

JULY-AUGUST 2017

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A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



THE KOREA CONUNDRUM

The Miracle of America

Is Going Green the Answer?

Can the EU Accept an Islamic Member?

How to Fit Exercise into a Busy Schedule

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VOL. XV | NO. 4 | JULY-AUGUST 2017

A R T I C L E S

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■ **SEEKING MEMBERSHIP:** Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shakes hands with European Parliament President Martin Schulz at the European Parliament in Brussels (Oct. 5, 2015).

PHOTO: EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Can the EU Accept an Islamic Member?

Europe's Muslim neighbor has sought closer ties with the Continent since the end of World War II. But fundamental differences stand in the way of full integration.

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FRONT COVER: North Korean soldiers march in Pyongyang during the 105th anniversary of the birth of North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung (April 15, 2017).

PHOTO: ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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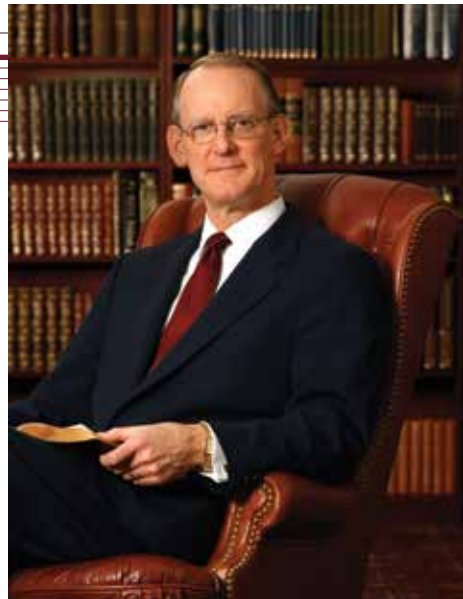
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



Can Christians Believe in Evolution? (Part 1)

DID GOD CREATE all life on Earth according to the Genesis account or did it gradually evolve? Millions of professing Christians have been told science supports evolution, not Creation. They declare, “I believe in God and the Bible, I just think evolution was how He created man.” They believe God directed the gradual development of all plant and animal life. This is referred to as “directed evolution,” or “theistic evolution.”

This introduces GREAT questions: Can a Christian accept evolution? Is this compatible with the Bible—and following Jesus Christ? What does the New Testament say? What did the apostles teach? What did Christ say? This two-part Personal answers all these questions and more.

My five-part *World to Come* series titled “Does God Exist?—Many *Absolute* Proofs!” forms the foundation for this Personal. It explores the latest science to prove that God exists and that evolution is factually impossible.

This two-part Personal is different. Its purpose is to examine whether the Bible permits Christians to believe in directed evolution. We will look at verses most never

consider. I will prove *absolutely*—with overwhelming evidence—that belief in evolution is not compatible with Christianity.

Theistic Evolution

Theistic evolutionists believe God created the universe and all life, but that biological evolution is a natural process *within* that creation. They believe the God of the Bible did not form man directly, but rather created matter and then *guided* the long process of evolution. A quote summarizes this thinking: “...theistic evolution contends that abiogenesis (the spontaneous formation of life from chemicals) and evolution (amoeba to man through eons) have occurred, but a creator was instrumental in forming the initial matter and laws, and more or less guided the whole process” (*The Creation-Evolution Controversy*). This idea purports that science and the fossil record prove evolution—BUT, since life is too complicated to have happened by itself, God must be behind the process. Evolution was simply His tool to develop single-celled organisms into complex ones and eventually into human life.

On the surface, theistic evolution sounds scientifically plausible. One might reason, God is infinitely powerful. Why couldn’t He use evolution if He wanted? Of course

He could. But the correct question is, *did* He? And does He permit you to believe something other than what He said He did?

Before examining a broad array of plain scriptures from Christ and His apostles that confirm Genesis, setup is required. We begin by asking: How did evolution become acceptable within Christianity?

This began in the system of modern education. For 120 years after Darwin's theory, until the late 1970s, belief in Creation was not accompanied by automatic ridicule. Today, even insinuating that a Supreme Being had any part in designing the universe, and life within it, is usually met with scorn!

People are now thoroughly indoctrinated with evolution from an early age. The official policy of the National Science Teachers Association is, "There is no longer a debate among scientists about whether evolution has and is occurring." No wonder evolution is assumed by the masses today. When I was in school, it was still "the *theory* of evolution"—always! Now it is considered **FACT**—when it has always been fiction.

The apostle Paul warned God's servants not to get caught up in phony science, which could threaten their eternal lives. Christians are to be laying "up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:19). Following this verse, Paul charged Timothy to "keep that which is committed to your trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith..." (vs. 20-21).

Be careful what you profess. Many unlearned ministers have caved to junk science, which is popular but false. They teach that God endorses evolution. False science can make you err concerning the faith. Do not let it threaten your eternal life!

My series proving God exists demonstrates who stands on true science and on "science falsely so called."

Confusion spread by evolutionists has led many to believe that the early chapters of Genesis, including the Creation account, do not describe real people and real events. Let's ask: Is Genesis just a collection of helpful stories that mostly never happened? Are names and places described mostly myth and superstition? Atheists and agnostics, but also growing numbers of professing Christians, think so. Seven days of Creation and a literal Adam and Eve are just too hard to believe. Sadly, much of the confusion is because many have been taught that since man is 6,000 years old, so are the Earth and universe—when in fact these are billions of years old.

The question becomes: Is God's Word written in such a way that it permits followers of Jesus Christ to accept Him while rejecting the Genesis Creation account? A sequence of verses—from the Old and New Testaments—sets the table with enormously powerful understanding you cannot avoid.

Bible Validity

Let's see how God says the whole Bible must be accepted or rejected as is.

Jesus commanded (in two gospels), "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4). Some know this much but do not know He was quoting Moses, whom God first inspired to say, "...man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live" (Deut. 8:3).

Realize that Jesus opened His ministry quoting—and *validating*—MOSES, who wrote the Genesis account. Did God inspire Moses to record what God knew was at least partially false?

King David brings more weight to this, as he describes a Bible that was at the time mostly what Moses had written: "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver...purified *seven times*" (Psa. 12:6). King Solomon warned, "Every word of God is pure...add you not to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar" (Prov. 30:5-6).

"Every word" means every word—Old Testament or New—including Genesis. God never lies, but He says any who alter His Word **DO**. Come to grips with your Bible!

Paul declared, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (II Tim. 3:16). It is an "all or nothing" proposition—there is no middle ground. Either you believe every word, or you might as well throw out the entire Bible! The apostle John wrote, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). The prophet Daniel referred to "the scripture of truth" (Dan. 10:21).

So then, just on this basis, if the Bible comes to you with its Author—**GOD!**—purporting that *all* of it is **TRUE**, and you assert (or defer to men who assert) that some parts of it are *not* true, you are calling God a **LIAR!** In fact, you will soon learn that God would be the worst kind of liar, having told a blizzard of lies about things that never happened and Bible figures who never existed, while emphatically stating that all of it is true.

Do not carelessly dismiss this! Because if you say some of God's words are untrue, He says *you* are a liar.

Here is another passage. The Psalms record, "Your word is *true from the beginning*: and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (119:160). The Hebrew is more correctly translated "the beginning of Your word is true." This is powerful because the Bible begins with the Creation account in Genesis, which means "beginnings." Anyone who disbelieves the first book of the Bible must also throw out this passage. Atheists reject the entire Bible, but it is another matter for those professing to believe it to reject Genesis—and now we have seen parts of Deuteronomy, Psalms and Proverbs in the Old Testament, as well as Matthew, Luke and II Timothy in the New.

Next, let's at least state for the record: The word evolution, or any similar term, is not found in the Bible. Of course, most know this. What most

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 27

THE ANTICHRIST

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THE KOREA CONUNDRUM

Why has North Korea remained a thorn in the world's side for decades?

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

THE HERMIT Kingdom. About the size of Cuba, its population of 25 million is mostly impoverished and starving, with a large percentage imprisoned. Its GDP is an estimated \$40 billion. For comparison, the African nation Cote d'Ivoire (which has a similar population) has a GDP of

\$87 billion. North Korea has *one* main ally in China, and even that is on shaky footing. Few nations trade with it. And its leader is almost universally reviled.

How can such a tiny republic, with so few things going for it, cause such global consternation? Even more, how has it gone on for so many decades?

Think of the recent geopolitical waves the communist country has made.

Reuters: "North Korea's missile program is progressing faster than expected, South Korea's defense minister said."

"The North has been working on a missile, mounted with a nuclear warhead, capable of striking the U.S. mainland."

USA Today: "North Korea's missile test...highlights the country's frantic efforts to accelerate its nuclear weapons program while political uncertainty has gripped the United States and South Korea, analysts said.

"They see an opportunity to race ahead and get as much nuclear weapons capability in place as possible," David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, said..."

The New York Times: "The North has recently test-fired a series of mis-



siles based on a technology that would give the United States little warning of an attack. The new generation of missiles uses solid fuels, enabling them to be rolled out from mountain hideaways and launched in minutes.”

Add to this that North Korea just abducted another American citizen, and a propaganda video shown to a large crowd in Pyongyang during birthday celebrations for Kim Il Sung, the late founder of North Korea, depicted a missile destroying an American city.

Missile and nuclear tests “show that North Korea really is practicing a so-called saturation attack that would seek to fire ballistic missiles with such volume that they defeat missile defenses

■ **READYING FOR WAR:** Left, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects defense detachments on Jangjae Islet and Mu Islet (released May 5, 2017). Right, a long-range missile is launched at an undisclosed location in North Korea for testing (May 14, 2017).

PHOTOS: STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



and slaughter US and allied forces in Japan and South Korea,” *Business Insider* reported.

Such provocations infuriate the American public and are met with fierce rhetoric from the White House. Even China, the closest supporter

of Pyongyang, enacted a ban on all exports to North Korea that could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

Similar threats have been coming out of North Korea for decades. In just the past 25 years, the tiny Asian country has conducted long-range

rocket tests, activated and reactivated nuclear facilities, harassed South Korea with artillery, and sunk one of its southern neighbor’s warships.

Despite mounting death threats and displays of aggression, the world is at a loss with how to address what many consider to be the world’s most isolated nation.

What other government on Earth would be allowed to test nuclear missiles and threaten for a decade to use them on the most powerful military on Earth, and get off scot-free?

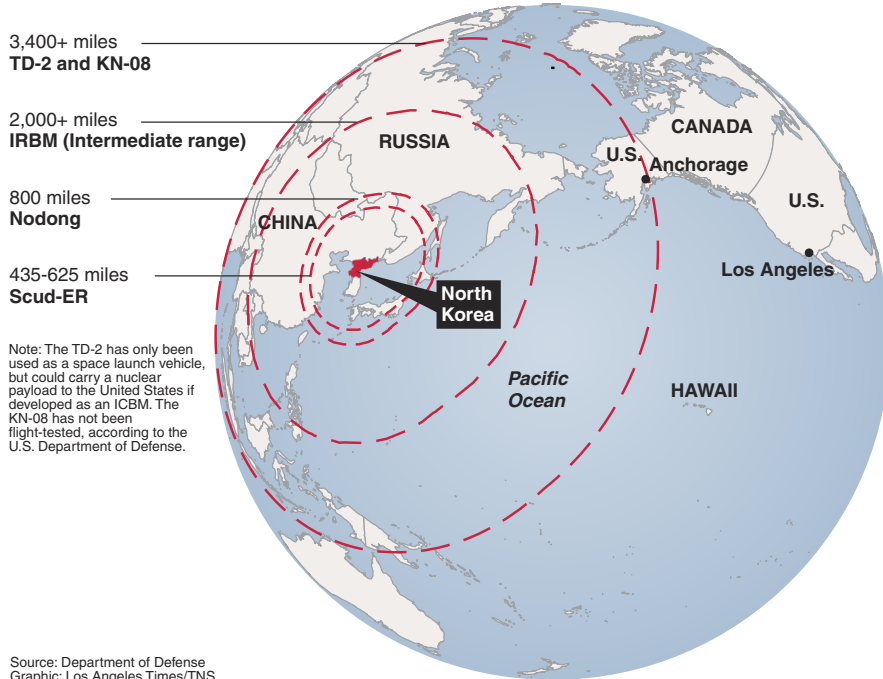
Options on the Table

In theory, deciding to take out the current regime over North Korea should be simple. It would mean freeing a downtrodden people. It would allow the world to help a nation with a paltry \$819 GDP per capita—among the lowest on Earth. Also, it would stop a series of horrific deaths and abuses. All that would be required would be to remove Kim Jong Un from power, perhaps with a coordinated military invasion.

Of course, the reality is not so simple.

After the Korean War, the United Nations avoided North Korea as it did not want to risk provoking the Soviet Union and China. Many feared such actions would trigger nuclear war.

Range of North Korean Ballistic Missiles



■ **SHOW OF POWER:** North Korean soldiers ride past Kim Il-Sung square in Pyongyang during a parade marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War (July 27, 2013).

PHOTO: ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Even in the 21st century—with the Cold War over and communist China’s relations with the West considerably improved—dealing with North Korea is fraught with problems.

One potential strategy is a “pre-emptive U.S. strike on route to forcible regime change,” *The Diplomat* reported. “The risks are manifold, from war with China to chemical or biological weapons strikes on the United States or her allies to the very real possibility that Kim—aware that his conventional warfare prospects would be nil in the face of a coming American onslaught—would decide to go out with a (nuclear) bang. The most obvious rationale for Kim’s pursuit of the bomb is ‘to ensure that anyone considering imposing regime change won’t take the risk,’ reasons Harry J. Kazianis at *The Week*. ‘If Washington ever decided it was time to take the regime down, what reason would Pyongyang have from holding back? None.’”

Such a strike could mean mass death. Sim Tack, a senior analyst with think tank Stratfor, told *Business Insider* that soldiers and civilians from

■ **HOMAGE:** People bow to statues of former North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, North Korea (July 7, 2016).

PHOTO: ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

South Korea, Japan and the United States were likely to die in even the smoothest, most well-planned operation. North Korea’s use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons would amplify the devastation.

A full-scale attack could “pull the US into a longterm conflict in East Asia,” Mr. Tack stated. A surgical strike aimed at wiping out the Kim regime or Pyongyang’s nuclear capabilities would therefore be ideal.

Yet there are even problems with small operations, which could subject the U.S. to international shaming and stress relations among its Asian allies.

Even if a preemptive attack from the West were effective, “North Korea has a lot of options,” Mr. Tack said. “They have their massive, massive conventional artillery options that can start firing at South Korea in a split second.”

Removal of Kim Jong Un himself would destabilize the government’s death grip, but it would not automatically change everything. Mr. Tack continued, “Technically North Korea is under the rule of their ‘forever leader’ Kim Il Sung.”

In other words, Kim Jong Un’s *grandfather* is still in charge—even though he has been dead 23 years. If the current Kim were removed, another would likely take his place.

Truly ridding North Korea of the Kim regime would require removing it from the hearts of every die-hard supporter of the state.

Also, given North Koreans’ deep-rooted dislike of the United States after decades of indoctrination and propaganda, an invading military force would not likely be welcomed as liberators.

The prospect of uniting the Koreas is grim. South Koreans have little interest in integrating with the north, and those in the north have been deprived of decades of cultural development. As a result, North and South Koreans have become very different peoples with separate interests in music, entertainment and literature.

North Korean fugitive Hyeonseo Lee noticed this while living in South Korea after her escape. She said during a TED Talk: “We are all Korean, but inside we have become very different due to 67 years of division. I even went through identity crisis. Am I South Korean or North Korean? Where am I from? Who am I? Suddenly there was no country I could proudly call my own.”

How to stage an invasion of North Korea with minimal casualties and ensure it would be seen as a campaign to secure freedom—as opposed to an imperialist power-grab—remains a conundrum.

Hands-off Approach

The United States has generally avoided direct intervention with North Korea. This policy of “strategic patience” has been in place since it was predicted that the Kim regime would face a demise all its own.

During the early 1990s, communist states across the globe were dropping like flies. Both China and Russia opened up diplomatic relations with South Korea and ended subsidies to North Korea’s economy.

Political corruption and mismanagement within the nation allowed a famine to take the lives of more than one million impoverished North Koreans. Because of this, disillusionment toward the regime spread among citizens, evidenced by increased number of escapees at the time.





■ **INSIDE LOOK:** Left, a worker processes silk at a mill in Pyongyang, North Korea (Feb. 21, 2017). Right, a woman stands between crates in a warehouse used to produce food for ostriches at a farm on the outskirts of Pyongyang (Sept. 26, 2016).

PHOTOS: ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

During this period, Leif Rosenberger, the current chief economist at U.S. Central Command, wrote: “While North Korean military action can never be ruled out, a more likely scenario these days is a North Korean economic and political collapse.”

The famine passed quietly and by 1997 a *Foreign Policy* article posited that “the North Korean system is unlikely to implode or explode in the foreseeable future.”

Yet it predicted Pyongyang’s government “could well erode over a period of five to ten years if the United States and its allies remain wedded to policies that exacerbate the economic problems facing the Kim Jong Il regime.”

Again, time passed. The status quo remained.

Others even suspected that open provocations such as the attack on a South Korean warship in March 2010 and the many nuclear tests since 2009 were attempts to gain support among a splintering military.

But neither a war or secession ever occurred.

Hopes for change were high when protesters gathered in Pyongyang over currency reforms in 2009. It was believed this would result in an increased flow of information from the outside, democratic world.

Instead, the protests were short-lived and the government swiftly regained order.

There was also speculation that Kim Jong Il’s successor would not be prepared to rule. When the transfer of power occurred after Il’s sudden death in 2011, the question arose: Was Disney-obsessed, U.S. basketball fan Kim Jong Un politically experienced enough to rule with the same tight reins as his father?

Again, little has changed in subsequent years. As one of the only dictator-ruled, communist countries in existence today, it is a wonder to many that North Korea is still around.

Resilient Regime

Based on recent history, there is little hope for the tiny nation to change on its own.

“When it comes to institutions usable for social control, [North Korea] is a hyperdeveloped state,” a report by nonprofit research group International Crisis Group stated. “Kim is young and inexperienced, but the instruments of control have been established by his grandfather and father, and he has pledged to adhere to their policy line. This means reform prospects are dim. He could well be around for decades—and with a growing nuclear arsenal.”

The Atlantic noted the strange alternate reality that exists in the Hermit Kingdom: “The North Korean regime appears to have turned its greatest weaknesses—poverty, corruption, and insecurity—into pillars of stability.”

“The world has been predicting North Korea’s imminent downfall for a generation now, and why shouldn’t we? The Stalinist, totalitarian nations of the world have collapsed so consistently and in such quick succession that this one, perhaps the faintest star in the Soviet constellation, seemed sure to follow. If the Soviet Union, for all its weapons and natural resources,

“Poverty is so rampant and the danger of being imprisoned so high, citizens see obedience to the state as the only way to get by.”



couldn't keep back the tides of history, how could impoverished little North Korea? If populous, powerful China felt it had no choice but to reform and open, wouldn't its angry neighbor have to do the same?

“Yet, impossibly, the North Korean system continues to goose step along fundamentally unchanged, its food stores barren and its gulags full, its million-man army and ethno-nationalist cult of personality defying everything that says they should have long since rotted away from within.”

As the years add up, there increasingly seem to be no good options to solve the Korea conundrum. Instead, at every turn, there are reasons inaction is the only action.

North Korea has nothing to lose: If a nation were to invade, Kim Jong Un has nothing to gain from being careful. Therefore, it would make sense to take everyone else down with him. In other words, why not send off your entire nuclear arsenal and everything you have if you were at risk of capture or defeat?

It has “the craziest kid on the block” mentality: As South Korea grows stronger due to its alliance with Japan and

the U.S., North Korea grows poorer. The north is becoming more alienated from the world, thus it increasingly sees itself as “us versus everyone else.”

The desire to survive keeps citizens in line: Poverty is so rampant and the danger of being imprisoned so high, citizens see obedience to the state as the only way to get by.

State over neighbors: North Korean society has been trained to be fiercely loyal to its government to the point that citizens are willing to turn on neighbors to snuff out ideological impurity. This has prevented opposition from forming within government or society.

The Atlantic reported: “About one out of every 25 married women, for example, are recruited into the *inminban* ‘neighborhood units’ that are expected to openly spy on their friends and family and to sniff out enemies, whether they exist or not; failure to produce makes you suspect.”

Worse, Not Better

While the world hoped the Korea conundrum would sort itself out over the last 67 years, the situation has instead become impossibly complex. Now that the Kim regime has a grow-

ing nuclear arsenal, there is little the outside world can do to retaliate.

Harvard Kennedy School summarized the main reasons change will almost certainly not come with a whimper—but with a BANG:

■ The regime is not vulnerable to coups or revolutions.

■ The more outside nations sanction and rebuke North Korea, the more Pyongyang can play it off as persecution. Harvard Kennedy School wrote, “International provocations help to stoke popular nationalism, shoring up the regime’s domestic position, particularly within the military.”

■ Sanctions in place by the international community further impoverish the state, and pit the people against outside nations.

■ Despite its stifling grip, the Kim regime is a stabilizing government. If it were to collapse, the people would potentially face even greater loss than they do under Mr. Kim.

As the days and weeks tick by—and provocations continue and Pyongyang’s nuclear arsenal grows—the rest of the world will almost certainly be forced to choose among a series of options with increasingly negative effects. □



Is Going Green the Answer?

Many consider eco-friendly practices as the way to solve mankind's environmental issues. But is this realistic?

MORE THAN HALF of Earth's 37 largest aquifers are being depleted. Americans throw out one-third of their food per year. Ocean life has been cut in half since 1970 due to overfishing. These are a few of the issues raised by those who advocate "going green"—those who believe that the average man or woman lives a life of excess and should practice more sustainable lifestyles.

Given the degradation of the environment, it makes sense. The list of terrible statistics goes on and on: The world is at risk of overpopulation as it is 7.5 billion and expected to surpass 9.7 billion by 2050—the number of wild animals on Earth decreased by half in the past 40 years—the world has already lost 80 percent of its forests, equal to 1,000 football fields of forest per hour for the last 25 years.

Amid the flood of bad environmental news, you may be compelled to ask, *Am I doing my part?*

There are websites through which you can take a test to see how many "Earths" your lifestyle consumes. These ask about your car, job, eating habits, etc., and reveal whether you are living a sustainable lifestyle. Even if you are living under the global average, you still are reminded, "We only have one Earth."

Everywhere you turn, there is another company compelling you to buy its

■ **BABY STEPS:** An Indonesian boy plants a mangrove at Ujong Pancu beach in Aceh Besar, Indonesia, on Earth Day (April 22, 2017).

PHOTO: CHAIDEER MAHYUDDIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **ECO-FRIENDLY EFFORTS:** Top, Chinese workers install solar panels on the roof of a building in Wuhan, China, a city of 10.6 million (April 27, 2017). Bottom left, material is processed to be reused at the Sims Municipal Recycling Facility, an 11-acre recycling center in New York City (April 22, 2015). Bottom right, a supporter of Britain's Green Party displays the party's environmental manifesto in London, United Kingdom (May 11, 2017).

PHOTOS: KEVIN FRAYER/ (TOP); SPENCER PLATT/ (BOTTOM LEFT); JACK TAYLOR/ (BOTTOM RIGHT); GETTY IMAGES

product because it is “energy efficient,” “eco-friendly” or “sustainable.”

Over the years, most of the green movement’s progress has been made at an individual level. People switch from personal vehicles to buses, trains or bicycles as their primary means of transportation. Some fit the roofs of their homes with solar panels, buy organic foods, or do something as simple as flushing the toilet less often. They help increase awareness by volunteering for vocal green organizations or supporting environmentally friendly politicians.

The desire to live in harmony with nature is, of course, where going green

gets its name. Those who support it believe that no one owns the Earth—no one has the right to destroy and take from it as he pleases. Instead, they believe that man must live within the means of nature and always consider the effect his actions have upon the environment.

It can seem that being eco-friendly and sustainable are among the only ways to solve mankind’s environmental issues. But has humanity already pushed Earth past its limits—or is there still time to change course if people come together and act quickly?

Living Within Earth’s Means

The World Wildlife Fund detailed Earth’s predicament in its *Living Planet Report 2016*.

“Since the early 1970s, humanity has been demanding more than our planet can sustainably offer,” it stated. “By 2012, the biocapacity equivalent of 1.6 Earths was needed to provide the natural resources and services humanity consumed in that year. Exceeding the Earth’s biocapacity to such a degree is possible only in the short term. Only for a brief period can we cut trees faster than they mature, harvest more

fish than the oceans can replenish, or emit more carbon into the atmosphere than the forests and oceans can absorb. The consequences of this 'overshoot' are already clear: habitat and species populations are declining, and carbon in the atmosphere is accumulating."

The report summarized what was necessary to change the situation: "To maintain nature in all of its many forms and functions and to create an equitable home for people on a finite planet, a basic understanding must inform development strategies, economic models, business models and lifestyle choices: we have only one planet and its natural capital is limited."

Those who strive to live sustainably tend to look to nature for inspiration. They see the equilibrium present and attempt to disrupt it as little as possible.

Living sustainably requires reusing waste. Those who support the green movement often devise systems to turn waste into usable resources.

One example is harvesting methane gas from garbage dumps. This is done by placing a membrane, generally made of clay, over the waste. Pipes are then inserted so the methane gas can be transported and used to create electricity or heat homes—all from gas that would otherwise be burned off by landfill owners and further pollute the atmosphere. Even after a landfill is closed, it can still produce methane for 15 to 20 years. This process, if widely implemented, is considered a step toward repurposing waste and relying less on fossil fuels.

Drop in the Bucket

While living sustainably makes sense on paper, and seems plausible on the individual level, there is a problem. The global economy is based on growth. Growth means consumption. Lack of growth is considered moving into recession.

The West's standard of living is a prime example of this consumption mentality. Those who lead more comfortable lifestyles automatically accrue substantial waste. Although some are trying to change this, the overall per-

centages of how much success has been achieved are low.

A few years ago, an opinion piece in *The New York Times* summarized the problem with going green on an individual level: "You reduce, reuse and recycle. You turn down plastic and paper. You avoid out-of-season grapes. You do all the right things.

"Good.

"Just know that it won't save the tuna, protect the rain forest or stop global warming. The changes necessary are so large and profound that they are beyond the reach of individual action.

"You refuse the plastic bag at the register, believing this one gesture somehow makes a difference, and then carry your takeout meal back to your car for a carbon-emitting trip home.

"Say you're willing to make real sacrifices. Sell your car. Forsake your air-conditioner in the summer, turn down the heat in the winter. Try to become no-impact man. You would, in fact, have no impact on the planet. Americans would continue to emit an average of 20 tons of carbon dioxide a year; Europeans, about 10 tons."

The article made the point that, even if the pope got all one billion Catholics to reduce their carbon emissions to zero overnight, pollution would still be rising globally.

To put green ideas into motion and have a greater impact, humanity as a whole would need to change. It would take much more than the efforts of a few scattered individuals. Nations would have to work together. Worldwide, laws would have to be implemented, determining, for example, how buildings were designed and built in relation to the environment. Revised building codes would have to be enforced and followed. Modern farming practices would have to be completely changed. Large corporations would need to rethink their bottom line.

Again, all of this would have to happen globally—and fast.

Instead of thinking solely for profit, here and now, the world's governments and corporations would have to consider how their actions would affect the environment in 30 to 50 years.

Cities would have to retro-fit buildings to make them green. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, would have to be implemented on a massive scale.

One road block to all this is that many of the technologies to make all this possible are still decades away from existing. This means that, even if governments unanimously decided to go green, the true impact would take dozens of years at best.

While the green movement may look good and make people feel they are doing their part, it cannot remain a grassroots movement to be effective. Individual efforts are simply not enough.

Another road block: Truly going green would mean the world's governments would have to collaborate to identify the problems—and quickly implement effective solutions. Political leaders would have to set aside war, economic growth, and historic rivalries, and *together* make environment the top priority.

All this does not address the sheer amount of money needed to make the global economy eco-friendly. The figures would be astronomical. Who is willing to pay the price?

Going green is a large investment now, with potential payoffs in the future. The global mindset of immediate gratification would have to change. People would have to think of future generations, while taking responsible actions today.

Even though the green movement has worked on minute scales, governments, mindsets and ethics would need to be drastically altered to fully accommodate this sort of thinking. Applying worldwide sustainability requires a complete change of mind.

Today's environmental crises are a perfect example of how—despite centuries of trying—man cannot overcome the same difficulties that have always beset him: war, famine, disease, poverty, crime, pollution, etc. To learn the startling reason behind humanity's failure to better itself, read David C. Pack's booklet *Why Man Cannot Solve His Problems* at rcg.org/uun. □



Can the EU Accept an Islamic Member?

Europe's Muslim neighbor has sought closer ties with the Continent since the end of World War II. But fundamental differences stand in the way of full integration.

BY DAVID J. LITAVSKY

TOWERING over a formerly protected forest area on the outskirts of Ankara, Ak Saray (the White Palace) is the presidential complex commissioned by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Completed in 2014, the residence's title is a play on America's White House—35 of which could fit into the palatial building.

One look reveals Ak Saray's opulence. It contains over 1,100 rooms, including guest rooms, offices, bathhouses, pools and saunas, as well as 63 elevators. Imported Italian marble covers floors and hallways. Diners enjoy gold-inlaid dishware and glassware. Bathrooms have silk wallpaper. Underneath is a four-story bunker capable of withstanding a nuclear attack.

The 3.2-million-square-foot edifice cost *more than half a billion dollars*.

Ak Saray's size and appearance alone stand in stark contrast to the official residences of heads of state throughout Europe. The Continent's largest functioning palace is the Royal Palace of Madrid at 1.4 million square feet—under one-third the size. London's 10 Downing Street, Britain's 300-year old home for the prime minister, has a brick facade that could be confused for an apartment building. While these structures certainly befit world leaders, the White Palace could house a sultan—though keep in mind it was built for a democratically elected president.

A closer look at Mr. Erdogan's home reveals a distinct theme. Ottoman- and Seljuk-era columns surround its main building. A 4,000-person-capacity mosque sits on the property. Islamic calligraphy lines the walls.



■ **DIFFERENT WORLDS:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet at the Yildiz Palace in Istanbul, Turkey (Oct. 18, 2015).

PHOTO: GUIDO BERGMANN/BUNDESREGIERUNG VIA GETTY IMAGES

Undoubtedly, the building proudly showcases the nation's roots as the largest Islamic empire in history.

The emphasis on religion mixed with politics raises concern for Turks who view their president's actions as "gradually undoing the secular underpinnings of the modern Turkish republic," *NPR* reported.

For Europe, Turkey's burgeoning pride in its past is alarming. Though the nation has been working toward membership in the European Union since 2005, the Continent has struggled to see how it can integrate its Muslim-majority neighbor.

"To join, a would-be member must meet requirements in 35 areas, known as chapters," *Time* magazine stated. "A unanimous vote of every E.U. leader is needed to open a chapter, and another to close it. In almost 18 years of formal candidacy, Turkey and the E.U. have opened 14 chapters. Just one has been closed."

Europe's "test case of whether democracy can be reconciled with political Islam," as *The Economist* described it, seems a hopeless experiment.

Despite the slow and problematic trudge toward membership, President Erdogan has made clear his aim. In a statement marking Europe Day on

May 9, he wrote, "Our country, which has historically, geographically and culturally been a part of Europe for centuries, has the will to continue its EU membership process, which it sees as a strategic target, based on mutual respect, quality and a win-win concept."

But the question remains: Can a 98-percent Muslim nation really be a member of the European Union?

Past and Present

Current tensions between Turkey and the EU are grounded in the fact that the two have been on opposing sides throughout history. The former Seljuk and Ottoman Empires, for instance, staged invasions into Christian Europe in the name of Islam.

Following the first world war, the Ottoman Empire's last sultan resigned, which led to the formation of a parliamentary system and began the secular democracy that continues today.

After Mr. Erdogan became prime minister in 2001, the nation experienced economic renewal, infrastructure development, and political change.

This has made Turks "increasingly hubristic," *The New York Times* reported. "Having seen their total G.D.P. more than double in the past decade,

many Turks do not feel that they need the European Union anymore."

"Conversely, many Europeans are increasingly antagonistic toward Turkey's ongoing bid for European Union membership." Since an attempted military coup in July 2016, after which tens of thousands were incarcerated or fired from public positions due to suspected involvement, many argue that Turkey is not a democracy at all.

An April 16 Turkish referendum raised even more concerns. Slightly more than 51 percent of citizens voted "Yes" to significant changes in the nation's government structure. These included scrapping the role of prime minister, thus increasing the president's powers by making him head of state and head of the government's executive branch. It also gave him sole power to appoint ministers, enact laws by decree, and even dismiss parliament.

To the West and millions of those who voted "No," this meant President Erdogan had become "a 21st-century sultan minimally curbed by parliament" and put Turkey under an "elected dictatorship," according to *The Economist*.

Political opponents of President Erdogan "decry his slide to authori-

tarianism, presiding over the world's biggest jailer of journalists and a country where some 140,000 people have been arrested, dismissed or suspended since the failed coup last year," *BBC* reported.

"Granting him virtually unfettered powers, said the main opposition CHP [Republican People's Party], would 'entrench dictatorship.'"

The legitimacy of the vote's result has been contested. The Turkish state determined that any blank voting ballots would automatically be considered "Yes." Nearly two percent of votes came in blank—a figure that could have changed the result if they were not counted.

Meanwhile, Mr. Erdogan and the government reasoned that creating a more powerful presidency would bring an end to unstable coalition governments that have dominated Turkish politics since the 1960s.

"The current system, they say, is holding back Turkey's progress. They even argue that the change could somehow end the extremist attacks that have killed more than 500 people in the past 18 months" (*ibid.*).

Deeming the result a success, Mr. Erdogan also vowed to reinstate the death penalty through a future referendum. Eligible voters would include the approximately 1.7 million Turkish citizens living abroad in Germany.

Yet German politicians have resisted this proposal. Government spokesperson Steffen Seibert said in a news conference, "It is politically inconceivable that we would agree to such a vote in Germany on a measure that clearly contradicts our constitution and European values" (*The Associated Press*).

European leaders promised to utterly end considering Turkey for EU membership should capital punishment be reinstated.

In addition, the president accused all "No" voters of siding with the plotters of the failed military coup last year, during which a faction of the Turkish Armed Forces was halted after forces loyal to President Erdogan stopped them.

Between bitter rhetoric and opposing trends, the EU has strong reasons to ditch its "test case" of integrating an Islamic government into a democratic union.

Yet Europe has not let go of its neighbor's membership bid. To do so could alienate it and condemn it to fundamentalism. All hope of fixing Turkey's ailing democracy would be gone.

But there are additional reasons Brussels and Ankara must continue to get along.

Reasons to Integrate

Turkey has helped the EU handle its worst refugee crisis since World War II. British news magazine *The Week* reported that "a deal was agreed to allow one Syrian refugee from a Turkish camp to be admitted to Europe for each irregular migrant sent to Turkey from Greece.

"In return, the EU promised fresh discussions on Turkish membership and visa-free travel for Turks, as well as £2.3bn of refugee aid between now and 2018."

In helping broker this deal, President Erdogan said in a conference in Istanbul: "We have made clear time and time again that we take care of European values more than many EU countries..."

Adding the nation to the union would allow for even more centralized and coordinated control of the flow of migrants from the Middle East and northern Africa into Europe.

Beyond this issue, the EU sees potential in a partnership with Turkey. For one, the Eurasian nation would be a boon to European security. Turkey has the second largest army in NATO, and would be a powerful ally against Syria's Bashar Assad and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

The nation could also serve as a cultural and diplomatic bridge between Europe and the Middle East. Turkey sits in a unique position, both politically and geographically. Istanbul (historically Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire) has been the crossroads of

European, Middle Eastern, African, Russian and far-east Asian civilizations for thousands of years.

As such, "Many argue that Turkey is better equipped to mediate in the Middle East than European countries," *The Week* stated. "During the 2009 crisis in Gaza, its diplomats were able to talk directly to the Hamas leadership" when European envoys could not.

Though Turkey's human rights abuse allegations are one reason it may not belong in the bloc, some purport Europe could help improve the democracy of the nation if it were to come under EU law. It would also open up EU involvement in helping to solve ethnic tensions between Turks and Kurds, as well as Turkey's poor relations with Cyprus and Armenia.

In addition, the nation would add tens of millions of consumers to Europe's free trade market, and be a country through which oil and gas pipelines could deliver energy resources from Asia.

While some have pointed out that Turkey's economic growth has slowed and taxpayers in wealthier EU countries would have to subsidize it, it is in much better financial condition than its southern European neighbors Romania and Bulgaria.

On top of these reasons, Europe bringing a Muslim-led democracy into the fold would send a clear message that the EU is open to associating with Islam.

Fundamental Differences

The cost of reaping these benefits, however, is too much for many European leaders.

Today, 97 percent of Turkey's territory lies in Asia, with a tiny sliver to the west of the Bosphorus in Europe. Historically, it has generally been viewed by Europe as an outside invader.

Should Turkey become part of the bloc, Europe's new neighbors would be Iraq, Iran and Syria, with which it is fundamentally at odds.

Please see **EU-TURKEY**, page 30

From musket-armed militias snatching independence from a powerful empire to a quick rise to vast wealth, unmatched might, and global prestige, America's story is an anomaly of history.

SHOPPING FOR an Independence Day barbecue, you face a barrage of questions that can be summed up as: "Which one?"

Sweet relish or spicy? Dijon, honey or traditional yellow mustard? All-American Heinz ketchup or the more wallet-friendly store look-alike brand? For ice cream, there is rocky road or cookies and cream. What about vanilla? French vanilla, vanilla bean, or "regular"? And which brand—Breyers, Ben & Jerry's, Turkey Hill, or Haagen-Dazs? As for drinks, imported or domestic beer? Hoppy or malty?

You cannot forget the extra flare. What about glow sticks, American mini-flags, and Uncle Sam hats? Or a smattering of fireworks: sparklers, colorful fountains, or bottle rockets?

The number of options available to American consumers can shock even those from developed European nations. But this is July 4, after all, so isn't it fitting that it is celebrated with a little panache?

Founding Father John Adams thought so. Writing to his wife Abigail, he stated that American independence will go down as "the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival...It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

But beyond bratwurst and bombast, the day was intended to mark the birth of a miracle nation—which is evidenced by the abundance and freedoms it experiences today. Adams also wrote, "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

"Standing Miracle"

Historian Jack Kelly, a contributor to *History* and *National Public Radio*, wrote: "George Washington called the American victory in the Revolutionary War

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‘little short of a standing miracle.’ In 1776, an overwhelming British army had defeated his poorly trained force, driven them out of New York City, and chased them across New Jersey. Washington then lost Philadelphia, and his men had barely survived the wretched winter at Valley Forge. In 1780, the British captured the major southern port at Charleston, imprisoning the American garrison there, and utterly defeated a second patriot army. Before that year was out, his long-suffering troops were on the verge of mutiny and one of his senior generals had gone over to the enemy.

“A year later he had effectively won the war. How was it possible?”

Mr. Kelly posited that the British should have won the war given their longstanding military establishment, naval superiority, and the fact that many colonists were loyal to the British crown. While the French provided additional guns, soldiers, food, ships and training needed to wage a lasting war, ultimately the Americans won seemingly by no feat of their own.

He continued: “Again and again during the war, they reached points when they could have thrown in the towel. At times, the Continental Army seemed only weeks or days from disbanding. In spite of defeat after defeat, in spite of no pay, rampant disease and inadequate supplies, they kept at it.”

Eventually the British lost interest when their attention was diverted to a conflict with Spain over Gibraltar. At this point, the empire recognized America’s autonomy.

While winning the fight was impressive by itself, the new nation of 13 loosely connected states cobbled together a constitution that has remained in place since 1787. By comparison, constitutions in other countries have an average lifespan of 17 years.

The miracle of independence was just the first instance of divine providence for America. Yet similar astounding events happened at every step during its rise to sensational power and prestige.

Manifest Destiny

Almost immediately at the turn of the century, America went through one of the greatest growth spurts in history. The U.S. *more than tripled in size* in less than 100 years.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase—a vast territory that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains—from France for a meager \$15 million. Adjusting for inflation, this would be roughly \$300 million today.

Nonprofit firm Earth Economics estimated that if just the “natural capital” of the Mississippi River Delta were treated as an economic asset, its value could approach \$1.3 TRILLION DOLLARS. And this does not include all the other natural resources throughout the territory that made it even more valuable. The acquisition practically doubled America’s size, subsequently motivating millions to leave their homes in search of economic opportunities—namely land ownership and farming.

This was vastly different from what was occurring in Europe. According to *History*: “In Europe, large numbers of factory workers formed a dependent and seemingly permanent working class; by contrast, in the United States, the western frontier offered the possibility of independence and upward mobility for all.”

With the Louisiana Purchase, the 27-year-old nation began to be fueled by the notion of “manifest destiny,” a phrase coined by journalist John O’Sullivan in 1845. Americans felt it was their responsibility to “overspread and to possess the whole of the [land] which Providence has given us,” the reporter noted (*ibid.*).

Piece by piece, the nation’s property rapidly expanded—Spain ceded Florida in 1819—Texas became attached to the United States in 1845—a year later, Great Britain gave the Oregon Territory to the U.S.—and in 1848, Mexico ceded territories of California, Nevada, Utah and

Arizona. America’s “great leap westward” from the Atlantic to the Pacific was complete in half a century.

In 1867, another rich piece of land fell in America’s lap. The nation purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million—*two cents per acre*—or just \$110 million today. Some homes in Southern California are valued at twice that price!

Some considered the acquisition of Alaska a mistake. An American editorial labeled it a “sucked orange”—a tundra bare of resources. Of course, hindsight shows this was completely wrong.

The view that Alaska was a barren wasteland changed after a gold rush in 1893 and discoveries of vast oil reserves later. The land was also an important barrier from the Soviet Union as well as a strategic military base in the northern Pacific during the two world wars.

Hawaii was annexed in 1898 and Puerto Rico was ceded by Spain the same year. Both of these have been vital naval ports and natural barriers against invading forces during times of conflict.

The total cost of America’s territory after adjusting for inflation? \$1.6 billion dollars. Considering that the U.S. spends over \$600 billion each year on defense spending, it was a small price to pay to create the greatest nation on Earth.

Resource Rich

“The Greater Mississippi Basin together with the Intracoastal Waterway has more kilometers of navigable internal waterways than the rest of the world combined,” according to Stratfor, a geopolitical intelligence company. “The American Midwest is both overlaid by this waterway and is the world’s largest contiguous piece of farmland. The U.S. Atlantic Coast possesses more major ports than the rest of the Western Hemisphere combined. Two vast oceans insulated the United States from Asian and European powers, deserts separate the United States from Mexico to the south, while lakes

and forests separate the population centers in Canada from those in the United States.”

These lands contain world-renowned natural wonders including the Grand Canyon, Redwood Forest—home to the tallest and oldest trees on Earth—and Yellowstone, which houses the majority of the world’s geysers. Yellowstone was also America’s first national park, a concept of natural preservation that spread worldwide. Besides their beauty and natural resources, these features are a boon for scientific research and tourism.

This exceptional landscape allows for highly efficient agriculture. Stratfor continued: “Normally, agricultural areas as large as the American Midwest are underutilized as the cost of shipping their output to more densely populated regions cuts deeply into the economics of agriculture. The Eurasian steppe is an excellent example. Even in modern times Russian and Kazakh crops occasionally rot before they can reach market. Massive artificial transport networks must be constructed and maintained in order for the land to reach its full potential. Not so in the case of the Greater Mississippi Basin. The vast bulk of the prime agricultural lands are within 200 kilometers of a stretch of navigable river. Road and rail are still used for collection, but nearly omnipresent river ports allow for the entirety of the basin’s farmers to easily and cheaply ship their products to markets not just in North America but all over the world.”

By contrast, Mexico does not even have *one* navigable river to transport crops to a market.

Given the central location of the continent, the United States also has a perfect balance of temperate climates and vast flatlands. Mexico and Central America possess too many wetlands and mountainous regions for large-scale farming while Canada is generally too cold.

The United States’ unique geography allows it to be the world’s top agricultural exporter today. Most exports are staple foods for the rest of

the globe, including 50 percent of the world’s corn and soybeans, as well as one-fifth of its wheat.

Yet the nation’s accomplishments go beyond farming. In fact, it stands out in nearly every other endeavor today.

Economy: The U.S. GDP is more than \$18 trillion. This amounts to nearly \$60,000 per capita. While China comes in second with a GDP of nearly \$11 trillion, its per capita GDP is only about \$8,000. In addition, the U.S.-run NYSE and NASDAQ are bigger than the next largest six international stock exchanges combined.

Industry: According to the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, the country ranks first in manufacturing, research, technology and innovation. To this day, it is the only one to put men on the moon and is the birthplace of world-changing developments such as aviation and the internet.

Humanitarianism: While difficult to calculate, Americans provide about half of all global food aid—\$2 billion per year.

Military: The U.S. has the most powerful and versatile armed forces. America’s Air Force is the largest in the world. If combined, the Navy and Marine Corps would be the world’s second largest air force. The United States has the highest military budget of any nation—roughly \$600 billion per year (compared to China’s \$216 billion)—as well as the greatest number of foreign bases and allies.

Standard of living: In 2014, the median income was \$48,000. Even those below the poverty line (50 percent of the median income) received benefits from government programs such as food stamps and public housing. Approximately 80 percent of poor households have air-conditioning and two-thirds have cable or satellite television.

In addition, spending per person in the U.S. is nearly twice the European average. Approximately 95 percent of American households own a car, with roughly 55 percent owning two or more. About 84 percent of households have a computer and 73 percent have internet access.

From independence to becoming a global superpower, America is the ultimate success story—what Washington could still call “little short of a standing miracle.”

Was this all through human effort?

Source of Miracles

In 1792, while being sworn in as the first president of the U.S., Washington randomly opened the Bible to Genesis 49 and placed his hand there. As he pondered the future of the newborn nation and the importance of his position, he had no idea that, underneath his hand, America’s prosperous future had already been laid out.

David C. Pack’s book *America and Britain in Prophecy* discusses this universally ignored chapter in the Bible.

“Genesis 49 contains the patriarch Israel’s latter-day prophecies for the descendants of each of his sons. God inspired this description to be recorded because He also intended that the final homelands of *these* peoples be known.”

Verse 1 of the chapter opens with, “Jacob called his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.”

Dozens of other Bible prophecies about “the last days” prove we are in that time! (Read the booklet, *Are These the Last Days?* at rcg.org for proof.)

The prophecy in Genesis describes the future of each tribe of Israel, represented by each of Jacob’s 13 sons. The most obvious example is that the Jews are the modern-day descendants of Judah.

“Jacob’s prophecy foretells Judah will be a ‘lion’s whelp,’” Mr. Pack continued. “A whelp is another name for a young lion cub. Jacob prophesied that Judah would be a very young nation in the latter-day period of time. This describes the modern Israeli nation, which was ‘born’ in 1948 and is still a ‘young nation’ by today’s standards.”

The Bible shows that the descendants of Jacob’s son Joseph would also be clearly noticeable, as they were

given a distinctly higher number and quality of blessings.

Mr. Pack writes: “As the primary subject of this book, ‘JOSEPH is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob...’ (Gen. 49:22-24).

“In this scripture, Joseph—the father of Ephraim and Manasseh—is likened to a fruitful bough or branch, most likely an olive branch. Joseph is also described as being shot by archers.

“Later, Joseph’s descendants are further described: ‘His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh’ (Deut. 33:17).

“With these descriptions divided between both sons, Manasseh’s primary emblem was that of an olive branch, and his secondary emblem a cache of arrows. Also attached to Manasseh’s ensign was the number 13, since he was the thirteenth tribe.”

Interestingly, the official seal of the U.S. features an eagle carrying an olive branch and a cache of arrows, as well as 13 stars. This is an interesting link between America and the symbols described in the Bible for Manasseh.

Another key to identifying these nations is in Genesis 48, in which Joseph’s two sons were given separate blessings.

Verse 19 states that Manasseh “also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.”

Scour the record of history. There are only two brother nations with a common heritage where one was a massive empire (a “multitude” or “company of nations”) and the other became a single, great nation. These are the United Kingdom and the United States.

Best Gifts

In Genesis 49, Jacob outlined more specifically the blessings that both America and Britain were to experience in the latter days.

■ **Material wealth:** “...the Almighty...shall bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies under...” (vs. 25).

The United States has the most varied weather patterns on the planet, contributing to diverse wildlife, plants and landscapes. The nation also has a greater concentration of natural resources in the ground and waters it controls than any other geographic location. It was the world’s highest oil producer for much of the 20th century, and today produces nearly as much as top-oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia.

■ **Military power and divine deliverance:** “The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob...” (vs. 23-24).

The United States has experienced overwhelming victories in strategic wars and battles.

■ **Global expansion and influence:** “Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall” (vs. 22).

Joseph’s descendants are pictured expanding over their territorial limits. This speaks to the significant benefits, symbolized by *fruit*, America would share with the world.

Mr. Pack wrote: “Recall that, anciently, Joseph himself stored food in Egypt and helped other peoples and nations as a result. When God’s blessings were still being poured out upon *our* peoples without measure...over and over, *our* blessings became blessings to *other* nations of the world. This same spirit in *modern* Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh—gave birth to the Alliance for Progress, Marshall Plan, Hoover

Program, Four Point Program and so many others that saved millions from starvation after World War I and World War II. No other nations ever did *any* of these things, let alone all of them.”

■ **Possessing the gates of enemies:** “...let your seed possess the gate of those which hate them” (Gen. 24:60).

This prophecy to Rebekah, Jacob’s mother, was fulfilled when her descendants owned strategic positions throughout the world. These included America’s possession of the Philippines, Hawaii and the Panama Canal, as well as Britain’s access to Gibraltar, Suez, India, Hong Kong, South Africa, and Australia, among many others.

America has consistently “brought the battle” to its enemies’ homelands—from the Mexican War to the world wars to the War on Terror—but the nation’s cities have never been directly bombed in war, neither have foreign armies fielded ground battles on American soil.

“America’s forefathers could *never* have envisioned this nation as the global superpower it became,” Mr. Pack summarized in his book. “The United States has continually been at the forefront of economic prosperity, medical science, technology, food production, sanitation, architecture, space exploration, etc. Its citizens enjoy freedoms unattainable to so many. The income and standard of living for most Americans, Britons, Australians and Canadians is far higher than even most other industrialized nations.”

“But we have forgotten where these blessings came from!”

The nation’s citizens take for granted the incredible miracle of America.

And because the nation does not realize the true source and reason for its unique power and status, it is blind to the role it will play in the future.

But the knowledge is freely available. *America and Britain in Prophecy* provides the real story of these nations’ history, and shows their destiny—straight from the Bible. □



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rcg.org/aabibp

5 Traits Your Child Needs for WORKPLACE SUCCESS

BY EDWARD L. WINKFIELD
AND BRUCE A. RITTER



Those entering the workforce lack the skills necessary to find lasting success. The solution to the problem begins at home.

CONSIDER A DAY in the life of a typical young employee: He wakes up, showers, gets dressed, scrounges around the kitchen to make himself breakfast, commutes to work, and arrives at the office or factory floor to begin his shift.

Will he successfully handle the day's challenges, setbacks, obstacles and responsibilities that come with his job?

The answer to this question may vary depending on who you ask. The young man in our example, as with many workers fresh out of college, would probably answer affirmatively, feeling he could handle whatever the job requires. Yet for an increasing number of employers dealing with today's new workforce, the response is not so optimistic.

"When it comes to the types of skills and knowledge that employers

feel are most important to workplace success, large majorities of employers do NOT feel that recent college graduates are well prepared," concluded the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) after surveying employers about their new employees' career preparedness. College students were asked the same questions and mostly disagreed with this assessment.

Employers said that recent hires struggle with "applying knowledge and skills in real-world settings, critical thinking skills, and written and oral communication skills." AACU determined that "even in the areas of ethical decision-making and working with others in teams, many employers do not give graduates high marks."

Much of the blame for this lack of readiness is justifiably placed on colleges and universities—specifically the way they prepare future workforce participants.

"This is a generation that has been 'syllabused' through their lives," Marie

Artim, vice president of talent acquisition at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, told *The Washington Post*. Her point was that even the overview of the course given to students at the beginning of a college course has a stifling effect on their post-college career.

"Decisions were made for them," she continued, "so we're less likely to find someone who can pull the trigger and make a decision."

Xerox company's head of global learning John Leutner agreed: "People know how to take a course. But they need to learn how to learn" (ibid.).

The recognition that higher education has dropped the ball on readying Millennials, and now Generation Z, for today's workforce is not new, however. Articles abound on the subject.

The problem is not that we fail to see post-secondary education's inability to fully prepare tomorrow's workforce—it is that everyone seems reluctant to turn back the clock even further. Articles focusing on the role of parents in pre-

paring the next generation of workers are few and far between. This is surprising considering that virtually all parents want their kids to grow up and be successful at work and successful overall in life.

Whether they know it or not, parents (as well as aunts, uncles, grandparents and even close family friends) have the unique opportunity to mold and shape young minds into effective, productive employees. If you are one of these influencers, ask yourself, “Am I up to the task?”

If so, then consider five simple lessons to teach youth so that they become valuable employees in tomorrow’s workplace.

Be Punctual

Showing up to work on time is a vital part of job success. It is also one of the easiest to accomplish.

Sadly, employee tardiness is becoming more and more prevalent, leaving employers at their wits end. A *Business News Daily* article titled “The Real Reasons Employees Are Late for Work” reported that a “study from *CareerBuilder* revealed that 29 percent of employees show up late to work at least once a month, up from 25 percent a year ago. Tardiness is more frequent for some workers, with 16 percent saying it is a weekly incident for them.

“Gridlock is the most common culprit for showing up late. Nearly half of those surveyed say traffic is the reason they can’t make it to work on time. Additionally, 32 percent blame their tardiness on oversleeping, with 26 percent saying it’s because of bad weather. Being too tired to get out of bed and procrastination were among the other most common reasons for employees being late to work.”

Punctuality speaks to a person’s character. By showing up to work on time, employees say to others that they are dependable. Further, they are demonstrating the ability to manage their lives by not allowing what happens outside of work to negatively interfere with job responsibilities.

Teach your children the habit of punctuality early on—well before they

are of working age. As soon as they are old enough, help them understand the importance of doing things on time.

For instance, give youngsters a specific time to wake up and go to bed. From there, hold them to these times. If they are to be *in bed* by 8:00 p.m., *preparing for bed* at the top of the hour is too late. If you expect them to be home for dinner *by* 6:00 p.m. following an afternoon of playing outside, help them understand that arriving at 6:05 p.m. is too late.

Once they are old enough, encourage your children to get part-time jobs. Then do all you can to reinforce the importance of being punctual. Train young people to head off to work early and explain that they should prepare for the unexpected: severe weather conditions, traffic accidents, road detours, car issues (a flat tire, malfunctioning engine, etc.), or other problems that could impede their normal routes to work.

Help them see that employers appreciate workers who are punctual. Teach them that arriving early for their shifts enables them to be better prepared and shows they appreciate their jobs.

Teaching lessons of time management when children are young will make it less strange when employers expect the same. It will also separate them from the growing number of workers who no longer seem to care about being on time.

Be Presentable

Keeping up with the latest styles or fashions is a priority for most young people—even if it runs counter to what is considered professional work attire.

According to a poll from the Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) at York College of Pennsylvania reported on by *CNN*, “‘appearance’ ranked second only to ‘communication skills’ when respondents named qualities most often associated with professionalism. ‘How an individual dresses for work can be a powerful extension of his personal brand,’ says Matthew Randall, executive director of the CPE. ‘Clothes, accessories and even the footwear an employee chooses to wear help to rein-

force or diminish his skills and qualities in the eyes of his employer, co-workers and clients.’”

The article continued naming what it called the “10 commandments for dressing for work.”

The first so-called commandment: “Modesty is a virtue. Get noticed for your great work, not your tight pants, overdone makeup, short skirt or cleavage-revealing shirt.

“‘Nothing undermines how you are perceived in business as leaving nothing to the imagination,’ says Chris Hauri, founder of Mirror Image, a Chicago-based image and identity consultancy.”

A tip for proper dress while at work: “Err on the side of caution.” This means to avoid outfits considered too casual or too bright in color.

Another “commandment”: “Thou shalt wear the right shoes. Your feet should look prepared for work.” Workers should avoid wearing flip-flops and open-toe shoes. In an office environment, ladies should not wear stiletto heels and men should make sure their dress shoes are shined and well-maintained.

Lessons regarding dressing professionally and appropriately for any occasion should begin early. There is nothing wrong with a young person dressing casually, however, mix in opportunities for children to dress more formally such as going out for a nice dinner or a family outing. Help them understand the importance of wearing proper attire in certain settings.

Be sure their wardrobes include business casual attire. Avoid allowing them to have full control of their clothing choices, especially younger children. When in public, discreetly point out fashion apparel that teenagers wear—both examples of what to avoid and what to emulate—and how each piece of clothing affects how they are perceived.

Explain that, contrary to what some may say, a book *is* often judged by its cover. In other words, what a person wears says a lot about him or her. Keep in mind that lessons of proper dress are more easily conveyed if you are setting the correct example yourself.

Use Manners

Being polite is not an outdated concept. It helps make a good impression on others, builds relationships, and diffuses conflict.

Rudeness, on the other hand, especially at work, can make life extremely difficult. “Incivility at work—including sarcasm, put-downs, and other rude behaviors—begets more incivility, according to a study in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*,” *Boston Globe* reported.

“We all have a finite amount of resources available for controlling our behaviors at work, and this study suggests when you experience incivility from others, it draws down those resources and you’re unable to inhibit your own actions going forward,” the study’s coauthor Christopher Rosen, a professor of management at the University of Arkansas, told the newspaper.

“In other words, it’s hard not to snap at a co-worker when you’ve already used up your energy dealing with someone snapping at you.”

The lack of manners at work leads to decreased productivity, low morale, and an increase in mistakes.

One’s mindset can make all the difference. Who would you rather work with—someone who is teachable, approachable and ready to serve, or someone who is closed-minded, hostile, stubborn and easily offended?

Success magazine stated: “One of the challenges facing management and co-workers today is dealing with difficult people—those who have negative attitudes. It is important to note that a person with a negative attitude has the same power to influence others as a person with a positive attitude. The difference appears in the results.”

Negative attitudes and rudeness “dismantle teamwork, increase stress and cripple productivity,” the magazine continued. “In the workplace, the big difference between the winners and the losers is often attitude. The salesperson who sells more, the manager who inspires her people, the manufacturing supervisor who sets the tone for everybody around them, are all good

examples of what attitude does for you and everybody around you.”

The right attitude and a general positive outlook on life can turn a day of dull, monotonous labor into pure joy. It is all a matter of maintaining the right perspective.

Tell your child that no one enjoys working around someone who perpetually hangs onto a nasty attitude—or someone who is rude, easily offended, or makes people feel as though they must walk on eggshells.

If you want to adequately prepare your children for the workforce, require them to be polite and use manners, even when they may be frustrated or annoyed. Help them understand the importance of being patient and forgiving others when they make mistakes.

Concepts such as patience and forgiveness are often thought of as having no place in the ultra-competitive world of career advancement. Yet human resource departments are discovering a connection between a wholesome, balanced workplace and positive, stress-free workers. Employees in such environments are typically more engaged, positive, stress-free, and, to the benefit of their employers, productive.

Impart the following time-tested standard to your children: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. This principle was adopted from words of Jesus Christ in the Bible.

Make sure your kids apply this basic premise and respect those around them such as younger siblings. Require them to say “please” and “thank you” not only at home but also in public settings. Show them how to give and accept compliments from others as well as demonstrate gratitude when others are kind to them.

Of course, your personal example of politeness and considering the needs of others—which is another biblical guideline found in *Philippians 2:3-4*—will help your children to follow and experience success in the workplace.

Think Critically and Make Good Decisions

Many entrants into today’s workforce possess a vast amount of knowledge in

the form of facts and information. This should come as no surprise as most have grown up in the Information Age. With the advent of Google and other internet-based information systems, more book knowledge is available and easier than ever to attain.

The challenge for employers, however, is not employees who lack knowledge, but employees who lack the ability to put it to proper use. It is as though they are incapable of making the right decisions in a given situation.

“With globalization and the increased speed of business, employees at every level are facing an increasingly complex flow of information,” consulting firm Pearson Education stated on its website. “Work settings are changing rapidly, and employees are moving into new roles, often with limited direction. Employees can no longer rely on others to make key decisions. They often must make them on their own, and quickly. And the decisions have to be good ones. If they fall short, there may be no time to recover.

“Good decisions require focusing on the most relevant information, asking the right questions, and separating reliable facts from false assumptions—all elements of critical thinking. And yet too few employees possess these essential skills.”

OpenSesame, a job-training provider, lists several elements that make up critical thinking: logic, open-mindedness, curiosity, adaptation, and collaboration. These characteristics can be taught to children early on and shape their thinking.

For instance, help young children realize the importance of thinking logically. If they have a favorite book or television show, have them explain *why* they enjoy it more than other books or forms of entertainment. Another example could be having them explain *why* they think it is better for them to take a bath in the morning instead of before going to bed or vice versa. This may seem overly simplistic, but teaching children to think through scenarios and

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How to Fit EXERCISE into a Busy Schedule

Understanding the importance of working out will help you make it a routine.

BY DR. F. JACO VILJOEN, M.D.

WITH 206 BONES and more than 600 muscles, your body was designed to move.

Think about it. Your mother experienced your first movements while carrying you during pregnancy. Your parents tried their best to keep up with you when you were a toddler as you bounced from one place to the next, seemingly never running out of energy.

As you entered adolescence, you probably still played and exercised for hours on end. In fact, you were likely in the best shape of your life.

But as you grew older, you may have found yourself busier. Adult responsibilities including holding a

job, paying bills, and other obligations began to fill your days. And even though it may sound counter-intuitive, this busyness probably led you to become more sedentary.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), "...less than 5% of adults participate in 30 minutes of physical activity each day." Nearly one-third of the country's population older than six years of age do not get any form of exercise.

More troubling is that the last few decades have shown that today's children, who traditionally were always active, are part of this worsening trend. They "now spend more than seven and a half hours a day in front of a screen," according to the HHS.

Even though society is becoming increasingly sedentary, this does not have to include you. With a few simple changes—you can stay fit!

At a Price

The *less* you exercise, the *more* at risk you are of suffering adverse effects. Therefore, concreting in your mind

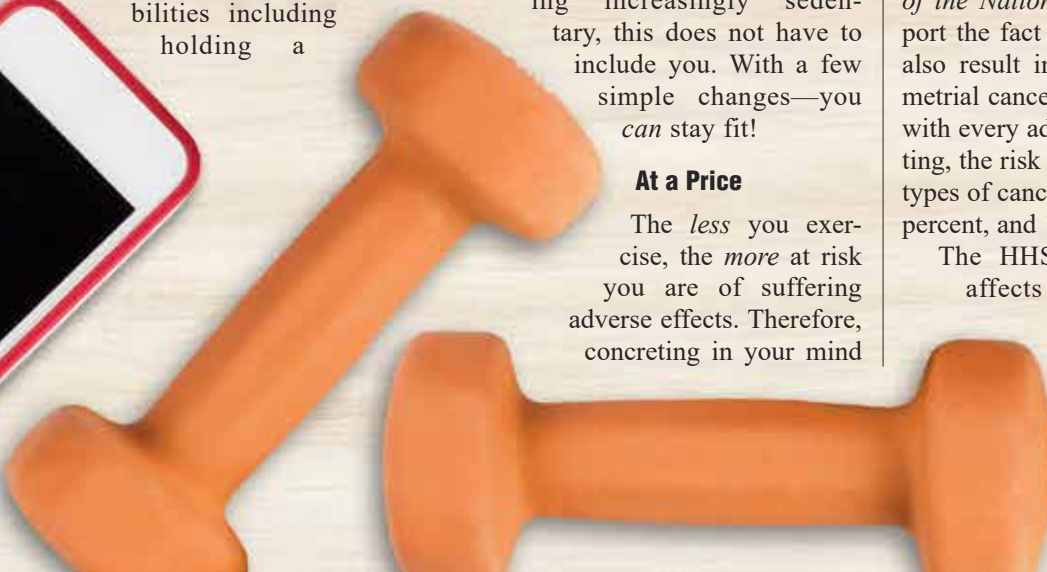
why keeping fit is important will help you squeeze in exercise daily.

Research by the Mayo Clinic revealed that being sedentary for long periods is linked to obesity and metabolic syndrome, which includes excess body fat, abnormal cholesterol levels, high blood sugar, and high blood pressure. The findings demonstrated that people who spent more than four hours a day in front of a screen had a 50 percent increased risk of dying by any cause—and a 125 percent increased risk of heart problems!

One of the study's researchers, Dr. James A. Levine, even coined the phrase "sitting is the new smoking" since there is substantial evidence that sitting results in similar serious conditions as smoking cigarettes.

Findings published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* support the fact that being sedentary can also result in lung, colon and endometrial cancers. More alarming is that with every additional two hours of sitting, the risk of developing these three types of cancers increased 6 percent, 8 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.

The HHS reported that obesity affects a third of American adults, and almost 17 percent of children. In addition to the effects of meta-



bolic syndrome, it also results in joint problems—and even early death.

Those suffering from such ailments impact overall healthcare costs. The annual medical costs of obesity alone in the United States are \$147 billion, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and obesity-related problems cost another \$190 billion each year, according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

These increasing costs are being pushed to private and government insurers, and affect what their clients and taxpayers—YOU—pay.

Benefits of Exercise

The human body is an engine. As with any system, it requires energy and must be properly maintained to function at its peak.

Energy for the body is generated by a combination of oxygen and certain nutrients. Oxygen-rich air is inhaled and carried by the blood to cells. Through a chemical reaction, oxygen converts fat and the nutrients from food (such as protein and carbohydrates) into usable energy.

Regular exercise improves this energy-producing process. Increased cardiovascular activity causes more blood to flow to your skeletal-muscle tissue, skin, intestinal organs, kidneys and brain.

The body's requirement for energy causes it to first burn what is available in the digestive system and blood stream, and then eventually what is stored as body fat. Consistent physical activity strengthens your muscles, conditions your heart and lungs, increases your energy, improves your brain function and concentration, and helps ensure harmful metabolic waste is removed.

But the benefits do not end there.

In addition to helping control your body weight and burn calories, you are more likely to feel less stressed and sleep better.

On a genetic level, exercise unlocks certain genes that are in muscles,

which are helpful in resisting cancer.

An active lifestyle further prevents chronic diseases such as hypertension, stroke and diabetes, and reduces the risk of heart attack.

On top of all these benefits, physical activity helps to curb cravings for junk food and cigarettes, and has been proven to prevent migraine headaches. Moderate exercise coupled with a healthy diet and proper water consumption can also help treat constipation as increased circulation helps food and nutrients more easily move through the body.

Stay Active

With all the facts in place about how exercise leads to a healthier, longer life, what can you do to ensure you reap its benefits—and stay committed?

Start small: Staying active and healthy does *not* require a lot of time or money—you can benefit from exercise intervals as short as 10 minutes. As a rule of thumb, the American Heart Association recommends “at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity at least 5 days per week for a total of 150 minutes.”

But you do not have to begin this way. Instead, start small and make 30 minutes a long-term goal you work toward, especially if you have not been physically active for some time.

Before implementing an exercise routine, determine your level of

activity on a scale of one to 10. One would be not active at all (needs *much* improvement), five would be moderately active (needs some improvement), and 10 would be highly active. Be honest in your assessment.

For a score of five and below, work toward a moderately intense exercise routine, one that requires a medium amount of effort and increases your heart rate. If your body is not used to exercising regularly,



focus first on maintaining a certain level of activity for a set time period—a full 10 minutes, for example.

According to the World Health Organization, moderately intense exercises include brisk walking, dancing, gardening, housework and playing with your children. Of these, walking is the most practical and easy-to-begin activity.

As you improve your score higher than five, add more vigorous exercises that require greater effort and a more rapid increase in your heart-rate. These include running, walking uphill, fast cycling, swimming, participating in competitive sports, heavy shoveling, and carrying loads of more than 40 pounds.

If you have not been active for a long period, it is recommended that you first consult a physician and gradually increase the intensity of your exercise.

Use what you have: Exercising at work or in your home can be just as beneficial as having a gym membership or expensive equipment. This is an important part of fitting exercise into a busy schedule.

For example, there are numerous ways to stay physically active throughout the workday.

If possible, walk or ride a bicycle to your job at least twice a week. Also, use your work environment to your benefit. Park on the far end of the parking lot and walk to the entrance. Instead

of sitting, walk around your office while talking on the phone. Take the stairs to a meeting rather than the elevator.

During lunch, walk to a city park or to a location down the street. This will not only give you a workout, but it can also help refresh your mind and keep you sharp while performing afternoon duties.

After work, exit the bus a few blocks from home and walk the remaining distance or walk a few laps around the parking lot before taking off for the day.

Many workplaces offer recreational activities for employees or

“If you really want to fit in a routine and it is appropriate for your work environment, your office can be an effective place to do additional exercise during a lunch break.”

even an office gym. Participating in these activities will not only help you get in shape, but also become better acquainted with colleagues.

If you really want to fit in a routine and it is appropriate for your work environment, your office can be an effective place to do additional exercise during a lunch break. Start with stretches, arm raises, leg raises, or standing for intervals of time.

Later you can upgrade to walking, jogging or running in place, doing push-ups, squats, calf-raises while standing behind your chair, and lunges.

While it may seem unusual to do these kinds of exercises at work,

this is how many are fitting physical activity into increasingly busy schedules. (Search online on various exercise websites for other ways to stay active while at work.) Since such exercises stimulate the brain, those who do them during the workday receive the added benefit of staying more alert. They all involve using your bodyweight as resistance, meaning you do not need any equipment, which multiplies the possibilities of working out effectively.

Sets of 10 to 15 repetitions at a time can easily be squeezed in between tasks or during breaks. Smaller weights to exercise the arms and upper body can also be stored in a desk drawer.

Big or small, your home adds to these possibilities. You may want to designate an area in your home where you feel comfortable exercising.

But remember to start small. A walk around the neighborhood or to the grocery store can be a great way to get moving. These walks can serve as family outings or ways to spend time with your spouse.

Other family activities, such as a hike in the woods or tossing a ball in the backyard, can help lead to better physical health and build stronger bonds between you and your children. The main thing to keep in mind, though, is whether at work or at home, get started NOW.

While you may be busy—and probably feel as though you do not have time to fit exercise into an already demanding schedule—incorporating just a few small changes into your daily routine will do wonders. And because staying fit can extend your lifespan, it will ensure that you have even more time to do other things in the long run. □



PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

never ask is *why*? If God used evolution to create man and every other living thing, why not just say He did? Why write an Instruction Book purporting to be about truth and then so unnecessarily embed all through it an enormous lie? Why do this? Why not just tell people how you made mankind? If evolution is true, why make mankind wait almost 6,000 years until one scientist—Charles Darwin—could solve a mystery that never needed to exist?

Those who dismiss Adam and Eve and other Genesis accounts are unaware that *Jesus Christ* repeatedly spoke of this first book of the Bible—that He validated the authenticity of Genesis. While modern scholars lampoon anyone “ignorant” enough to believe Genesis, Jesus constantly quoted it. Why would He underscore—many times—and have the apostles underscore—what are falsehoods? Why would He put Himself—and His authority as God—in a position where one person could eventually undermine everything He ever said? This is what atheists do to God’s Word—not what God would do to Himself. But most never consider this. They never consider that Christ would have participated in His own loss of credibility—and thus the loss of millions of people who would not follow Him as a result.

All you have read so far is just the barest opening salvo! There is much more than these baseline elements. You will see that many words in the Bible must contain God’s outright falsehoods for evolution to be true.

Basis of the New Testament

The New Testament Church is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). In construction, cornerstones are laid first. Christ came *before* the prophets. In fact, it was He who inspired the many Old Testament prophets to foretell His First Coming. Thus, the teach-

ings in God’s Church come from apostles and prophets. The New Testament points to the Old Testament much more than most realize. Paul alone quoted the Old Testament hundreds of times, most often from the prophets. In Romans alone, it was quoted 57 times! I Corinthians quotes the Old Testament 21 times and II Corinthians 10 more. While this probably comes as a surprise, it should not since the New Testament Church is built on the apostles and prophets!

Here is a related point—and it is BIG. Moses is the greatest prophet in the Bible other than Christ—not Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Samuel, Daniel, David or any other prophet. While his books are called “The Law,” Moses was a prophet. Deuteronomy 34 states, “There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face” (vs. 10).

I repeat: Moses is the Bible’s greatest prophet. And his five books, starting with Genesis, are part of the New Testament Church’s *foundation*.

New Testament Record

We are now ready to examine the New Testament record. As we do, ask if Jesus and the apostles were just ignorant—or if they deliberately blurred truth to make certain points. We begin with Jesus speaking to the leaders who would crucify Him three days later: “That upon *you* may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel [the son of Adam and Eve] to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachias, whom you slew between the temple and the altar” (Matt. 23:35). Luke repeats Christ’s words: “From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple...” (Luke 11:51).

Keep it simple. If there was Abel, there was Adam and Eve. No one doubts the prophet Zechariah was real. He wrote the next-to-last book of the Old Testament! Therefore, do not doubt Abel—and Adam and Eve, his parents—because God-rejecting atheists who concocted evolution say you should!

The apostle Jude—Jesus’ own brother—confirmed the existence of Adam, Cain (Abel’s brother), and Enoch. Let’s read: “Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied... saying, Behold, the LORD comes with ten thousands of His saints” (Jude 1:14). Of the wicked he said, “Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah” (vs. 11). There can be no way of Cain without Cain himself. And there can be no Cain without his parents—Adam and Eve. And of course there can be no Cain to kill Abel if they were all fictitious. Jude *validated* Cain and Adam!

The book of Hebrews also speaks of Cain and Abel: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks” (11:4). And, “To Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel” (12:24). Is all of this—people and events—fictional? No Cain, no Abel, no faith, no sacrifice, no witness of righteous example? The apostle Paul thought and spoke as though all these were real.

John also speaks of Cain and Abel: “...we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one [the devil], and slew his brother [Abel]. And why slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous” (I John 3:11-12). Is all of this fictional? No Cain, no Abel, no murder, no evil, no righteous example, maybe no Satan? The apostle John also thought and spoke as though all these were real.

In several places, Paul referred to both Adam and Eve: “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression [but if Adam never lived he could not have sinned], who is the figure of Him that was to come [Christ]” (Rom. 5:14). Further, “As in Adam all

die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (I Cor. 15:22).

Think. How could you be subject to death because of sin committed by a fictitious person? You could not. Note this straightforward passage: “Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (I Tim. 2:13-14).

“Formed” means “to mould, shape or fabricate: form” (*Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*). This shows God created—formed—Adam, then Eve, the first human beings. It does not say God created an environment where they would gradually evolve to a higher state over millions of years. Also, it would be deceptive to describe one party as deceived and the other as not when neither person ever lived.

ARE YOU SEEING THE PROBLEMS HERE?

Now another passage from Paul: “I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor. 11:3). Did Paul warn first-century Christians through a made-up story? How can one avoid being deceived like Eve if there was no Eve? If Eve never existed, Paul used deceit to warn against deceit! By this logic, relax because there may be no Satan either—and thus Paul wasted his time cautioning in another passage, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Cor. 2:11). The existence of the devil and Eve stand or fall together.

Paul knew there was a Garden of Eden—and a literal Eve—and a literal devil present to deceive her. He was not stretching the truth to prove a point. He referenced real people and real events! The prophet Ezekiel confirms Paul. Speaking of Satan, he recorded, “You have been in Eden the garden of God...” (Ezek. 28:13). But not if there was no Garden of Eden. No Garden? Again, maybe no devil! One more reason it was the devil who concocted evolution.

A great parallel exists between Christ and Adam. It introduces God’s

Master Purpose—and validates Creation.

A Great Purpose

Paul declared: “And so it is written, The *first man Adam* was made a living soul [did Paul lie, or was he just ignorant of what Darwin would learn?]; the *last Adam* [Christ] was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual [Christ], but that which is natural [Adam]; and afterward [at a resurrection] that which is spiritual. The first man [the original Adam] is of the earth, *earthy*: the second man is the Lord from heaven...as we have borne the image of the earthy [made of flesh like Adam], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [composed of spirit like Christ at a resurrection]” (I Cor. 15:45-47, 49).

Paul’s inspired statement begins referencing Genesis 2:7, “And so it is written...” Do not miss this powerful New Testament verification of the Creation account! The apostle Paul knew Adam “was made” by God—that this event did happen.

Now get this! Jesus Christ is the *second Adam*—this is impossible without a *first Adam*.

Something related that most miss. Jesus referred to Satan when indicting the Pharisees: “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning...” (John 8:44). Jesus calling Satan—the serpent—a murderer *from the beginning* speaks of his deceiving Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told the first humans not to do this or they would die. They ate—and eventually died. Satan effectively murdered them. He was also the wicked one who inspired Cain to kill Abel. So he was a murderer from the beginning.

Jesus was not confused or in doubt as to what happened.

All that has been discussed carries deeper implications beyond whether evolution is true. Jesus is referred to as the second Adam. In the Garden, Adam was given a chance to live God’s Way. Yet he rejected it. As a result, man’s only hope became the central purpose


of Christ’s First Coming—essential to God’s plan of salvation for mankind. It is more crucial than most could ever imagine that we understand the events of Creation. They are fundamental to the entire Plan of God! (To learn God’s ultimate purpose for you, I urge you to read my free book *The Awesome Potential of Man*. It can be found at rcg.org/tapom.)

Genealogical Record

Many today enjoy studying their genealogy. The fun is often going back as far as you can. Lineage is also important to God. This is why numerous extensive genealogies appear throughout the Old Testament. Most do not dismiss them as analogy, myth or metaphor. This pattern of genealogy continues in the New Testament in Jesus’ lineage. Luke and Matthew paint a powerful picture, together revealing how Jesus’ line traces all the way back to Adam!

First comes Mary in Luke. Consider taking time to read it all. But first pick up with, “Jesus Himself began to be about 30 years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son [it should say “son in law”] of Eli, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi...Melchi...Janna...Joseph...Mattathias...Amos...Naum...Nathan, which was the son of David...[it goes on to include Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and eventually all the way back to] Shem, which was the son of Noah...Lamech...Methuselah...Enoch...Jared...Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God” (Luke 3:23-38).

Now Matthew’s record: “Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren” (1:2), and this eventually comes to another “Jacob [who] begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from...Babylon to Christ are fourteen generations...Joseph, you son of David, fear not to take unto you Mary your wife...” (vs. 16-17, 20).



“It is more crucial than most could ever imagine that we understand the events of Creation. They are fundamental to the entire Plan of God!”

Why can we believe Joseph descended from David—here called David’s son—but not that David descended from Adam?

Jesus—and giants of Scripture—including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Noah, Enoch and many, many others—are all described as descended from Adam. Christ’s genealogy is false if there was no Adam. All these men had to be either grossly deceived—or they knew better and misrepresented the truth. Worse, God installed these long lists into His Word *as though they were* true. Even the apostle Paul claimed his descent was from Jacob’s son Benjamin. When Darwin comes up in the resurrection of the dead, he will learn the true origin of his species.

Incidentally, Luke calls Adam “the son of God.” Are all other sons of God literal but not Adam? Jesus is a literal son, all Christians are, Job called angels the sons of God. Perhaps you see yourself as a son of God. Are all these literal—but not Adam?

Think. If Adam did not live, then neither did his son Seth. If Seth never lived, neither did his third-great-grandson Enoch—and neither did Enoch’s great-grandson Noah, and so on with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. And maybe then Christ never lived—as millions claim!

My own genealogy appears to also trace to David, through both Nathan and Solomon, and thus to Adam. Should I doubt this? If Adam is fictional, why does the Bible record anyone descending from him? Atheists do not care about this matter, but Christians should.

No honest mind thinks God inspired Luke 3 to be recorded because it is merely interesting. Christ, as the God of the Old Testament, *personally created Adam!* If we are to believe the critics, Christ was terribly confused—He did not realize He formed a fictional character, not a real person. Yet the implications of Christ’s lineage to Adam are extremely important. To

legally inherit David’s throne, His line must be *provable!* (Human kings know this.) If it is not provable, can we trust *anything* in the Bible? (I also urge you to read an important booklet, *Bible Authority...Can It Be Proven?* at rcg.org/bacibp.)

You must decide at what point the Word of God is just not true. If any part is false, which is what the devil and some ministers want you to believe, then you need not obey it. Satan’s ultimate goal is to get people to reject the Bible as having authority over their lives. He knows that undermining biblical accounts and biblical figures destroys faith.

Part 1 has by itself proven the Bible leaves no room to believe evolution. But you have only heard half the case. Part 2 will continue with more plain verses proving Christians are not permitted to believe evolution. In the meantime, watch my five-part *World to Come* series proving God exists at worldtocome.org. □

EU-TURKEY

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Turkey's cultural roots lay more in Central Asia and the Middle East, and the nation was not heavily involved in events that shaped Europe such as the Renaissance and World War II.

There are also concerns that Turkey, with a population of 80 million, would become the largest and most dominant member of the EU behind Germany.

In addition, the country remains economically underdeveloped, suffering from high unemployment, sluggish growth, poor savings rates, and "the drying up of foreign direct investment from EU countries," *EUobserver* noted. It would put a major strain on the union's economy, which is already under stress due to Greece's bailout and possible fallout from losing its second-wealthiest member, the United Kingdom.

What the EU fears the most, however, are the realities that come with accepting an Islamic nation. It would have to contend with the fact that it is not a Westernized democracy. Human rights advocates already have a difficult time overlooking accounts of torture, free speech violations, and the denial of minority rights.

For many member nations, this factor alone is too much to bear. Since Mr. Erdogan's crackdown on political opposition and journalists after the coup, 479 out of 623 members of European Parliament voted to freeze Turkey's long-term plans for joining the EU.

Since 2005, Cyprus and France, both EU member states, have staunchly opposed Turkey's accession by repeatedly vetoing chapters at will.

Other leaders voiced their concerns over the constitutional referendum that took place in April. European Parliament member Jeppe Kofod labeled it a "scandal," and considered it an irony "when journalists are imprisoned and democracy is abolished by voting yes."

Denmark's Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen commented via

Twitter that it is "strange that democracy is being used to restrict democracy."

Countering these claims, President Erdogan blamed European bias for Turkey's repeated failures. In his May 9 Europe Day letter, he said that the "biggest threat to the future of the union" is "exclusionary discourse" in the form of "discrimination, cultural racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia," which have been "spreading around the continent." He added that increasing votes for far-right parties "have taken Europe's socio-political life prisoner."

Mr. Erdogan also said a Brussels-Ankara alliance would benefit the union. According to *Newsweek*, he stated, "You need a country like Turkey, a different country symbolizing a different faith, this would make them very strong."

Turkey's government has made clear it will continue to pursue membership. Chief Negotiator for Turkish Accession to the European Union Omer Celik insisted that "none of this should be allowed to stand in the way of improved relations and ultimate membership of the bloc."

Turkey's Place

What does Mr. Erdogan see in Europe that motivates him to pursue a deeper relationship? To understand why an Islamic nation would be interested in closer ties with the West, which has roots in Christendom, one must look at history for important clues.

In *The Real Truth* article series "Bridging the Turkey-EU Divide," we discussed the two powers' common interests.

"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.

"Both Islam and Christianity have a 'divinely ordained' mission to spread their beliefs."

"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?"

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

Continue reading the two-part article series at realtruth.org. Historical evidence and little-understood Bible prophecies reveal Turkey's and Europe's important, future role in global events. Beyond simple details, what is coming will change the course of history. □

FIVE TRAITS

Continued from page 23

articulate their logic helps lay a proper foundation.

Emphasize the importance of being open-minded to the ideas of others. Show your children the importance of equally allowing a brother or sister to decide what game to play. Explain how taking a collaborative approach to washing dishes or other chores makes it easier for everyone involved.

Children are naturally curious and fairly adaptable to their environments. Help them maintain these vital traits while trying new things such as a family visit to the zoo, museum or local park. Watching educational documentaries with your children and taking them to the library ensures they are exposed to a wide variety of information.

Be sure to quiz them on what they learn to help develop and enhance their critical-thinking skills and lead them to make sound decisions.

Hone Life Skills

As tech-savvy as younger generations are, they are often lost when it comes to basic life skills.

An article from *Forbes* hit on this point: “Millennials are unfamiliar with a broad range of life skills. They are less likely than older generations to know how to sew, make basic home repairs, or drive manual-transmission cars. With GPS always at their fingertips, many never really learned to use physical landmarks to guide them. Some can’t even imagine how people functioned before mobile IT. One Millennial wrote an article asking older people how they used to look up information, meet up with friends in public places, and handle getting lost without smartphones. A Boomer responded that he visited the library, scheduled meet-ups, and learned to read a road map.”

This lack of basic knowledge has made life difficult for the latest generation of workers. Practical skills such as cooking, reading maps, balancing a checkbook, and proper penmanship are seemingly lost arts. When things there-

fore go wrong outside of work, their entire lives seem to fall apart. They find it difficult to cope and often will break down. This lack of stability inevitably affects their jobs.

Help your children learn to function independently. Teach them to cook their favorite meals. Allow them to help with measuring ingredients and checking the temperature of the oven. Show them how to read an atlas and decipher the road signs on your next family trip. Give them the opportunity to help with simple home repairs, mowing the lawn, and pulling weeds from the garden. Allow them to sit and observe the next time you pay the household bills.

Not only will they develop basic life skills, they will strengthen their work ethic.

Bonus: Think BIG!

Vision is a mental picture of where you see yourself in the future. Most successful people attribute their successes to having a clear sense of where they are going and goals to help them get there.

Many find themselves unsatisfied and in dead-end jobs because they failed to give serious thought to their futures. Instead of taking focused and deliberate actions, they wandered through life aimlessly or allowed circumstances to dictate their direction. They never fully developed the ability to overcome the inevitable obstacles that come in life.

But overcoming, particularly in the face of overwhelming odds, brings great personal satisfaction. It also builds character, a subject rarely touched upon in classrooms today.

Teach your children to exercise vision. Show them how doing chores today connects with performing a job well in the future. Explain that though they may begin with an entry level job, such as flipping burgers, doing so will help develop the skills needed to expand their career options in the future.

King Solomon gave practical instructions regarding setting goals and exercising vision. In Proverbs 22:3, he

wrote: “A prudent man sees danger and hides himself; but the simple go on, and suffer for it” (*Revised Standard Version*). If young people routinely think ahead, they can avoid difficulties later in life. Learning to think in terms of *cause* and *effect* (i.e., there is a cause for every effect) helps them recognize the impact of their actions (or inactions) on their future.

Start Young

In the current economic climate, few employees are truly irreplaceable. With greater world connectivity, population growth, and more people being exposed to higher education, there is little indication this will change anytime soon.

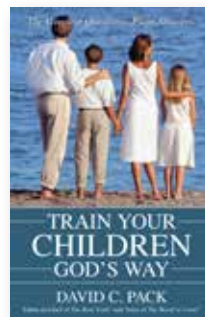
Teaching children to be punctual, presentable and polite, as well as to think critically, use life skills, and develop vision, will help them achieve workplace success. Ultimately, it will help them to be successful in life.

God’s Word says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). God expects parents, as well as other influential adults, to train impressionable young minds early to prepare them for adulthood.

This is just one of the scores of priceless principles and nuggets of wisdom offered throughout Scripture. The Bible is FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE that never grows old. It serves as the Creator’s personal instruction manual that teaches human beings *how* to live and find lasting success.

For more tips on teaching specific skills your children will benefit from now and later in life, order our free book *Train Your Children God’s Way*. It starts with the basics and covers the challenges of raising children in the 21st century. In addition, it paints a clear picture of the vital role parents play in the development of their children.

Order this book today. Your children—and their future employers—will be glad you did. □



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MIDDLE EAST

Can a “Convergence of Interests” Unite the Middle East?



■ **MIDEAST MEETING:** U.S. President Donald Trump, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Jordan's King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and other officials pose during the Arab Islamic American Summit at the King Abdulaziz Conference Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (May 21, 2017).

PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Relations among countries in the Middle East appear to be shifting as a result of the shared threat of terrorism and a change in strategic policies across the region.

The United States seems to be capitalizing on this trend. Political analysts see the White House using common concerns to unite a divided Mideast—and potentially employing this strategy to push forward the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

“The logic behind the administration’s emerging strategy is straightforward enough: Israel and several Arab regimes now face common threats from Iran and radical Islamic terrorism,” a *Foreign Policy* editorial noted. “This convergence of interests is increasingly driving the former adversaries together. In recent years, contacts, consultations, and even nascent forms of economic and security cooperation have grown significantly—albeit mostly out of public view. The time could at long last be ripe—or so the thinking goes—to have Arab countries step out of the shadows and take center stage in helping break the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock.

“How, exactly? Again, in theory at least, the prospect of public meetings and improved relations with the broader Arab world would incentivize security-minded Israelis to be more generous in granting concessions to longstanding Palestinian demands—on such core issues as territory, settlements, and Jerusalem—than would otherwise be the case. At the same time, Arab pressure would provide Palestinian leaders with the political cover they need to justify making painful compromises with the ‘Zionist entity’ that have heretofore been deemed unacceptable.

“Why would notoriously cautious regimes like the one in Saudi Arabia, that have historically shunned a more activist role, now be willing to take on the added responsibilities and risks of playing peacemaker with Israel? The answer, proponents argue, lies in the strong interest the Arab states have in currying favor with a new U.S. president and, more importantly, securing his support for a much tougher American posture toward the rising threat of a hegemonic Iran in particular.”

Iran, which has a democratically elected government but is overseen by Shia Muslim clerics, has always been at odds with the Sunni-led Saudi administration. Even though both sects look to the Koran and practice strict forms of Islam, their ideologies clash as do their political stances.

The two nations have been particularly vocal in their dislike of one another’s policies and have each fallen on opposite sides of the political spectrum.

Saudi Arabia notes that Iran supports Syrian President Bashar Assad and claims the Persian nation sponsors terrorism. The Saudis also accuse Iran of supporting Houthi rebels in Yemen.

While the previous U.S. administration looked to Iran as a potential partner and took strides to lift sanctions, that focus has shifted back to longtime ally Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states such as Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

To ensure terror and unrest do not spread to their own nations, governments in the Middle East may increasingly work together—even if they are longtime rivals. □

HEALTH ISSUES

Depression Now Leading Cause of Disability and Illness

Chronic depression, characterized by a persistent loss of interest in everyday activities and work, is now the number-one cause of ill health and disability globally, the World Health Organization reported.

“Depression...increases the risk of several major diseases and disorders including addiction, suicidal behavior, diabetes and heart disease, which are themselves among the world’s biggest killers,” *Reuters* reported. “WHO expressed concern that in many countries there is little or no support for people with mental health disorders, and said only around half of people with depression get treatment in wealthier nations.”

About 322 million people—roughly the population of the United States—suffer from chronic depression and the numbers are increasing faster than population growth. According to WHO, depression rates have increased 18 percent since 2005 while the global population increased 15 percent during the same time period. □



WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

UN: Declining Pollinators Could Lead to Human Malnutrition

A steady decline in pollinating animals, including bees, butterflies and bats, could lead to increasing human malnutrition, scientists estimate.

According to the United Nations, two of every five invertebrate pollinators such as bees and butterflies are headed toward extinction. Since pollinators are responsible for 35 percent of global crop production, scientists estimate that if all pollinators were to disappear, more than one million additional people would die from disease and malnutrition yearly.

Bees

A report from the Center for Biological Diversity revealed that more than 700 North American bee species are headed toward extinction. According to study author Kelsey Kopec, “We’re on the verge of losing hundreds of native bee species in the United States if we don’t act to save them.”

Bees pollinate 70 percent of the food we eat, and help produce over \$10 billion of crops annually in the U.S.

A 2015 United Nations report found that 37 percent of bee species in Northwest Europe and North America are declining. A similar phenomenon is occurring in several other places around the world.



Bats



According to the National Wildlife Health Center, “In temperate regions, bats are primary consumers of insects, and a recent economic analysis indicated that insect suppression services (ecosystem services) provided by bats to U.S. agriculture is valued between 4 to 50 billion dollars per year.”

Since the winter of 2007-2008, however, millions of bats have died from white-nose syndrome (WNS). WNS has resulted in an 80 percent decline of northeastern U.S. bats, and spread to other parts of the country in 2016. The U.S. Geological Survey reported that bat populations affected by WNS will not increase until 2023.

Butterflies

Various species of butterflies have also been in decline around the world. In North America, the number of monarch butterflies fell 68 percent from 1994 to 2016. The European Environment Agency (EEA) noted a 50 percent decline of grassland butterflies over the past two decades due to mismanagement of the ecosystem.

According to the executive director of the EEA, “If we fail to maintain these habitats we could lose many of these species forever... the pollination they carry out is essential for both natural ecosystems and agriculture.” □





“WE SHALL BEAT OUR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES”

These words, which mark a well-known sculpture on the grounds of the United Nations headquarters in New York City, come from the biblical book of Isaiah. Yet even more than a lofty ideal or nice-sounding idea, this Bible verse will come to pass—and soon. Read *How World Peace Will Come!* to learn exactly how this will occur.

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