

Eighty-three percent of Britons said they gambled for the chance to win big money, 78 percent gambled for fun, 59 percent said they gambled to make money, and 51 percent enjoyed the excitement.

Australia: Australia’s *ABC News* reported that from 2008 to 2009

Australians wasted more than \$19 billion (AUD) on gambling—an average loss of \$1,500 per gambler! This should not be surprising since more than 20 percent of the world’s poker machines are in Australia. According to a Productivity Commission report the news outlet cited, “Problem gamblers contribute 40 per cent of the money put into poker machines.”

Kate Roberts, a member of the country’s Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling and founder of the Gambling Impact Society, said easy access to poker machines is to blame. She told *ABC News*: “This is not about sick people...It’s about machines that are on every corner, that are ruining people’s lives.”

According to the report cited by *ABC News*, “About 115,000 Australians are classified as ‘problem gamblers’ with a further 280,000 people at ‘moderate risk’. The risk for people who only play lotteries and scratchies is low but rises steeply with the frequency of gambling on table games, wagering and especially gaming machines.”

From Casino to Computer

The Internet has made it easier for people to indulge in their gambling habits. The arrival of online gaming is a major factor in the explosion of gambling’s overall popularity. The availability of it “at the click of a mouse” any hour of day or night, equals increased convenience. Gone are the times when one needed to travel to a casino or recruit players for a card game at home to indulge an appetite for gambling.

Morgan Stanley expects online gambling to be “big business.” *Bloomberg Businessweek* reported that the financial services firm “projects that the American market alone will be worth \$9.3 billion by 2020.”

As it stands now, the global online gambling industry has a net worth of \$30 billion, and it is expected to grow over the next five years, according to an analysis by Aruvian’s R’search. The market research and consulting firm reported, “Currently, Europe appears to be the quickest expanding online gambling market. In 2012, European

online gambling business operators recorded almost a 45% increase in the total online gambling yield.”

According to a *Businessweek* report, online gambling was illegal in the United States until a 2011 ruling by the U.S. Department of Justice “made all gambling except sports betting legal at the federal level, so long as the state in which the wager is made has authorized it, too. Three states—Nevada, Delaware, and New Jersey—have already legalized Internet gambling, and players in Nevada returned to lawful online games back in April. Other states, including California, Massachusetts, and Illinois, are considering laws of their own.”

Gambling's Image

Even in the relatively recent past, the practice of gambling carried a sense of dishonor and was considered a vice. This is no longer the case. Social organizations—even religious groups—commonly sponsor bingo games, riverboat gambling trips, and other events that involve games of chance. Bingo and gambling “outings” are now common even at nursing homes and at group homes for the mentally disabled.

As with many social trends, this shift in public opinion may be to some degree influenced by media outlets including television and motion pictures. Several cable television shows currently exist that are based on Texas Hold ‘Em, a version of the card game poker. The groundbreaking program “World Poker Tour” first appeared on the Travel Channel in 2003, and became the highest-rated program in the network’s history, drawing five million viewers per show.

Competing cable channels followed suit with their own variations on the theme, including Bravo’s “Celebrity Poker Showdown,” ESPN’s “World Series of Poker,” and Fox Sports Network’s “Championship Poker at The Plaza.” The success of these shows encouraged the development of poker tours and tournaments co-sponsored by companies such as Harrah’s Entertainment, a casino gambling powerhouse, and networks such as ESPN.

Other television programs featuring gambling themes include NBC’s “Las Vegas” and CBS’ “Dr. Vegas,” as well as the “reality” shows “The Casino” on FOX and Discovery Channel’s “American Casino.” A cable channel devoted entirely to gaming entertainment is also available in Canada.

Prior to the television phenomenon, a remake of the 1960 film “Ocean’s Eleven” appeared in theaters in 2001, boasting a number of top-flight actors in its cast. The highly successful movie, along with its 2004 and 2007 sequels, followed a group of gamblers and professional con artists as they planned elaborate thefts in Las Vegas and Europe. The storylines of the trilogy deliberately glamorized the gambling habit while blurring the roles of hero and villain—and the audience felt compelled to cheer for the main characters as they committed various robberies.

The increased interest in gambling, in particular Texas Hold ‘Em, trickled down to the average American household. Home poker parties were the hot trend of the mid-2000s, and the retail industry responded enthusiastically to the demands of this lucrative market. Mainstream retail chains—including toy stores—stocked equipment such as poker chips and portable game kits as well as scores of books devoted to the subject.

Even corporations seemingly outside the realm of gambling recognized an opportunity for crossover market exposure. For example, professional baseball, football and basketball leagues licensed team logos and other proprietary images for use on playing cards and poker chips.

The image of Las Vegas underwent what has been called an “identity crisis” during the 1990s. The city spent much of the decade pursuing a “family-friendly” approach to the planning of resort properties, building amusement parks and other attractions appealing to those with children. This was partly due to competition from the many Native American tribe-operated casinos springing up across the rest of the country.

One apparent result of this approach is the flood of permanent residents, which led to a 1994 *Time* magazine cover story proclaiming it the “New All-American City.”

In recent years, however, the city’s marketing strategy has shifted back to a focus on vice, excess and the appeal of the forbidden—with a determination to push the envelope on each. This is seen in Vegas’ now-familiar marketing tagline, “What Happens Here... Stays Here,” featured in suggestive television commercials promoting an “edgier” Vegas experience.

According to the CEO of the agency responsible for these ads, “We need to set Las Vegas apart. When people are in Las Vegas, they are less inhibited,” he stated in *USA Today*.

Likewise, the city’s tourist attractions have changed with the times. For example, Treasure Island, built in the mid-1990s as a Disney-style family resort, has changed its name to “TI.” It now hosts a racy theater piece titled “Sirens of TI,” as well as a burlesque bar. Also, a business promoted as “the world’s largest strip club” opened in Vegas in December 2004, part of a wave of additions to the city’s adult entertainment industry.

Tempting Budget Remedy

Many nations of the Western world struggle with worsening debt. According to a *Reuters* report, in 2012, America’s 50 states owed a combined \$4.19 trillion. That total included outstanding bonds, unfunded pensions, and budget gaps. Citing State Budget Solutions, a nonpartisan research advocacy group, the media outlet reported that California owed the most debt—a whopping \$617.6 billion! That was more than double the total that the next state on the list, New York, owed. It was saddled with a debt load of \$300.1 billion.

This problem has prompted state officials to view revenue generated by casino taxes, lotteries and other forms of legal gambling as a source of much-needed cash. In 2010 alone, 12 states

*Please see **GAMBLING**, page 23*

GLOBAL POLITICAL SHAKE-UP



The international response to Syria's use of chemical weapons is reshaping the world's political landscape.

IN NOVEMBER 2012, *The Real Truth* published "Syria's Crisis Set to Redefine the World," which definitively stated that an increasingly irrelevant United States would cause a power vacuum to be filled by the voices and policies of Russia, Egypt, Europe and the Vatican.

We wrote at the time: "As the West"—meaning the U.S. and Western Europe—"continues its

slow bow from the world stage, other nations will continue to rise in prominence. These events will accelerate."

Accelerate they have! Now, it is better to say that this Middle East crisis *has already* redefined the world. After reports that Syria's President Bashar Assad used toxic sarin gas on rebels, Washington's plan for a limited military intervention was largely dead-on-arrival.

More than ever, America is a fading, war-weary superpower. The Syria crisis has become just another means by which growing power players are flexing their newfound political clout.

Russia

In 2012, *The Real Truth* noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin stated in government-funded media outlet *Russia Today* that his nation was entering a "new era," one in which it "behaves and will behave differently." True to what he said, Mr. Putin stepped in and rallied support around his plan to diffuse the Syria situation using diplomacy.

Moscow talked Washington out of a military strike and instead required Mr. Assad to hand over his weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Putin then garnered international backing for a

■ **INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION:** The United Nations Security Council votes on a resolution regarding Syria's chemical weapons program at UN headquarters in New York City (Sept. 27, 2013).

PHOTO: JOSHUA LOTT/GETTY IMAGES



■ **MEET AND GREET:** Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, extends his hand to European Council President Herman Van Rompuy during a G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia (Sept. 5, 2013).

PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

United Nations Security Council draft resolution that requires Syria to give up its chemical weapons. The Russian president has since been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

According to *Reuters*, “The agreement emerged from intense negotiations at the United Nations with Russia, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s chief ally. The aim was to craft a measure to require destruction of Syria’s chemical arsenal in line with a U.S.-Russian deal reached [in early September] that averted American strikes on Assad’s forces in the midst of a bloody civil war.”

“Western powers on the Security Council backed away from many of their initial demands, diplomats say, in order to secure Russia’s approval.”

Now that the decision is back in the hands of the UN Security Council where Russia has veto power, *Reuters* reported that “the chances of U.S. military action appeared to recede even further.”

Egypt

The news from Egypt is the ousting of President Mohammed Morsi and the army solidifying power behind General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. The move ended a governmental stalemate between the Muslim Brotherhood and the armed forces—meaning the nation should now be able to move forward on surer footing.

Cairo’s main goal seems to be removing Mr. Assad and adding another nation to its growing ranks of Arab Spring allies—no doubt hoping to reshape Syria as another Islamic democracy.

General Al-Sisi backed Moscow’s alternative to military intervention. In fact, even before the deal was struck, Egypt was working on building a stronger relationship with Russia while distancing itself from a sullied United States, according to *McClatchyDC*.

“Whether a proposed Russian deal to dismantle Syria’s chemical weapons

as an alternative to a U.S. missile strike actually works or not, Russia already has emerged as a winner among many Egyptians.

“For them, the deal is a reminder that there’s a former ally that can solve the region’s problems peacefully without the tarnish of a failed intervention in Iraq, failed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, reviled alliances with fallen regimes or the perception that it has treated the region as its lapdog.”

Europe

In 2012, we pointed out that European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that the EU must take a stronger role in the Middle East to ensure a democratic Syria emerges from the conflict. At the time, *United Press International* summarized part of his state of the EU address: “More than ever...a ‘new world order’ needs an active and engaged Europe. Human rights and European values are prin-



■ **ON THE MARCH:** Rebel fighters of the Yarmuk Brigade train on the outskirts of the southern Syrian city of Daraa (Sept. 29, 2013).

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT /GETTY IMAGES

ciples that extend beyond the borders of the European Union.”

Today, the EU has also favored a diplomatic approach over military intervention.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly on September 25, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy urged decisive action that could create momentum to stabilize the Middle East.

Mr. Van Rompuy stated, “We cannot let this spiral of criminal, sectarian violence [in Syria] pursue its dreadful course at the heart of the world’s most unstable region.”

President Van Rompuy continued, “The European Union welcomes the diplomatic opening created in order to control and destroy Syria’s chemical weapons.”

“Eliminating Syria’s chemical arsenal is in itself a major step. Potentially it could also be important for the wider dynamics in the region. Clearly, the conflict wrecking Syria reflects many of the deep-seated tensions rippling throughout the Middle East. It is fed by these tensions, and fuels them as well. So a solution for Syria will need to take into account the wider picture.

“That is why any political opening matters deeply: a breakthrough on chemical weapons could start opening other doors. In the black wall of Syria’s doom, it will be a first crack.

The European president continued by stating that full engagement of the international community using “all

available diplomatic means” could trigger other opportunities for progress, including with Palestine, Israel and Iran.

Mr. Van Rompuy also said that Europeans understand what it takes to move from war within and among neighboring nations to a peaceful political union: “We in Europe, we know that reconciliation is the hardest thing. The countries on our continent only agreed to live peacefully together after many wars, and many civil wars, with huge numbers of victims—a price we never want others to have to pay. And we know reconciliation is even harder inside a country than between countries. No longer waging war is one thing, living again together quite another.”

The Vatican

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis has called for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict.

According to *The Associated Press*, the pope has “condemned the use of chemical weapons, but he called for a negotiated settlement of the civil war in Syria, and announced he would lead a worldwide day of fasting and prayer for peace...”

AP wrote: “Francis abandoned the traditional religious theme of the weekly papal appearance to crowds in St. Peter’s Square and instead spoke entirely, and with anguish, about Syria.”

“My heart is deeply wounded by what is happening in Syria and

anguished by the dramatic developments’ on the horizon, Francis said, in an apparent reference to the U.S. and France considering a military strike to punish the Syrian regime for a chemical weapons attack.”

Later, at a prayer vigil in St. Peter’s Square attended by a crowd of 100,000, Francis urged world leaders to pull humanity out of a “spiral of sorrow and death,” *Reuters* reported.

The news agency quoted the pope: “This evening, I ask the Lord that we Christians, and our brothers and sisters of other religions, and every man and woman of good will, cry out forcefully: violence and war are never the way to peace!”

Continuing Problem

Watch these four power players—Russia (along with China), Egypt, Europe and the Vatican—over the coming months and years. Their new positions will solidify as the global political landscape is completely remade.

The Real Truth has regularly written about these four world powers, and will continue to do so with clarity and authority seen nowhere else.

How can this publication be absolutely certain things will play out this way in coming years? The answer comes from our unique approach to analyzing global trends, using the Bible as a lens through which to view world events.

While many scoff at this idea—believing the Bible to be a pseudohistory book full of Jewish fairy tales—this could not be further from the truth! You can PROVE that the Bible is God’s Word and that the prophecies it contains outline soon-to-occur events. Read the book *Bible Authority... Can It Be Proven?* at rcg.org/bacibp to learn more.

Also, David C. Pack’s *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out*, available at rcg.org/tbgpu, contains an extensive look at prophecies in the Bible, in language that is easy to understand. As with no other book, this volume brings exciting—yet sobering—details of events that will occur in *your* lifetime! □



MOUNTING WORLDWIDE CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE

Part 5

Too often, agriculturists see only the *effects*, while the actual *causes* of the crisis grow worse and more complicated. Yet we must *recognize* our agricultural problems—their *causes*—and CORRECT THEM.

BY DALE L. SCHURTER

This article is excerpted from the book *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* by Dale L. Schurter, the world's foremost authority on biblical agriculture and sustainable husbandry. Subsequent installments will appear in *The Real Truth* over the coming months.

TODAY, many farmers feel they could not survive without chemical pesticides and fertilizers. And what is worse is that scientists feel the intensive use of chemicals and genetic modification in agriculture is *still in its early stages*, compared to what it will become.

These researchers envision a time when chemical pesticides will not only be used with greater efficiency and precision in eliminating pests, but also in which these artificial fertilizers will become more refined and powerful in a “cradle-to-grave” chemical regulation of plant growth, development, yield and quality! It may surprise you to learn that the following systems of control over plant development are either presently in use or in experimental stages: synthetic hormones and solar radiation (to speed up or slow down plant growth and germination, whichever is desirable), and engineered mutations (to produce a “higher breed” of crop).

All these methods demand genetic and chemical manipulation, and move further from any form of natural processes.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



Other manmade control measures involve regulating the branching and leaf orientation, the time of flowering and fruit set, the color and enlargement of the fruit, and fruit ripening. It also includes “abscission control,” which prevents the premature dropping of fruit yet loosens it to make mechanical harvesting easy.

More manipulation of nature.

Artificial lighting and automatic feeding have long been widespread in livestock and poultry operations. Experiments with controlled environments show that all animals have a “comfort zone” and that temperature and humidity exert a marked influence on performance. Man hopes to raise livestock of the future in controlled environments (some even predict in high-rise, apartment-like dwellings!) and feeding is planned to be computer-programmed to meet specific needs. Estrus (sexual excitement) will be synchronized and ovulatory rates regulated with the ova being fertilized artificially with sperm of known genetic material.

More manipulation.

With chickens, researchers are working to break through the egg-a-day barrier. It is reasoned that a hen should not have to act as a packaging machine and be required to produce a limestone container for each egg. If the shell could be discarded and only the “membrane envelope” produced, much of the time and energy now used in egg production could be eliminated (“Progress of Research and Technology on the Food Supply in the United States”).

Still more manipulation!

Hogs marketed 100 days after birth and beef animals marketed in six months were other predictions. The goal, then as now—get as much gain as possible from every pound of feed consumed. One experiment in the same article showed that *caged* piglets

would produce close to one pound of gain for one pound of feed.

As of 1969, *plastic roughage* (which is added to livestock feed in an attempt to promote digestion) went on the market for cattle! This product stays in the rumen and provides a “scratch factor” needed for digestion of grain and supplement. Proponents claim that it eliminates the need for natural roughage and in some instances has even increased feed conversion by 10 percent (*Western Livestock Journal*). Later developments included adding substances such as cement and wood pulp to increase the bulk of cattle feed!



■ **UNSANITARY CONDITIONS:** Cattle confined by the hundreds often stand ankle-deep in their own manure in feedlots, which are breeding grounds for disease.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Ask: if you would NEVER eat plastic, cement or wood pulp—*why* is it suitable for cattle?

The recycling of animal wastes as reconstituted foods for livestock and poultry is another destructive trend. This is intended to accomplish two purposes: getting rid of waste and providing cheap feed.

Again, ask: Would *you* knowingly eat animal feces? Or an animal fed with it?

Most American cattle are now given GMO corn, a practice so widely accepted that the term “corn-fed” is used by marketing campaigns to sell steaks. Yet,

ask: when was the last time you saw cows instinctively grazing in a cornfield? These ruminants are designed to consume grasses, and the beef that results from this natural feeding has been shown to be significantly more healthful than the artificial feedlot.

“We have come to think of ‘cornfed’ as some kind of old-fashioned virtue; we shouldn’t,” Michael Pollan wrote in *The New York Times*. “Granted, a corn-fed cow develops well-marbled flesh, giving it a taste and texture American consumers have learned to like. Yet this meat is demonstrably less healthy to eat, since it contains more saturated fat. [A] study in *The European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found that the meat of grass-fed livestock not only had substantially less fat than grain-fed meat but that the type of fats found in grass-fed meat were much healthier. (Grass-fed meat has more omega 3 fatty acids and fewer omega 6, which is believed to promote heart disease; it also contains betacarotene and CLA, another ‘good’ fat.) A growing body of research suggests that many of the health problems associated with eating beef are really problems with corn-fed beef. In the same way ruminants [were not made] to eat grain, humans may not be well adapted to eating grain-fed animals. Yet the U.S.D.A.’s [U.S. Department of Agriculture] grading system continues to reward marbling—that is, intermuscular fat—and thus the feeding of corn to cows.

“The economic logic behind corn is unassailable, and on a factory farm, there is no other kind. Calories are calories, and corn is the cheapest, most convenient source of calories. Of course the identical industrial logic—protein is protein—led to the feeding of rendered cow parts back to cows, a practice the F.D.A. [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] banned in 1997 after scientists realized it was spreading mad-cow disease.”



However, he continued, “F.D.A. rules still permit feedlots to feed nonruminant animal protein to cows. (Feather meal is an accepted cattle feed, as are pig and fish protein and chicken manure.) Some public-health advocates worry that since the bovine meat [beef] and bone meal that cows used to eat is now being fed to chickens, pigs and fish, infectious prions [virus-like particles] could find their way back into cattle when they eat the protein of the animals that have been eating them.”

As if this unnatural diet was not enough, to further speed the process of beef development, “American regulators permit hormone implants on the grounds that no risk to human health has been proved, even though measurable hormone residues do turn up in the meat we eat. These contribute to the buildup of estrogenic compounds in the environment, which some scientists believe may explain falling sperm counts [in men] and premature maturation in girls...studies have also found elevated levels of synthetic growth hormones in feedlot wastes; these persistent chemicals eventually wind up in the waterways downstream of feedlots, where scientists have found fish exhibiting abnormal sex characteristics” (ibid.).

More recently, 66 percent of commercial chicken feed was found to contain substances such as “acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, Benadryl, an antihistamine, even Prozac, an antidepressant. Farms feed chickens these mood-altering drugs to reduce their anxiety. Chickens are anxious because they are bred on overcrowded and filthy factory farms. Stressed-out birds develop meat that is tough and unpalatable, so they need to be sedated. Yet, chickens on tranquilizers sleep all the time and do not eat enough. So they are given high doses of caffeine (which was also found in the feather meal) to keep them awake at night to feed and fatten up” (*Guardian*).

Obviously, something is terribly wrong with this picture!

Modern Agriculture Is Failing!

The biggest problem with the glowing predictions we read is that nothing can *quickly, practically, cheaply and effectively* be put to work in solving our race against worldwide famine!

Projections may sound good. Some few may even come to pass in carefully controlled experiments or on *some* acreage in rich countries such as the U.S. But this is a far cry from having the capital and skilled manpower to make them useful on a large scale.

Besides, too often these glamorous-sounding projects deal with relatively minor factors as far as food production is concerned. The really big problems of shrinking available arable land (due to erosion, salt destruction, and urban development), a sinking water table, and the continuing general worldwide decline in soil fertility are almost totally ignored. Little or nothing is being done to solve these major problems. In fact, modern practices are all too often *hastening* the destruction of these priceless resources.

Look at the end result of many “successful” practices of modern farming, such as chemical pesticides and fertilizers, drugs, antibiotics in feeds, hybrids and GMOs. Every one of these is largely at odds with natural laws.

Some of these unnatural practices may *appear* to be successful—until we begin reaping the penalties. Already we are seeing the social and economic consequences of modern agriculture. New and deadlier diseases are increasingly being traced to what we eat and ultimately to poor farming practices.

The cost-price squeeze is one of many factors driving small farmers off the land and into already overcrowded cities, where they try to eke out an existence. While big farmers force all they can out of the land, the cost-price

squeeze is also slowly but surely closing in on them.

And what about developing, hungry countries? There, limited agricultural resources (and almost all fertilizers) are used to grow cash crops such as coffee, peanuts or even plants used in illegal drug trade. These products are then often exported in exchange for foreign currency. Meanwhile, local people suffer from malnutrition and hunger.

Just look at the food crisis in the nation of Yemen. The problem continues to grow worse “because Yemenis use 40 percent of their available water to grow qat, a mildly narcotic plant that’s the country’s largest cash crop... That’s far more than they allocate to grow food,” *United Press International* reported.

Five million people are in need of emergency aid and it was estimated that 500,000 children could die in 2012 as a result of malnutrition or famine. Approximately 750,000 children under 5 years old suffered from malnourishment during the same year.

All the while, agribusiness debts pile higher and higher across Western nations. Farmers are forced to take out ever-bigger loans until they owe the bank or other lending agencies the majority of their total assets.

In utter incongruity, some governments have paid for taking cropland *out of production* to relieve a perceived surplus, while in other parts of the world fellow humans are starving, often due to *their* governments’ policies. In the meantime, a farmer tries as hard as he can to produce more by forcing as much as possible from his remaining or total land so he can make a living! We are living *right now today* the dichotomy of “surplus” alongside famine, malnutrition and starvation.

Positive Picture

If the vast majority of man’s attempted solutions result in unintended negative



consequences, where can we turn for real answers?

Time and again, biblical agricultural guidelines have been proven true. During my over 50-year career, I have seen the astounding results! Using the Bible and working within the guidelines of nature—not attempting to manipulate Creation—is *the only way* to produce abundance and health for the masses.

In fact, the promotion of correct farming practices is a major theme throughout this Book's pages. Imagine a world where the following is reality:

■ "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

■ "And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden..." (Ezekiel 36:34-35).

■ "Behold, the days come...that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows seed...they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" (Amos 9:13-14).

Swords beaten into plowshares—desolate land becoming like the Garden of Eden—the plowman overtaking the reaper—an era of abundance and peace!

Sounds impossible, right? Yet unlike the utopian pronouncements of man, the Bible provides a *concrete* game plan of HOW to achieve this picture-perfect future.

Currently, however, something stands in the way.

The Basic Problem

Throughout history, man has cut down forests, overgrazed grasslands, and mined Earth's croplands—with hardly a thought given to replacing, rebuilding and restoring. With very few excep-

tions, land *use* has been synonymous with land *abuse*.

And what has been at the root of this abuse? Human nature! A mindset of avarice, materialism, greed and a love of self—rather than of *outflowing concern* for the air, soil, plants, animals and fellowman. An attitude of *getting and taking*—rather than *GIVING*! Man's character of vanity, jealousy, lust and greed manifests itself in every one of his endeavors—and agriculture is no exception.

The obvious problems of agriculture today cannot be solved unless and until *self-serving* human nature in man can be replaced by a character and attitude focused on giving. As long as man's nature, with its tendencies to tear down, exploit and destroy, is allowed to dominate, there is no lasting hope for agriculture—or to feed the malnourished, hungry and starving masses of our world.

Yet there is another side to the agricultural crisis that many refuse to acknowledge: natural laws of science are really laws put in place by a Creator. If the world lived *His Way*, then the era of abundance and peace mentioned in the Bible could come into glorious reality.

This God, however, *does not* require blind faith that He exists. In the Old Testament book of Malachi, He declares: "...prove Me now herewith..." (3:10).

A major part of God's Way includes agricultural laws and blessings. He calls on all peoples to prove for themselves that obedience to His statutes and commands brings unparalleled prosperity.

Notice Deuteronomy 28: "And it shall come to pass, if you shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe and to do all His commandments...that the LORD your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth" (vs. 1).

God boldly states that obedience *will* bring spectacular agricultural prominence. In a sense, He is saying, "Because I exist, these blessings will occur!"

These conditional blessings are detailed in Leviticus 26: "If you walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and *you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely*" (vs. 3-5).

This is the *SOLUTION* that would immediately start turning the present agriculture disaster around!

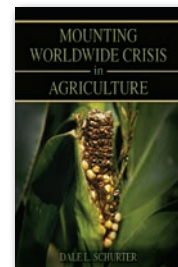
To do so we must make it a way of life to emulate and *do* what *God* says is good, and immediately *reject* what any man or corporation says is "better."

You *MUST* ask yourself whom you believe when the counsel and instruction from these two sources—God or man—differ, as they nearly always do!

Realize that your Creator states He is on *your* side: "I [God] 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*" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

What a loving and merciful God! What a difference! While man's way—without immediate and drastic change—*delivers death*, God's Way promotes and *promises life!*

Part 6 of the series will appear in next month's *The Real Truth*. To read the complete book online, visit *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* available at rcg.org/mwcia. □





■ **UNFINISHED SETTLEMENTS:** Various views of the area in and around the city of Ma'ale Adumim can be seen in these photographs. The settlement is home to fully furnished buildings and construction sites that have been sitting dormant for years after the Israeli government stopped work in the area.

PHOTOS: STACEY L. PALM/THE REAL TRUTH

ISRAEL

Continued from page 6

approving new settlements on disputed lands on the eve of resuming long-stalled peace talks.

“Spokeswoman Marie Harf said the administration had shared its ‘serious’ concerns with the Israeli government following [the] announcement of almost 1,200 new settlement homes. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are set to resume talks in Jerusalem... after a preliminary meeting hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington...”

“‘These announcements do come at a particularly sensitive time, and we have made our serious concerns about this...announcement known to the government of Israel,’ Harf said.

“We do not accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity.”

Waiting for a Green Light

The second point of contention between America and Israel is how to address the controversial Iranian nuclear program. Since Iranian leadership vowed to “wipe Israel off the map,” Israel has contemplated striking Iran’s nuclear sites.

Thwarting Iran’s nuclear program is seen as a matter of survival for the tiny nation. Yet America is reluctant to bless an airstrike until it feels all other options have been exhausted. Israel believes that nothing else has worked and that the time for action is approaching. Mr. Netanyahu is seeking a U.S.-backed ultimatum to Iran to stop its development of nuclear weap-

ons within a few months or military action will follow.

At the heart of the matter is weapons technology. Israel does not have bombs sophisticated enough to completely destroy Iran’s highly protected nuclear establishments. One nuclear fuel enrichment center (Fordow) is inside a mountain—200 feet underground. The only weapon capable of reaching it is a Massive Ordnance Penetrator. America developed it but is not yet ready to sell it to the Israelis.

A longer quote from an opinion piece in the *Telegraph* summarized the differences between the two countries in dealing with Iran: “Barack Obama may say that the United States supports Israel and will not countenance a ‘nuclear Iran.’ But most

Israelis see Obama as lacking in that basic commitment to and sympathy for Israel that characterised American presidents from Truman through Kennedy to Clinton and George W. Bush...

“Obama’s deliberate coldness toward America’s traditional ally has not been lost on the Israeli public. He spoke in Cairo [in 2009] to the Muslim world, while avoiding a ‘balancing’ visit to Jerusalem...[and] humiliated Netanyahu during [a] visit to America (on the evening of their meeting, Obama left Netanyahu for more than an hour stranded in the White House while he dined without his guest). Nor will Washington’s overbearing tone be quickly forgotten...”

“Either way, most Israelis resent Obama’s arm-twisting, and it is by no means clear that Israel will soften the widespread desire to retain East Jerusalem while opposing the settlement enterprise in the wider West Bank...”

“The only action that could halt Iran’s march toward nuclear weaponry is a strike by Israel. Whether Israel can do so effectively without a green light and some assistance from Washington is unclear...”

“So far, Obama—like George W. Bush before him—has vetoed an Israeli pre-emptive strike. The Americans are fearful of the chaos that might engulf the Middle East and are aware of their vulnerability in the region. They assume that the Iranians would charge them with complicity, whether or not they were complicit.

“It is possible that Netanyahu hoped to reach an agreement with Obama based on a trade-off—Israeli concessions on the Palestinians in exchange for America agreeing to an attack on the Iranian installations. But Obama apparently offered Netanyahu nothing, while demanding everything on the Palestinian front.”

Since that time, Washington has been seeking a diplomatic solution to the Iranian issue. President Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani even shared a phone conversation—something that has not occurred

between the leaders of these two nations since 1979.

Prime Minister Netanyahu cautioned U.S. leaders not to buy into this apparent improvement in diplomacy. During a United Nations General Assembly speech in October 2013, Mr. Netanyahu stated, “Israel will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons, even if we have to stand alone. Yet in standing alone, Israel will know that we will be defending many, many others” (*The Jerusalem Post*).

The question becomes: How much longer will Israel depend on America’s approval for its decisions? How long will Israel wait before it feels it must act independently for its survival?

Fraying Bond?

An article in Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported in late 2012, “At a hearing of the [U.S.] House of Representatives subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, titled ‘Safeguarding Israel’s Security in a Volatile Region,’ concerns were raised over the potentially detrimental effects of the public rift between the Obama administration and Netanyahu’s government.

“Chairman of the committee, Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH), expressed his growing concern about the future of the U.S.-Israel security relationship, citing the administration’s ‘clumsy response to the Palestinian attempt for statehood recognition last September at the UN’ and ‘the most recent dust-ups concerning the status of Jerusalem in President Obama’s campaign platform’ as well as Obama’s unwillingness to meet with Netanyahu...on the margins of United Nations General Assembly, though the White House rejected these claims saying such a meeting was impossible due to scheduling conflicts.

“I fear we are sending conflicting messages, both to our friend and those of Israel’s enemies who may question our resolve,” Rep. Chabot said. ‘And I think that would be unfortunate and potentially dangerous.’”

The article continued, “Elliott Abrams, an official in George W.

Bush’s administration and currently a senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, presented testimony highly critical of the Obama administration’s policies. While admitting that the U.S.-Israel military and intelligence cooperation is ‘in very good shape,’ he went on to say that ‘our political relationship and cooperation are worse than they have been for many years, perhaps for two decades.’”

With a number of persistent disagreements, many are questioning how long the bond between Israel and the U.S. can hold. Yet to better understand what is coming for these two nations, one must look to their pasts. While it is easy to see that they have been built upon what are called Judeo-Christian values, most everyone misses the fact that the Bible reveals key details about their shared history.

Most are in the dark regarding the *true* reasons behind the deep connection these two brother nations share. The relationship began much earlier than 1948, and in fact started thousands of years ago!

Understand: The Bible states directly that God will break the bond of brotherhood between Judah and Israel in the period before the return of Jesus Christ (Zech. 11:14). This rupture is symbolized by a staff that God names “bands.” Most today would say that Judah is Israel. But it is not! This passage in Zechariah is one of many that proves Israel and Judah are not one and the same. The Jews are certainly one of the nations (tribes) of Israel—but there are eleven more. Therefore, God is going to break the bond between the other nations of Israel and the Jewish people, today most fully represented in the Mideast nation called “Israel.”

To learn more about this unique relationship, and what the Bible reveals about its future, read David C. Pack’s *America and Britain in Prophecy* at rcg.org/aabibp. This vital book uses clear facts of history and biblical keys to unlock the important knowledge of global events soon to smash into an unsuspecting world. □

EUROPE & TURKEY

Continued from page 9

launched a new “positive agenda” in 2012. A press release from the European Commission stated: “The aim of this process is to keep the accession process of Turkey alive and put it properly back on track after a period of stagnation.”

Common Ground?

Turkey’s position in NATO seems to provide a few clues as to why Brussels and Ankara are slowly but surely working to build closer ties.

In an interview, Jamie Chandler, a political scientist at Hunter College in New York City, told *International Business Times* that “Turkey’s membership was pivotal in terms helping NATO deal with political instability in Eastern Europe, the 1990s Balkan wars, and post-9/11 activities focused on the Middle East.”

Mr. Chandler added, “Turkey’s secular-Islamic government provides NATO [with] a cultural and political bridge into the Arab world, and NATO installations in the country give the organization an efficient means to deal with instability in the region.”

In addition to strategic interests, there are other shared traits between Europe and Turkey. Both were long-time centers of architecture, culture, intellectual pursuits, governmental systems, and military ingenuity.

The *PBS* documentary “Islam: an Empire of Faith” stated, “Islamic and Western civilization have the same roots: their dawning in the Fertile Crescent; the monotheism of the Jews and Christians; the classical, intellectual culture of the ancient Greeks. The two traditions are kindred spirits, alike yet very different. Islam’s legacy is intertwined with the West.”

Yet one major *shared* trait has been the main cause of friction between Islamic Turkey and Christendom Europe: both empires have deep religious roots.

A forum sponsored by Pew Research explored this point. Bernard Lewis, professor emeritus



■ **STANDING TOGETHER:** From left to right, Turkey’s Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bagis, EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, and EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele pose for a photo during the third Turkey-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue Meeting in Istanbul (June 7, 2012).

PHOTO: BULENT KILIC/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

of near eastern studies at Princeton University, said the source of the Muslim-Christian conflict comes not from the two religions’ differences but from their similarities.

“These two religions, and as far as I am aware, no others in the world, believe that their truths are not only universal but also exclusive,” Mr. Lewis said. “They believe that they are the fortunate recipients of God’s final message to humanity, which it is their duty not to keep selfishly to themselves...but to bring to the rest of mankind, removing whatever barriers there may be in the way.”

Because both believe they hold the key to human salvation, Mr. Lewis said tensions between Christendom and Islam occur because each have “aspired to the same role”—bringing God’s message to the whole world—“each seeing it as a divinely ordained mission.”

But how does this apply to today—a time in which many people call Europe a “post-Christian” continent? Even though Europe is not dominated by religion as it once was, centuries of traditional Christianity’s footprints are still found across EU member-states.

Modern societies like to think that past events have little effect on the present. But it is futile to attempt

to change deeply embedded national characteristics.

French Historian Francois Guizot famously remarked in his *Essais sur l’histoire de France*, “When nations have existed for a long and glorious time, they cannot break with their past, whatever they do...they remain fundamentally in character and destiny such as their history has formed them. Even powerful revolutions cannot abolish national traditions...therefore it is most important, not only for the sake of intellectual curiosity, but also for the good management of international relations, to know and understand these traditions.”

With this in mind, the Turkey-Europe bond becomes even stranger. Why are these two world powers bucking a previous trend of animosity and war solidified over hundreds of years?

The concluding part of this series, to be printed in the next issue of *The Real Truth*, will delve deeper into European and Turkish history and uncover the core motivation for their relationship.

Despite the towering obstacles of history, religion and politics, this one driving factor will *soon* push the two powers toward an increasingly close—and iron-clad—relationship. □



GAMBLING

Continued from page 12

passed or enacted laws that maintained or increased gambling availability. Many other ballot proposals are in the works, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

While some citizens oppose this approach on moral grounds, tolerance for funding the government through gambling is increasing. This is especially true when it is presented as an alternative to increased taxes on individuals. Property taxes, used in many states to fund public education, are often reduced or stabilized using this alternate source of money. Gambling helps finance schools, starting at the elementary level all the way through secondary education.

State governments have a long-standing love/hate relationship with gambling. Lottery profits were used in building Jamestown, Virginia, the first American colony, in the early 1600s. This type of funding has also been used to finance the

United States colonial army, colleges (such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Princeton), courthouses, hospitals, libraries and many other public endeavors—including churches.

This lenient environment in early America led to the creation of many private lotteries by the 19th century. Corruption, though, became widespread in such games. Often, a “winner” would receive a lesser prize than advertised—or no prize at all! This sparked an eventual nationwide ban on state involvement in gambling, which lasted from approximately 1878 to 1964.

The dry spell ended in March 1964 with the introduction of a “sweepstakes” in the state of New Hampshire. This libertarian state’s avoidance of the term “lottery,” among other clever tactics, enabled lawmakers to evade Federal anti-lottery laws. Other states followed New Hampshire’s example, and a trend of gambling expansion was soon underway.

America’s northern neighbor, Canada, has historically paralleled the

U.S. in its gambling legislation. In 1817, a law to ban all games of chance failed to pass in Lower Canada (modern Quebec) due to intense popular opposition. In 1856, however, the Act Concerning Lotteries did pass, which banned this particular form of gaming. This law most directly affected the young nation’s Catholic clergy, who had been using lottery profits for nearly a century.

According to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, legal gambling returned to Canada in 1969, as the country’s criminal code was amended to allow provincial lotteries, casinos and lottery licenses for charitable and religious organizations.

Since gambling proceeds are commonly used by churches to fund their endeavors, can it be assumed that this practice is biblical? What about the scriptural accounts of casting lots?

In Part 2 of this series, we will answer these questions and look at the root *cause* of gambling’s popularity in modern society. □

Watch *The World to Come*™ with David C. Pack

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<p>AFRICA Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT, 15:30 GMT</p> <p>ASIA/OCEANIA Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 15:30 GMT</p> <p>AUSTRALIA Optus D2: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 11:30 p.m. WST Monday 1:30 a.m. EST, 1:00 a.m. CST Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 11:30 p.m. WST Monday 1:30 a.m. EST, 1:00 a.m. CST</p> <p>CARIBBEAN Galaxy 25: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET</p>	<p>CENTRAL AMERICA Galaxy 25: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT</p> <p>CURACAO RTNS: theWALKtv* Varies Check Local Listings</p> <p>EUROPE Hot Bird 6: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 17:30 EET, 16:30 CET, 15:30 WET</p> <p>FINLAND IRR-TV: theWALKtv* Varies Check Local Listings</p> <p>ICELAND Hot Bird 6: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 15:30 GMT</p> <p>INDIA Tata Sky: The Word Network* Sunday 9:00 p.m. IST</p>	<p>Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 9:00 p.m. IST</p> <p>Velugu TV: theWALKtv* Varies Check Local Listings</p> <p>ITALY Sky Italia: The Word Network – Channel 823* Sunday 16:30 CET</p> <p>JAMAICA Flow TV: The Word Network – Channel 668* Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET</p> <p>MIDDLE EAST Arabsat (Eurobird 2): The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT, 15:30 GMT</p> <p>NEW ZEALAND Optus D2: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Monday 3:30 a.m. NZT</p>	<p>NORTH AFRICA Arabsat (Eurobird 2): The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT, 15:30 GMT</p> <p>PHILIPPINES Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 11:30 p.m. PHT</p> <p>SOUTH AFRICA Thaicom 5: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 17:30 SAT</p> <p>UNITED KINGDOM Sky UK: The Word Network – Channel 590* Sunday 3:30 p.m. GMT</p> <p>U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS WCVI: theWALKtv – Channel 23* Sunday 11:30 a.m. ET</p>
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NORTH AMERICAN STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):



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<p>NORTH AMERICA FilmOn: LIFESTYLE – theWALKtv* Sunday 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m. AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT Galaxy 19: theWALKtv – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m. AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT Galaxy 25: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 12:00 p.m. NT, 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT</p>	<p>Roku: Omniverse – theWALKtv* Sunday 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m. AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT</p> <p>CANADA Galaxy 25: The Word Network – Satellite Free-to-Air* Sunday 12:00 p.m. NT, 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT</p>	<p>UNITED STATES BROADBAND: Sky Angel Faith & Family TV – Channel 537 Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT DIRECTV: The Word Network – Channel 373* Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT</p>
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U.S. STATIONS – CABLE AND ANTENNA (CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR CHANNELS):

ALABAMA

Alabaster —
WALK-WAY-TV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Andalusia —
WALK-WKNI*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Berry —
WALK-WSFG*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Birmingham —
WALK-WAY-TV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Cullman —
WALK-WCQT*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Decatur —
WALK-WMJN*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Dothan —
WALK-WJJN*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Fayette —
WALK-WSSF*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Hamilton —
WALK-WMTY*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Jacksonville —
WALK-WJXS*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Montgomery —
WALK-WFRZ*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Prattville —
WALK-WBIH*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

ALASKA

Anchorage —
CW-KYUR-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT
WALK-KCFT*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. AKT

Fairbanks —
CW-KATN-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT

Juneau —
CW-KJUD-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT

ARIZONA

Camp Verde —
WALK-K18DD*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Flagstaff —
WALK-K42IQ-D*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Lake Havasu City —
WALK-K65FI/K27EC/KLHU*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Phoenix —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Yuma —
CW-KECY-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

ARKANSAS

El Dorado —
WALK-KCIB-TV5/KLMB*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Eureka Springs —
WALK-K22HS*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Fayetteville —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Fort Smith —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Green Forest —
WALK-K54FH*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Harrison —
WALK-K23DU*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Jonesboro —
CW-KJOS,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Little Rock —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Nashville —
WALK-KJEP*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Pine Bluff —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Springdale —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KVAQ/Safe TV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

CALIFORNIA

Altadena —
WALK-KTAV*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Bakersfield —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Chico —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Corte Madera —
WALK-KTLN*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

El Centro —
CW-KECY-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

Eureka —
CW-KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-K68GT*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Fresno —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Los Angeles —
WALK-KTBV*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Modesto —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Monterey —
CW-KION-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Oakland —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Palm Springs —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Redding —
WALK-KVFR/KGEC*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Sacramento —
WALK-KMSX*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Salinas —
CW-KION-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

San Diego —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

San Francisco —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

San Jose —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Stockton —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Visalia —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

COLORADO

Colorado Springs —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Denver —
WALK-KDEO*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Durango —
WALK-K16GZ*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Grand Junction —
CW-KJCT-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K38JX*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Montrose —
CW-KJCT-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Pueblo —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

CONNECTICUT

Hartford —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

New Haven —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Plainville —
WALK-FVTVN*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington —
WALK-W45DN*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

FLORIDA

Chiefland —
WALK-WGEC*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Daytona Beach —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Fort Lauderdale —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Fort Pierce —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Gainesville —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Jacksonville —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Miami —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Orlando —
WALK-WTGL*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Panama City —
CW-WJHG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Pensacola —
WALK-WCTU/WBQP*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Sebring —
WALK-WHRT*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

St. Augustine —
WALK-WQXT*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Tallahassee —
WALK-WTBC*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Tampa —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

GEORGIA

Ailey —
WALK-WPHJ*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Albany —
CW-WSWG-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-Local Access*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Atlanta —
WALK-WATC-DT/WTBS*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Augusta —
CW-WAGT-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-WBPI-DT*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Columbus —
CW-WLTZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cordele —
WALK-WSST*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Dublin —
WALK-WDIG*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Jesup —
WALK-WQIX*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

LaGrange —
WALK-WJCN*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Macon —
CW-WBMN**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Savannah —
CW-WGSA-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Summerville —
WALK-WKSY*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Vidalia —
WALK-WQIX*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

IDAHO

Boise —
CW-KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Grangeville —
WALK-WVBI*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Idaho Falls —
CW-KIFI-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Lewiston —
WALK-K39CT*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Pocatello —
CW-KIFI-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Twin Falls —
WALK-KBAX*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

ILLINOIS

Alton —
WALK-W50CH*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Bloomington —
CW-WHOI-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Chicago —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Peoria —
CW-WHOI-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-GPS-TV*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Quincy —
WALK-WTJR*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Rockford —
CW-WREX-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

INDIANA

Evansville —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Fort Wayne —
CW-WPTA-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Hammond —
WALK-WJYS*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Indianapolis —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Marion —
WALK-WSOT/WIWU*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
 South Bend —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Terre Haute —
CW-WBI,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

IOWA

Davenport —
FOX-KLJB,
 Sunday, 7:00 a.m. CT
 Keokuk —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Mason City —
CW-KTTC-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Ottumwa —
CW-KWOT,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

KANSAS

Liberal —
WALK-K39KO*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Manhattan —
WALK-K36IO*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Pittsburg —
CW-KSXF,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Sublette —
WALK-KDGL*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Topeka —
WALK-K40IJ*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Wichita —
WALK-KCTU*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green —
CW-WBKO-DT3**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Campbellsville —
WALK-WLCU*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
 Lexington —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Louisville —
WALK-Faith19*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Scottsville —
WALK-WPBM*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge —
WALK-WLFT*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Crowley —
WALK-KAGN*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Lafayette —
CW-KATC-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KAJN*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Lake Charles —
CW-KVHP-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KFAM*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Monroe —
WALK-KWMS/KMCT*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 New Orleans —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Shreveport —
WALK-KADO*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MAINE

Auburn —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Bangor —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Portland —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Presque Isle —
CW-WBPQ,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 MARYLAND
 Baltimore —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Hagerstown —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Ocean City —
WALK-W35CS*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Holyoke —
CW-WBQT,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 New Bedford —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Springfield —
CW-WBQT,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

MICHIGAN

Alpena —
CW-WBAE,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
 Battle Creek —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Cadillac —
CW-WBVC,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
 Detroit —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Flint —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Grand Rapids —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Kalamazoo —
WALK-WLLA*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Lansing —
CW-WLAJ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Marquette —
CW-WBKP-DT1/WBUP-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
 Rose City —
WALK-IPTV*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
 Saginaw —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
 Traverse City —
CW-WBVC,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

MINNESOTA

Duluth —
CW-KDLH-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KCWW*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Mankato —
CW-KWYE,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Minneapolis —
WALK-KHVM*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Rochester —
CW-KTTC-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 St. Paul —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MISSISSIPPI

Ashland —
WALK-WBII*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Biloxi —
CW-WBGP,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Booneville —
WALK-W34DV*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Bruce —
WALK-W07BN*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Fulton —
WALK-W39CD*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Greenville —
CW-WBWD,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Greenwood —
CW-WBWD,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Grenada —
WALK-W13CS*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Gulfport —
CW-WBGP,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Hattiesburg —
CW-WHPM-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Jackson —
WALK-WWJX*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Laurel —
CW-WHPM-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Meridian —
CW-WTOK-DT3**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-W21CS*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Pontotoc —
WALK-W15CG*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

MISSOURI

Aurora —
WALK-K61GJ*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Branson —
WALK-K25BD/KNJD*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Columbia —
CW-KOMU-DT3**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Hannibal —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Jefferson City —
CW-KOMU-DT3**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Joplin —
CW-KSXF,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

WALK-K41KX/K36II-D*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Kansas City —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
 Kirksville —
CW-KWOT,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Lebanon —
WALK-K64FQ*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Marshfield —
WALK-K17FU*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Osage Beach —
WALK-LakeTV*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Springfield —
WALK-K39IU*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 St. Joseph —
CW-WBJO/KNPN-DT3**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 St. Louis —
WALK-KNLC*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MONTANA

Billings —
CW-KTVQ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K51KR*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
 Bozeman —
CW-KXLF-DT2/KBZK-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
 Butte —
CW-KXLF-DT2/KBZK-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K39JC*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
 Glendive —
CW-KWZB,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
 Great Falls —
CW-KRTV-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
 Missoula —
CW-KPAX-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEBRASKA

Hastings —
CW-KWBL,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Kearney —
CW-KWBL,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 Lincoln —
CW-KWBL,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
 North Platte —
CW-KWPL,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K49JK*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
 Omaha —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT



Scottsbluff —
CW-KGWN-DT3/KCHW**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEVADA

Las Vegas —
WALK-KEEN*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Reno —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NEW JERSEY

Newton —
WALK-WMBC*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

NEW MEXICO

Alamogordo —
WALK-WVBA*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Carlsbad —
WALK-K28JO*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Santa Fe —
WALK-KCHF/KYNN/SCTTA*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEW YORK

Albany —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Auburn —
WALK-W52CQ*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Binghamton —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Buffalo —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cobleskill —
WALK-WUCB/WYNB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

DeWitt —
WALK-WIXT*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

New York —
WALK-WMBQ/WBQM*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Oneida —
WALK-WYKO*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Oneonta —
WALK-WISF*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Syracuse —
WALK-WONO*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Utica —
WALK-WVVC*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Watertown —
WALK-WTJK*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NORTH CAROLINA

Boone —
WALK-MTNTV*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Buxton —
WALK-WPDZ/WRZY*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Charlotte —
WALK-WGTB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Durham —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Goldsboro —
WALK-WHFL*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Greenville —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Manteo —
WALK-WMTO*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Murphy —
WALK-LocalTV4*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

New Bern —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Raleigh —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Sanford —
WALK-WBFT*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Tarboro —
WALK-WNCR*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Washington —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Wilmington —
CW-WBW,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Winston Salem —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck —
CW-KWMK,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Dickinson —
CW-KWMK,
 Sunday, 5:30 a.m. MT
Fargo —
CW-WDAY-DT2/WDAZ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Minot —
CW-KWMK,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K47KA*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Valley City —
CW-WDAY-DT2/WDAZ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

OHIO

Akron —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Ashland —
WALK-W33BW*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Canfield —
WALK-ETC-Cable*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Canton —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cincinnati —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cleveland —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Columbus —
WALK-WGCT*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Dayton —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Delaware —
WALK-WXCB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Kenton —
WALK-WOCB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Lima —
CW-WBOH,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-WTLW*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Marion —
WALK-WOCB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Pomeroy —
WALK-WJOS*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Sandusky —
WALK-WGGN*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Stuebenville —
CW-WBWO,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Toledo —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Youngstown —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Zanesville —
CW-WBZV,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

OKLAHOMA

Ada —
CW-KTEN-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Durant —
WALK-FBC-TV*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Lawton —
CW-KAUZ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

WALK-K43LK*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

McAlester —
WALK-FBTN-76*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Oklahoma City —
WALK-KUOT*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Stillwater —
WALK-KWEM*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Tahlequah —
WALK-CFTV*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Tulsa —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

OREGON

Bend —
CW-KTVZ-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-KDOV/K49KX*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Eugene —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Portland —
WALK-K26GJ*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Salem —
WALK-K21GX*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

The Dalles —
WALK-KRHP*,
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona —
WALK-WKBS*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Bethlehem —
WALK-WBPH*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Brookville —
WALK-W45BT*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Elliottsburg —
WALK-W12CA*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Harrisburg —
WALK-W07DP*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Johnstown —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Middleburg —
WALK-W18BC*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Philadelphia —
WALK-W36DO*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Pittsburgh —
WALK-WPCB*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Scranton —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Sharon —
WALK-W29CO*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Wilkes Barre —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

York —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

RHODE ISLAND

Providence —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston —
CW-WCBD-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Columbia —
WORD-Cable*,
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Florence —
CW-WWMB-DT2**,
 Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Greenville —
WALK-WGGS-DT*,
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Myrtle Beach —
CW-WWMB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Spartanburg —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Summerville —
WALK-WLCN*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

TENNESSEE

Adamsville —
WALK-W18BL*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Chattanooga —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Clarksville —
WALK-WCKV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Gatlinburg —
WALK-WJDP*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Jackson —
CW-WBJK,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Johnson City —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Kingsport —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Knoxville —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Memphis —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Nashville —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Pigeon Forge —
WALK-WJDP*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Sevierville —
WALK-Local Access*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Union City —
WALK-WOBT*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

TEXAS

Abilene —
CW-KTXS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Amarillo —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Atlanta —
WALK-KAQC*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Austin —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Beaumont —
CW-KFDM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

WALK-KAQB-DT*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Brownsville —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Bryan —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Corpus Christi —
CW-KRIS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Dallas —
WALK-KHFD/KJMM*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
El Paso —
WALK-KSCE*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Harlingen —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Houston —
WALK-KVQT/Kingdom B'cast*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Kerrville —
WALK-KVHC/IPTV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Killeen —
WALK-KPLE*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Laredo —
CW-KGNS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KLMV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Livingston —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Longview —
CW-KYTX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Lubbock —
CW-KLCW-DT1**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KGLR*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Midland —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Odessa —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Paris —
WALK-Local TV 99*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Pipe Creek —
WALK-KAXX*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Port Arthur —
CW-KFDM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
San Angelo —
CW-KWSA,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

San Antonio —
WALK-KSSJ*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Sherman —
CW-KTEN-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Sweetwater —
CW-KTXS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Temple —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Texarkana —
WALK-KLFI*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Tyler —
CW-KYTX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Victoria —
CW-KWVB,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Waco —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Weslaco —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Wichita Falls —
CW-KAUZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K30DJ/K30DN*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

UTAH

Logan —
WALK-KJDN*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Salt Lake City —
WALK-KTMW*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

VERMONT

Burlington —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

VIRGINIA

Bristol —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Carrollton —
WALK-WGBS*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Front Royal —
WALK-WAZF*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Grundy —
WALK-WJDG*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Harrisonburg —
WALK-WAZH*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Luray —
WALK-WAZC*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Lynchburg —
WALK-Liberty Channel*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Martinsville —
WALK-WYAT*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Newport News —
WALK-WJHJ*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Norfolk —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Petersburg —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Richmond —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Roanoke —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Staunton —
WALK-WAZM*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Winchester —
WALK-WAZW*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Woodstock —
WALK-WAZT*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Wytheville —
WALK-WJDW*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON

Aberdeen —
WALK-Christian Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Kennewick —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Pasco —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
Richland —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-KRLB*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Seattle —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Spokane —
WALK-KHBA*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Tacoma —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Walla Walla —
WALK-KWVO*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Yakima —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-K380I*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield —
WALK-WJDG/WJDW*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Clarksburg —
CW-WVFX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-W21CJ/CATV44*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Huntington —
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Mannington —
WALK-W64CZ*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Morgantown —
WALK-W64CZ*,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Parkersburg —
CW-WCWP,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Weston —
CW-WVFX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Wheeling —
CW-WBWO,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

WISCONSIN

Baraboo —
WALK-WRPQ/W43BR*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Milwaukee —
WALK-WVCY-TV*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Superior —
CW-KDLH-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Tigerton —
WALK-W04CW*,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

WYOMING

Casper —
CW-KWYF/KFNB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K49JZ*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Cheyenne —
CW-KGWN-DT3/KCHW**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-KGSC/KMAH*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable*,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Cody —
WALK-K34HZ*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Laramie —
WALK-KPAH*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Riverton —
CW-KWYF/KFNB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
Rock Springs —
WALK-K33IX*,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT



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PERSONAL

Continued from page 3

biggest reason for the unscriptural tradition (Mark 7:7) of Sunday-keeping collapses with it. God has always said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Ex. 20:8). Never, “Remember Sunday, to keep it holy—and just call it the Lord’s day!”

A historian once observed, “More than the Jews having kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jews”! This could just as easily have been said of God’s Church, which has been under siege through the ages, in part because of its faithful Sabbath-keeping. You will want to read my book *Saturday or Sunday Which Is the Sabbath?* to learn more about the Sabbath.

One of the most vital KEYS that identifies the true original Church of God is His Sabbath.

The Annual Holy Days

The weekly Sabbath is not the only Sabbath God ordained to be kept forever. In Ezekiel 20:12, God said, “I gave them My *Sabbaths*”—*plural*. Leviticus 23 describes seven Holy Days—*annual Sabbaths*—that God commanded Israel (four times) to keep “forever.”

Verse 2 calls these “feasts of the Lord.” The terms Holy Day, High Day and Feast Day are all found in the Bible and are synonymous. When understood, these days, as they are kept each year in sequence, depict important events within God’s Plan.

The first two Holy Days are the First and Last Days of Unleavened Bread. These were kept by the early Church (Acts 12:3; 20:6) in conjunction with, and immediately after, the Lord’s Supper—the New Testament Passover. The Passover shows God’s mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and is the one feast that is not an annual Sabbath.

The seven Days of Unleavened Bread depict the Christian coming out of sin, just as Israel came out of Egypt after the first Passover of Exodus 12.

In late spring is the Day of Pentecost, or the Feast of Firstfruits,

“One of the most vital keys that identifies the true original Church of God is His Sabbath.”

Learn more at rcg.org/tsosw

representing the early spring harvest in Israel. It portrays the first resurrection of true saints—the firstfruits of God’s Plan—at Christ’s Return.

Four more annual Sabbaths are kept in the fall. The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah to the Jews) depicts Christ’s Return, with Revelation 8, 9 and 11:15-19 describing what occurs when each of the seven trumpets are blown.

The Day of Atonement (meaning, “at-one-ment”)—or Yom Kippur—pictures the whole world finally “at one” with God, because Satan will have been bound and cast into “the bottomless pit” (Rev. 20:2-3), where he can no longer deceive the nations.

The Feast of Tabernacles (or Sukkot) depicts Christ’s 1,000-year reign with the saints—and a time of peace, happiness, abundance and pros-

perity for a world that has not known this for 6,000 years. This also seven-day feast is immediately followed by the Last Great Day, which represents a time after the Millennium when all human beings who have ever lived will receive a full opportunity to know God's truth and plan of salvation. (My book *The Awesome Potential of Man* available at rcg.org/tapom presents a detailed overview of God's Master Plan.)

Those few being called in this age (John 6:44) have a special opportunity to be part of God's early harvest, while the world learns the truth later, during the times pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

Other Important Truths

Christmas and Easter (as well as Valentine's Day, Halloween, April Fool's, New Year's, and certain other popular days) are not Bible customs. Rather, they are completely PAGAN in origin, and have nothing to do with God!—and are in fact condemned in Scripture in the strongest terms.

Christ's Church teaches the truth about the pagan origin of men's days and the scriptures that condemn them, and about God's weekly Sabbath and His annual Holy Days, and the scriptures that support their observance. And His Church observes all these days together.

Most are amazed to learn how many plain, *basic truths* of the Bible they have never heard. You have just heard several, but here are more.

God's Word says, "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). Yet, most are taught and believe there is an "ever-burning hell," where sinners and unbelievers go because they are still *alive* after death, since they have immortal souls.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote (twice), "...the *soul* that sins, it shall *die*" (18:4, 20)—souls can die!—and Matthew in the New Testament recorded, "...fear Him [God] which is able to *destroy* both *soul* and body in *hell* [gehenna: the "lake of fire," which burns up the wicked]" (Matt. 10:28). Souls can be destroyed!

Countless millions have feared an ever-burning "hell" that *does not exist!* The Greek word for hell is *hades*, simply meaning "the grave."

When Is One "Born Again"?

Here is *another* truth. The vast majority of churchgoers believe that conversion makes them "born again." But Jesus taught, "That which is born of the flesh *is flesh*; and that which is born of the Spirit *is spirit*" (John 3:6). Why do most believe they can be born again in *this* life, while they are still *flesh*? Jesus, only *after* His Resurrection, was called "the firstborn *from the dead*" (Col. 1:18). No wonder He said that those who are born again *are spirit*. They are no longer composed of flesh—God's Spirit has "changed" them from "flesh and blood" to spirit. (Read I Corinthians 15:50-52.)

Romans 8:29 also describes Christ as "the firstborn *among many brethren*." You could be one of these "many brethren"—IF YOU QUALIFY!

The Definition of Sin

The Bible explains, "...sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4), and that the Law of God is "holy, and just, and good," and "spiritual" (Rom. 7:12, 14). Why then does almost everyone believe Jesus "did away" with the Law when He declared, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, *Till heaven and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled,*" and that "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, *and shall teach men so,* he shall be called the least in the kingdom..." (Matt. 5:17-19), meaning the very worst or lowest of men?

When people keep the Law of God, it **KEEPS THEM!** This is because it *is* a law. And because it is a law, when people break it, it **BREAKS THEM!** If everyone on Earth obeyed God's Law, as will happen in Christ's Millennial rule, the world would be a very different place.

Baptism and Conversion

Finally, the Bible method of baptism is *immersion* in water. No other form is acceptable to God. Baptism must be preceded by repentance and recognition of what human nature is—where it came from and why it needs to be repented of. "The laying on of hands" immediately follows baptism and is the *only way* a person can receive the gift of God's Spirit.

God's Church teaches the truth about death, hell, the soul, law and sin, baptism, conversion, receiving God's Spirit and the true meaning of born again, as well as the straightforward scriptures explaining each. They are among the many clearly and easily understood truths taught by the only Church Jesus built.

We have covered but a fraction of Christ's teachings. *Much* more could be said about each, but all are covered more extensively in our vast library of literature. Also, some truths, such as the gospel of the kingdom, tithing and God's Sabbath, among many others, are the subject of many books and booklets we offer.

God's people must always be fed the truth. So this means there has to be loving authority in the Church Christ built—under *God's* form of government. Part 3 of this series will explore this and other related topics in depth. Many verses explain that God has a form of government, and He gives leaders—*His* leaders—true ministers—necessary authority so they are able to teach, strengthen, protect and lead His Flock.

You will want to read this extraordinary book, *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* available at rcg.org/thogtc. It examines how Christ governs His Church. Millions think He built it on the apostle Peter, and gave him and his successors authority to exchange God's laws and teachings for men's rules and traditions. The book reveals what He *actually* said to Peter, *and you will be amazed!* □

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Drought Fuels California's Wildfire Activity

Severely dry conditions have caused rampant wildfires across California. Most notably, the Rim Fire burned in and around Yosemite National Park, consumed 400 square

miles, and caused over \$100 million in damages.

USA Today reported that 98 percent of the state is in a drought: "According to Cal Fire [the California Department

of Forestry and Fire Protection], more than 4,700 separate fires have already charred the state this year, which is more than 1,300 fires above average. These numbers are for fires fought by Cal Fire only, and do not include fires that occur on federal land."

The Rim Fire was the third-largest wildfire in modern California history, according to *FOX News*. "The wildfire started in the Stanislaus National Forest on Aug. 17 when a hunter's illegal fire swept out of control and has burned 394 square miles of timber, meadows and sensitive wildlife habitat," the news outlet reported. It was not fully contained until after September 30.

California may lead the nation in wildfire incidences, but it is not alone. Nationwide, 31,986 wildfires have burned 3.4 million acres this year, according to a press release by the National Interagency Fire Center. Though the numbers represent only 60 percent of the 10-year average, the organization warned that "wildfire activity has escalated...after thunderstorms, many with little or no moisture, moved across parts of California, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, sparking hundreds of new fires."

Though lightning or, as is often the case, human carelessness can start a wildfire, according to research led by Michigan State University scientists, shifts in climate often cause "larger and more destructive" wildfires in the West.

According to the research cited by *ScienceDaily*, "Large wildfires are mainly driven by natural factors including the availability of fuel (vegetation), precipitation, wind and the location of lightning strikes. In particular, the researchers found that exceptionally dry and unstable conditions in the earth's lower atmosphere will continue contributing to 'erratic and extreme fire behavior.'" □



■ **INFERNO:** A Murphys Fire District firefighter stops his vehicle as a massive wall of flames from the Rim Fire consumes trees along a highway near Groveland, California (Aug. 24, 2013).

PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

HEALTH ISSUES

Prescription Drug Addiction on the Rise in America

Widespread misuse of painkillers caused thousands of deaths in the United States in the last decade, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study. Between 1999 and 2012, the organization reported that prescription drug fatalities increased 400 percent among women and 265 percent among men.

“More Americans now die from painkillers than from heroin and cocaine combined, and since 2008, prescription drug-induced deaths have outstripped those from automobile accidents, according to the CDC,” *USA Today* stated.

Unborn children are also at risk. “Cases of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)—which is a group of problems that can occur in newborns exposed to prescription painkillers or other drugs while in the womb—grew by almost 300% in the US between 2000 and 2009,” according to a CDC report published in *Vital Signs*.

Similarly, *The New York Times* stated, “Like the cocaine-exposed babies of the 1980s, those born dependent on prescription opiates—narcotics that contain opium or its derivatives—are entering a world in which little is known about the long-term effects on their development.”

In 2011 alone, 4.02 billion prescriptions were filled, according to the *American Chemical Society*. This has contributed to an increase in dependency and deaths.

“Drug abuse often begins with legally prescribed pain medications for legitimate injuries, but so many of these drugs are habit-forming that it doesn’t take long for someone to get hooked. Once that happens, it is almost impossible to stop,” *The Chicago Tribune* reported. □

TERRORISM & SECURITY

Acid Attacks Spread Across the Globe



■ **MEDIA COVERAGE:** Locals look at newspaper headlines in a town in Zanzibar, Tanzania, where two young British women suffered an acid attack (Aug. 9, 2013).

PHOTO: ISSA YUSSUF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Acid attacks, which involve throwing corrosive substances into the faces of victims, have increased in East Asian countries and spread into other parts of the world. Blindness, deafness, severe scarring, and psychological trauma are some of the many horrible side effects brought on by such vicious acts.

“Victims must endure painful surgical procedures just to prevent further harm and suffering. If not washed off immediately, acid continues to burn the skin, and may eventually cause skeletal damage and organ failure. If the dead skin is not removed from an acid violence victims’ body within four or five days, the new skin may grow to cause further facial deformities,” a report from the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice explained.

The organization found that India has experienced a steady increase in attacks over the last decade and *Telegraph* reported that the number of

incidents in England has tripled in just six years.

“Experts say they believe many of the cases involving acid are linked to Asian communities, with women attacked by their husbands and punished for refusing forced marriages, while men were attacked during disputes over dowries. Jaf Shah, executive director of Acid Survivors Trust International said that many attacks in Britain were not reported, because women targeted lived in fear of reprisals.”

In Zanzibar, Tanzania, two British teenagers were ambushed by men on a moped who unexpectedly poured acid on them. The girls suffered severe burns on large portions of their bodies.

The New York Times stated, “The ordeal raised questions about...whether acid attacks—a particularly nasty type of assault that can leave victims disfigured for life—may be spreading to places where there is no history of them.” □



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