

MARCH-APRIL 2019

THE

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REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



Remembering RWANDA

**Nuclear War: How Inevitable
Is the Inevitable?**

**One Lesson to Learn from
Government Shutdowns**

**What Your Minister Won't
Tell You About Easter**

**Brexit: A Personal
Perspective**

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VOL. XVII | NO. 2 | MARCH-APRIL 2019

A R T I C L E S

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■ The test of a nuclear bomb in Enewetak Atoll (Nov. 15, 1952).

PHOTO: NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Nuclear War: How Inevitable Is the Inevitable?

Human beings have not experienced an all-out nuclear conflict. But, with nuclear capability increasing and man's finger on the button, it is only a matter of time.

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FRONT COVER: Portrait of a Tutsi refugee who was driven away from his village by the Hutus during the Rwanda genocide.

PHOTO: REZA/GETTY IMAGES

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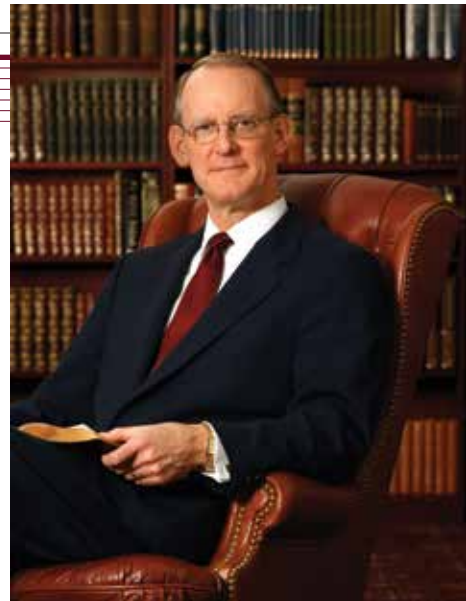
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The Human Mind— What None Can Discover

APPALLING EVILS and troubles are increasing around the world. Suffering continues to grow worse. Can humanity survive? More are asking, *What is wrong with people? Where can we go for the answers?*

Theologians, moralists, psychologists and educators have been unable to find the hidden key to the human mind. Scientific knowledge expands daily, but it has not, and will *never*, discover the missing dimension of the mind. You are about to learn what they cannot!

Modern science is continually bringing new knowledge to civilization. Each important scientific discovery—each new piece of knowledge—is received worldwide with excitement and acclaim.

Reflect on all that science has given to mankind at large. It has put men on the moon and created weapons of mass destruction. It has broken down the genetic codes of DNA and cloned numerous creatures. It has learned much about the immense size and nature of the

universe—outer space—and discovered incredible things about the tiny sub-atomic particles in atoms—inner space. It has made numerous medical breakthroughs and accomplished amazing feats of engineering.

The scope and potential of science seem limitless. Most believe that, given time, scientific discoveries will solve most or all of mankind's problems. Yet science is limited in a vitally important way that involves you. There is a discovery it will never—and can never—make about the nature of the human mind!

Detailed Instruction Manual

Your mind contains a dimension that cannot be understood or discovered by any process or experiment known to science. This world's religions have missed it. Their theologians neither teach nor comprehend it. They have completely overlooked this critical component—this single vital key—that unlocks the enormous difference between men and animals. Only by understanding this revealed key can you learn your purpose for being!

Look at all the amazing works of nature—both on Earth and throughout the heavens. The kaleidoscope of God’s handiwork that can be seen by the human eye is staggering.

Consider the planets, stars and galaxies. Each is its own marvel. Then reflect on all of the species of plants found on Earth. There are millions, diverse in color, shape, size and beauty. The brilliance of their various designs and purposes is incredible! Now think of the 1-2 million different kinds of animals—and 30 million types of insects. They are as marvelous and fascinating as the world of plants, with their diversity of purpose, appearance and behavior.

But none of these creations rival the complexity and nearly unlimited capability of *your mind*. And as fascinating, marvelous, beautiful and amazing as are all the things described above, none is more amazing than the human mind. It is the absolute pinnacle of all living organisms. Nothing else in God’s Creation comes close. What else can plan, think or create to even a fraction of the same degree?

Just think about how many things the mind can design and produce: houses, telephones, trains, automobiles, planes, rockets, computers, fax machines and other sophisticated devices that are practically limitless in complexity and usefulness. The only thing it cannot design and build is itself!

When King David said “for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psa. 139:14), this is most true of your brain—the *human mind*! The Creator sent along with it a detailed *Instruction Manual* containing vital information, explaining the nature, design and purpose of this greatest of all creations. He identifies the hidden key—the missing dimension!—to its right and proper use, opening the way to peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity.

But this *Instruction Manual*—the Bible—is almost universally ignored, misrepresented, misunderstood and rejected. As a result, the problems, troubles and evils of civilization mount with no solution in sight, and conditions are only growing worse.

Unrecognized Component

Apply basic logic. Would God create His marvel of engineering—your mind—and send it without an *Instruction Book* explaining how to use it? Of course not!

Most spend their entire lives worried about what *people* think and say. Few concern themselves with what God thinks or says. Be honest and examine *yourself*. Do you derive your opinions from people? Or do you regularly search and accept the plain Word of God as the guide for your life?

The following scripture explains why even the most brilliant minds are completely unable to learn certain understanding, unless it is *revealed* to them. Notice: “Jesus...said, I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have *hid these things from the wise and prudent*, and have revealed them unto babes” (Matt. 11:25). The greatest thinkers of this world cannot fathom the things God has revealed in His Word! They are literally hidden from them.

We must be willing to examine God’s Word for what He reveals about the mind. It will open your thinking to incredible *new* understanding about why you were born—and of your awesome future and potential. We must start at the beginning.

Many suppose that the composition of the human mind is entirely physical. Is this true? Others believe that each person possesses an immortal soul. Is *this* true? What does the Bible say? Does it endorse either of these ideas? Or does God’s Word teach something completely different—something completely overlooked by all religions, and unable to be discovered by all methods of science?

First, we must consider the difference between human minds and animal brains. There are facts that science tells us about the comparative qualities of both. All understand that in some way animal *brains* are entirely different from human *minds*. But in what way? *How* are they different?

Certain creatures, such as chimpanzees and dolphins, have brains rela-

tively similar in size and weight to that of humans. Some larger animals, like whales and elephants, have larger brains than man. Yet they are far less intelligent, far less creative and incapable of understanding any complex thought.

Science has never been able to explain—to adequately account for—the vast difference between the human brain and the brains of animals. While man has a brain that may be only slightly more complex than animals of relatively similar brain size, the difference in capability is vast, with simply no comparison.

Animals function almost entirely on instinct. They do what they do automatically, and from birth. Almost immediately after birth, a calf knows exactly what to do—how to stand up and take steps, and where to find milk. Human babies require far longer to even stand up with *support*, and have to be taught how to do virtually everything.

Having minds, human beings have been given hands so they can create. Merely having brains, animals function on instinct and possess paws, claws and hooves. This leaves them incapable of building something complex like a television—never mind a jet or a space-traveling rocket—even if a mind were directing them. Animals are also not capable of acquiring knowledge beyond a very rudimentary ability to react to certain stimuli.

Humans can acquire knowledge, draw conclusions, gather and assess facts, make decisions—and build character. This is the single greatest overarching difference between men and animals. Animals are greatly limited because God has merely programmed into them, through instinct, everything they need to function within their environment.

On the other hand, people do *not* instinctively know everything necessary to function successfully in life. They must continually acquire more knowledge throughout their lives to address new challenges and demands made upon them.

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 29



The path to success doesn't have to be complicated.

Does achieving life goals seem distant, out of reach, IMPOSSIBLE? Most everyone has set out to accomplish their ambitions only to quickly slam into a brick wall of setbacks and difficulties. Soon, they abandon their dreams entirely.

It does not have to be this way! There are seven simple laws governing success. Order your free copy of *The Laws to Success* to begin applying these bedrock principles.

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One Lesson to Learn from **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS**

Every time Washington shuts its doors because it cannot agree—both Republicans and Democrats use this tactic—we should ask certain questions. Perhaps surprisingly, the answers are found in the Bible.

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER



PARTIAL GOVERNMENT shutdown. What an odd combination of words. First, how can the world's most important government shutdown at all? Second, how are there parts of this ruling body that are non-essential? Who decides what is shuttered up and what stays open?

Yet government shutdowns are now a part of the norm in the United States. The only time we seem to pay attention is immediately before, during or after one. They quickly fade from public thinking. Few of us remember the 16-day shutdown in 2013, the 21 days over the turn of the year in 1996 or the 11 days in 1979. There are also heaps of one-to-three-day examples throughout the decades.

Despite being a crude political parlor trick, government shutdowns are here to stay—designed for the opposing side in Washington to get its way.

However, the results of these stalemates are anything but trivial. What will be the lasting effects of the latest and longest one—the 35 days from December 2018 to January 2019? What is the number one lesson we should learn each time the government shuts down?

Collateral Damage

When the shutdown was in full swing, businesses that rely on the patronage of government employees were some of the first to feel the effects. Among those hardest hit during the last shutdown were the owners of restaurants, hotels and gift shops near federal agencies and national parks around the country.

In Mariposa, California, just outside Yosemite National Park, tourism dropped sharply and most of the 6,000 county residents who work in the park were not paid during the shutdown.

“For my business personally it’s been absolutely devastating,” said Hanna Wackerman, co-owner of the

1850 Restaurant and Brewing Company. “Usually January is a pretty busy month for us. With the new snow being in Yosemite, that tends to bring new tourists to the park.” Instead, business went down 80 percent, she said.

Mike Lynch, owner of Western Heritage, saw online orders collapse almost immediately after the government shut down on December 22. The company sells buckles, keychains, commemorative coins and badges to employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies. It also sells patches and some clothing.

Most of the purchases are discretionary and customized. For example, if a BLM employee is retiring, co-workers might order a plaque from Mr. Lynch’s company. His online orders went from thousands of dollars a week before Christmas to just \$78 in the first week of January.

On January 7, Mr. Lynch laid off nearly everyone, leaving one person to answer the phone “in case someone wants to buy something.” They were the first job cuts in the company’s 43-year history.

With business so slow, Mr. Lynch did not order any of the bronze, silver or pewter he uses and did not replenish other inventory.

Larger companies are also affected, though it is typically easier for them to weather the impact. Airlines like Delta and Southwest, for example, lost tens of millions of dollars in business, but that is out of billions in revenue.

Economic Toll

Economics were not the only effect from the shutdown. Trash overflowed at national parks and on the National Mall in front of the Capitol. There were also longer lines at airport security checkpoints. Businesses also could not receive small loans and key agencies, such as the IRS and the Securities Exchange and Commission, were operating at limited capacity.

Yet with the shutdown now in our rearview mirror, the lasting overall impact has come clear. The Congressional Budget Office reported it will cause slight permanent harm to the economy—about \$3 billion.

■ Trash accumulates at the National Mall due to a partial shutdown of the federal government (Dec. 24, 2018).

PHOTO: WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

The report stated the five-week shutdown has slowed growth in the near term but that most of the lost growth “will eventually be recovered.”

This news means one lesson from the shutdown will not be learned. We will likely see Washington shutter up the government *again*—each side demanding its way. As *The Real Truth* goes to print, there is a good chance it will happen again on February 15.

Overall, CBO framed the economic damage to the U.S. It predicts that just \$3 billion in lost gross domestic product will be permanently lost, a modest figure in a \$20 trillion-plus economy. By year’s end, CBO says, GDP would be just 0.02 smaller because of the shutdown, which closed many domestic agencies. The 800,000 sidelined federal workers have returned to their jobs.

More broadly, the report estimates a drop in GDP growth to 2.3 percent this year as the effects of President Donald Trump’s tax cut on business investment begin to drop off. It also says that the U.S. budget deficit will hit \$897 billion this year.

“The shutdown dampened economic activity mainly because of the loss of furloughed federal workers’ contribution to [gross domestic product], the delay in federal spending on goods and services, and the reduction in aggregate demand,” the report said.

“Underlying those effects on the overall economy are much more significant effects on individual businesses and workers,” CBO said. “Among those who experienced the largest and most direct negative effects are federal workers who faced delayed compensation and private-sector entities that lost business. Some of those private-sector entities will never recoup that lost income.”

Again, this is a lesson lost on Washington. Individuals are the ones most effected during a partial government shutdown. Yet the impact is too small to avert this political game of chicken being used again.

Beyond the Posturing

Each time the government shuts down, Americans get a hint of something. The economic impact is what draws

most eyeballs, but there is another element to a shutdown that most overlook.

Here it is: Government is important.

Trash overflowing at national parks, backups on loan approvals, longer lines at airport security are a tiny taste of what government does for a nation.

While Washington and every other government on Earth are far from perfect, without them, everyday peace and safety unravel right quick.

Look around the world at nations with failed or failing governments. Nonprofit Fund for Peace uses the following criteria to flag nations as fragile states. They reveal how life looks without a stable governing body:

“**Mounting demographic pressures and tribal, ethnic and/or religious conflicts.**” The United Nations believes that in January 2018 hundreds were killed in tribal violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“**Massive internal and external displacement of refugees, creating severe humanitarian emergencies.**” The UN estimates over 2 million Venezuelans have fled their home country over the last couple of years due to food insecurity and a failing economy.

“**Delegitimization of the state.**” Venezuela again. As of this writing, the nation has *two* competing presidents.

“**Widespread corruption.**” Somalia—where bribing officials to allow for criminal activities is part of business as usual—ranks as the most corrupt state for 2018 according to the Global Corruption Index.

Other factors for fragile states from Fund for Peace include “severe economic decline,” “deterioration of public services,” “suspension or arbitrary application of law,” “widespread human rights abuses,” and “intervention of external political agents and foreign states.”

Without a stable government, *these* are the results. Any news watcher can see these conditions across the globe.

The lesson here is this: Even imperfect governments, such as those in the U.S. or the rest of the West, are better

than no ruling body at all. Yet everyone wants a better government. Humanity *yearns* for it. If there was a way to bring about such a perfect administration, it would be the greatest good news of all time.

Unknown to most, there *is* such good news just over the horizon. It is tied to the word “gospel.”

Seem strange? The simple definition of this word *is* “good news.” In the Bible it often is phrased this way: “the gospel of the Kingdom of God.” Kingdom is just another word for government.

The central message of the Bible is the good news of the coming government of God.

Clearly, that government is not on Earth yet. If it were, God would be TERRIBLE at governing. When this time does arrive, here is how it will look...

■ “And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4). Verse 3 shows that God’s holy, righteous Law will go forth to all the world.

■ “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it” (Mic. 4:4). There will be peace, safety and abundance for all under the Kingdom of God.

■ “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever” (Isa. 9:7).

A government established FOREVER that operates with true judgment and justice. No wonder God commands in Matthew 6:10 to pray “Your Kingdom come”!

To learn the fuller story of how the West’s bitter political infighting will end, and how safety and security will come to fragile states the world over, read *Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!* at rcg.org/tww. □

NUCLEAR WAR

*How Inevitable
Is the
Inevitable?*

Human beings have not experienced an all-out nuclear conflict. But, with nuclear capability increasing and man's finger on the button, it is only a matter of time.

BY EDWARD L. WINKFIELD

NOT LONG AFTER the start of his term, U.S. President Donald Trump made a strategic shift toward a new nuclear strategy—the development of “low-yield” nuclear weapons. The decision came as a robust response to increased threats from nuclear powers Russia, China and North Korea.

A low-yield nuclear weapon has a smaller blast radius than standard nuclear bombs, which rely on immense force to take out a target. The extensive collateral damage of most nukes is a deterrent to their use.

According to the Trump Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, low-yield nuclear weapons “help ensure that potential adversaries perceive no possible advantage in limited nuclear escalation, making nuclear employment less likely.”

Much of this posturing in America comes in retaliation to Russian President Vladimir Putin's boasts about his country's new arsenal of “invincible” nuclear weapons. They include nuclear-powered subs, underwater drones, nuclear-powered missiles and a hypersonic, intercontinental ballistic missile.

These last two raised the most eyebrows. Russia's nuclear-powered cruise missile can not only take random paths to circumvent enemy defenses, more horrifying, it can fly around for months on end due to its near limitless nuclear-powered energy. The intercontinental ballistic mis-



■ A French nuclear test at Mururoa, French Polynesia (1970).

PHOTO: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

sile brings as much alarm. Its speed (20 times the speed of sound) and maneuverability reportedly allows it to avoid even the world's most advanced missile defense systems.

There are doubts in some circles whether any of this technology exists. However, the U.S. called Russia's activities a clear violation of the 1987

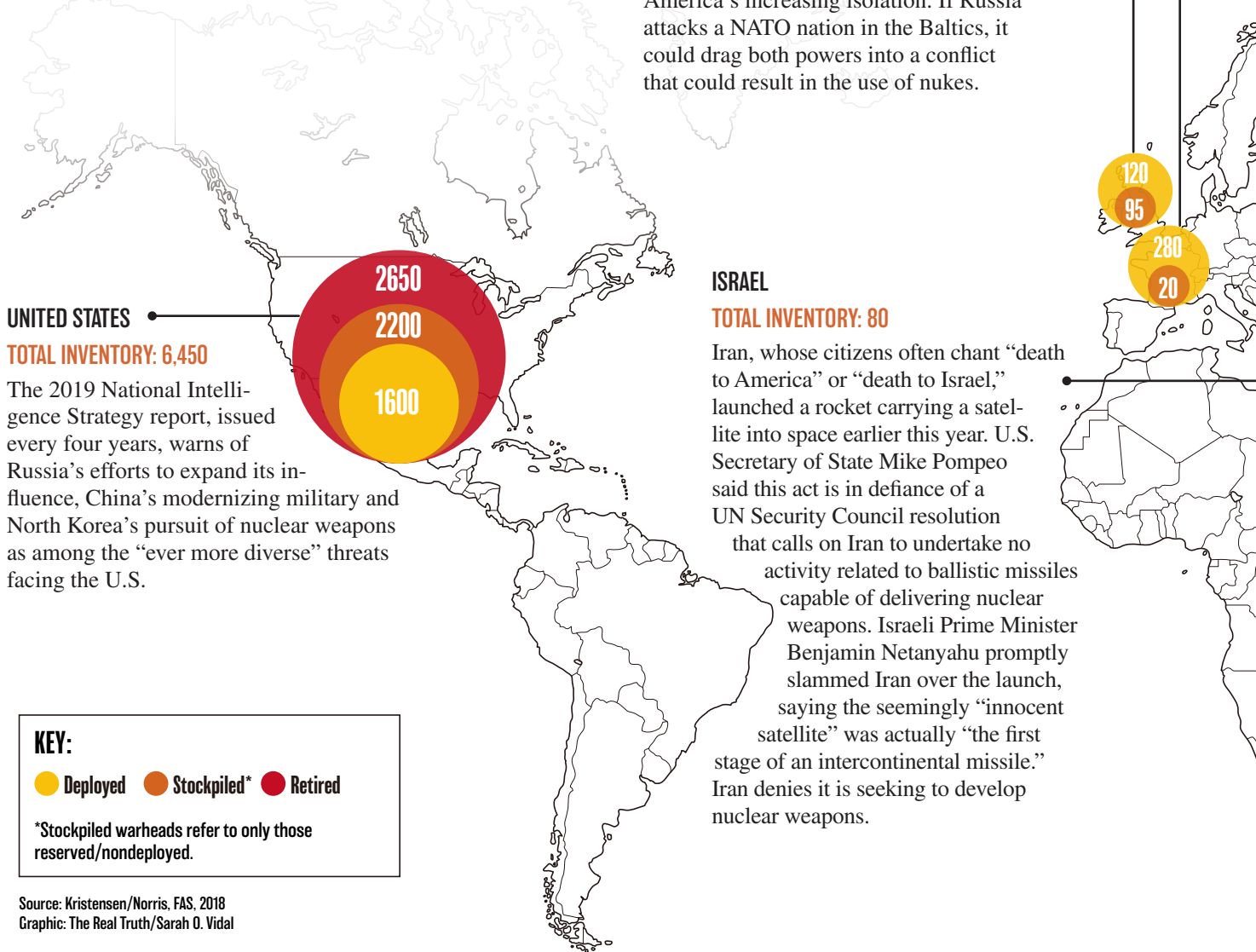
Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which bans the production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 310 to 3,400 miles.

In February, Mr. Trump chose to officially suspend America's participation in the agreement, saying the U.S. "cannot be the only country in

the world unilaterally bound by this treaty." He added, "We will move forward with developing our own military response options and will work with NATO and our other allies and partners to deny Russia any military advantage from its unlawful conduct." The U.S. plans to completely leave the pact by the summer of 2019.

Nuclear Tensions: A Global Snapshot

A summary of the estimated number of nuclear weapons in each of the nine states that have them along with each nation's current threats.

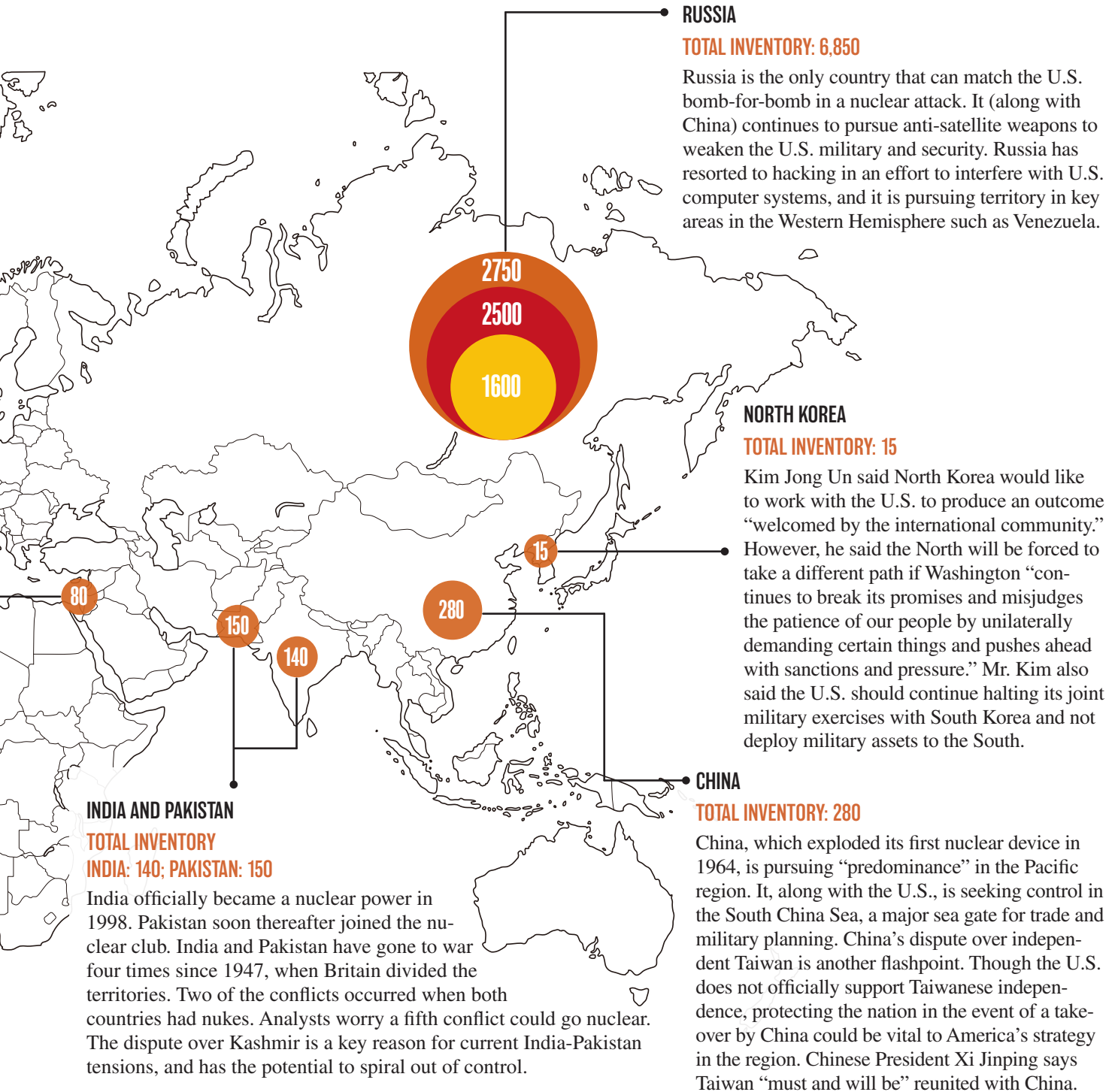


From tweets about “fire and fury” and “dotards” to possible peace, talks with North Korea have been no less topsy-turvy. Washington and Pyongyang arranged a second summit between President Trump and leader Kim Jong Un, who first met in Singapore in the summer of 2018. In the meantime, analysts are accusing

North Korea of continuing nuclear and missile development, citing details from commercial satellite imagery.

Pyongyang has vowed to pursue nuclear development until the U.S. removes its troops and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

Yet America is showing no signs of pulling back. The U.S. Congressional Budget Office recently issued a report projecting the cost of nuclear weapons over the next decade at nearly a half trillion dollars, up almost a quarter from the last estimate two years ago. Much of this spending will go toward new technology such as low-yield nuclear weapons.



RUSSIA

TOTAL INVENTORY: 6,850

Russia is the only country that can match the U.S. bomb-for-bomb in a nuclear attack. It (along with China) continues to pursue anti-satellite weapons to weaken the U.S. military and security. Russia has resorted to hacking in an effort to interfere with U.S. computer systems, and it is pursuing territory in key areas in the Western Hemisphere such as Venezuela.

NORTH KOREA

TOTAL INVENTORY: 15

Kim Jong Un said North Korea would like to work with the U.S. to produce an outcome “welcomed by the international community.” However, he said the North will be forced to take a different path if Washington “continues to break its promises and misjudges the patience of our people by unilaterally demanding certain things and pushes ahead with sanctions and pressure.” Mr. Kim also said the U.S. should continue halting its joint military exercises with South Korea and not deploy military assets to the South.

CHINA

TOTAL INVENTORY: 280

China, which exploded its first nuclear device in 1964, is pursuing “predominance” in the Pacific region. It, along with the U.S., is seeking control in the South China Sea, a major sea gate for trade and military planning. China’s dispute over independent Taiwan is another flashpoint. Though the U.S. does not officially support Taiwanese independence, protecting the nation in the event of a takeover by China could be vital to America’s strategy in the region. Chinese President Xi Jinping says Taiwan “must and will be” reunited with China.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

TOTAL INVENTORY

INDIA: 140; PAKISTAN: 150

India officially became a nuclear power in 1998. Pakistan soon thereafter joined the nuclear club. India and Pakistan have gone to war four times since 1947, when Britain divided the territories. Two of the conflicts occurred when both countries had nukes. Analysts worry a fifth conflict could go nuclear. The dispute over Kashmir is a key reason for current India-Pakistan tensions, and has the potential to spiral out of control.

Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry was quoted by *The Guardian* as saying he was less worried about the number of nuclear warheads left in the world than by the return of Cold War talk about such weapons being “usable.”

“The belief that there might be tactical advantage using nuclear weapons—which I haven’t heard that being openly discussed in the United States or in Russia for a good many years—is happening now in those countries which I think is extremely distressing.”

Understanding Nuclear Power

“Low-yield” is a relative and somewhat deceptive term when describing this latest weapon of mass destruction. The weapon’s so-called limited damage capability is really only in relation to the power of the vast majority of nukes in America’s stockpile, which, almost 75 years after Hiroshima, are measured in *kilotons* and *megatons* of the explosive power of TNT.

To better grasp this, consider the Mother of All Bombs or MOAB dropped in Afghanistan in 2017. The pinpoint blast was intended to hit an ISIS complex, yet unleashing this conventional (non-nuclear) weapon’s 11 tons of explosive power still came with consternation. Was it worth unleashing this level of ordinance just to kill under 100 ISIS fighters and destroy numerous bunkers and caves?

As you try to wrap your mind around 22,000 pounds of explosives being dropped on a target, consider that a small, low-yield nuke equals 1,000 MOABs—approaching the size of the bombs dropped on Japan at the end of World War II. But the similarities between the MOAB and an atomic bomb pretty much stop at their destructive force.

The long-term impact of an atomic weapon is much more ominous.

Conventional bombs like MOABs explode based on a simple chemical versus a nuclear fusion or fission reaction. The splitting of atoms in a nuclear reaction releases a spectacular amount of energy, enough

to level an entire city and vaporize its citizens. In addition, it releases harmful radiation. The majority of deaths after Hiroshima and Nagasaki occurred long after both bombs were detonated.

That was decades ago. Today, a hydrogen or thermonuclear bomb, the kind North Korea warned it would test in 2017, relies on yet a different nuclear reaction process, making it 1,000 times more powerful than the atom bombs dropped on Japan.

Clearly, comparing nukes is like comparing a hurricane, tornado or earthquake. The damage left in their wake is all relative and leaves your head spinning.

The recent development of the B61-12 nuclear bomb by the Pentagon was aimed right at a certain sweet spot—developing a weapon with precision guidance along with “dial-a-yield” capability.

Unlike most nuclear bombs, the B61-12 is guided, helping it better take out an intended target. Its adjustable blast yield—from low to even lower—only serves to enhance this precision. Its explosive power can be electronically adjusted from as little as 0.3 kilotons up to 50 kilotons based on need.

The weapon is widely considered the most dangerous in America’s arsenal.

Danger of “Usability”

The 12-foot, missile-shaped B61-12 induces fear, but not just because of its potential destructive capability. America’s B83 nuclear bomb, by contrast, is 1,200 kilotons (1.2 megatons). The B61-12 keeps military strategists and political leaders up at night due to its *usability*.

Nuclear weapons, once verboten in modern warfare, are now “thinkable for the first time since the 1940s” as one news outlet put it.

More usable weapons like the B61-12, according to the latest Nuclear Posture Review from the Department of Defense, are aimed at “enhancing deterrence.”

How can a more usable weapon make its use less likely?

The big boom and heavy damage radius of traditional nukes have always decreased their likelihood of being used. This is the basis of the mutually assured destruction doctrine, which states that, in the case of a full-scale nuclear war, the threat of annihilation of all involved creates a deterrence. There is a certain logic to this. No leader, regardless of his cruelty and ambition, wants to be responsible for the elimination of millions if not billions of Earth’s citizenry—especially if it is his own.

With mutually assured destruction, neither side has any incentive to initiate a conflict or to unilaterally disarm.

A smaller, more likely to be used nuclear weapon would naturally undermine this thinking, right? Not so, says low-yield bomb advocates. They believe an arsenal of low-yield nuclear weapons provides more options to retaliate and thus an increased deterrent. A smaller, controlled blast on more pinpointed targets counters an enemy’s perception that a nation’s traditional nuclear stockpile contains weapons “too big to use.”

Thus, the argument goes, by *lowering* the threshold for nuclear conflict you make nuclear conflict less likely.

If this slippery reasoning fails, however, the low-yield nuclear blast and the predictable cascading blasts from traditional nukes in response would be overwhelming.

Current Inventory

But we should back away from the red buttons and assertions about supersonic missiles and briefly look at where the world stands with its nuclear arsenal.

Overall, the world is light-years beyond the Manhattan Project, which produced the atom bombs dropped during WWII. The current landscape is a mix of good news and bad, with much of it falling somewhere in between.

The two bombs America dropped on Japan in 1945 are the only times nuclear weapons have been used in combat. This may be the “best” news

of all when it comes to nuclear weapons.

The capability of nuclear technology is so shocking that even the testing of such weapons was addressed in the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (unratified), to which the U.S. adheres. Therefore, again on the positive side, America has not detonated a nuclear bomb since 1992. Instead, the nation relies on “virtual testing.”

Eight other nations besides the U.S. currently have nukes.

More optimistic news? Russia used to stockpile a jaw-dropping 40,000 nuclear warheads with the U.S. on its heels hoarding upwards of 30,000. Now, the former USSR only has a reported 6,850 with the U.S. maintaining its second-place position with 6,450. That is an 83 and 79 percent decrease respectively. On just inventory numbers alone, it is hard to argue against this being “good” news. (Of course, zero would be better.)

The next closest in nuclear warhead inventory is France with 300, China with 280, Britain with 215, Pakistan with between 140-150, India with between 130-140, Israel with 80, and North Korea rounding out the list with between 10-20.

However, it is impossible to rationalize the fact that it only takes *one* nuclear weapon to eliminate hundreds of thousands, even millions, depending on the target. A chain reaction could annihilate billions.

With sensationalized news, political scandals, societal problems and other attention-grabbing events, the world’s nuclear threat has somehow found its way to the backburner over the years. This is a bit surprising given that there are more than 40 active armed conflicts going on around the world, several of them involving nuclear powers either directly or through proxy.

During the Cold War, talk of nuclear destruction and possible human extinction was much more common. With upwards of 70,000 nukes between the U.S. and Russia in 1986, *of course* it was. Now, the world ignores the threat of nuclear annihilation at its own peril.

Closer Than You Think

You would be stunned to know how close we are to a nuclear event. Yet consider. The only thing standing in the way are the fallible, occasionally egotistical and impulsive, governments of men.

Consider the rudimentary process for a nuclear strike, at least in America. *Vox* laid much of it out in a comprehensive and startling article titled “This Is Exactly How a Nuclear War Would Kill You.”

The first step may be the most jarring: The president decides a nuclear strike is necessary.

One man is the only thing standing in the way of the potential destruction of 7.5 billion people. Such sway is inconceivable.

To be fair, the actual process is considerably more multi-faceted than a single hand hovering over a button. In the event of a threat, the president and his military commanders deliberate over whether a nuclear retaliation is necessary. But, as the commander-in-chief, he alone is responsible for giving the official order to strike. President Putin and Mr. Kim no doubt carry similar authority (if not more).

From the moment the command to launch is made, nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles could be headed to their targets in as little as five minutes.

Realize that the entire system, no matter how smooth and efficient on paper, relies heavily on human involvement.

Hawaii’s false ballistic missile threat alarm in 2018 is a stark reminder of our system’s shortcomings. The island’s residents received a text message on their phones that read: “Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek shelter immediately. This is not a drill.”

The state’s governor later concluded that the warning and subsequent panic were caused by an employee pressing the “wrong button” during a shift change.

Are you nervous yet?

Mistakes like this make it abundantly clear that our government systems

are prone to collapse under “very little pressure,” as First Lieutenant Bruce Blair told *Harpers* in the article “How to Start a Nuclear War.” He served in the U.S. Air Force as a launch control officer for intercontinental missiles in the early 1970s.

The *Harpers* article harkened back to the series of government foul-ups in the moments following the attacks on September 11, 2001. Senior administrators could not communicate with one another. Almost none of the officials in line to succeed the president followed their assigned procedures for evacuation to secure locations. President Putin, alarmed by the attacks, could not get in touch with President George W. Bush since Air Force One, which was running out of fuel and trying to land, could not receive phone calls.

Nevertheless, the human element has saved the world from all-out nuclear war.

In 1983, Russian officer Stanislav Petrov, later known as “the man who saved the world,” decided to ignore a missile attack system’s erroneous warning of nuclear weapons inbound from the U.S.

One would hope humans would always be involved when it comes to the decision to launch nuclear weapons. (Though, near the end of the Cold War, it is believed the Soviets sought to develop a “dead hand” in the control of their nuclear arsenal. This means that if sensors detected signs of an incoming nuclear attack, Russia’s entire nuclear force would launch immediately with minimal human involvement to save precious time in retaliation.)

The human element, however, speaks to a fundamental flaw in calculating nuclear threats—the assumption of an enemy’s reaction to said threat.

How realistic is it to accurately pin down the motivations of leaders such as Russia’s Vladimir Putin? His assertions in the Ukraine or his nation’s encroachment on NATO territory could be interpreted (or misinterpreted) as pushing the world to the brink of conflict.

Please see **NUCLEAR WAR**, page 28

BREXIT

Through the Eyes of a Dutchman Living in London

BY WULPHERT DE GRAAF

IN SEPTEMBER 2016, months after the Brexit vote, I received a new assignment to pastor church members in the United Kingdom. I packed my bags and began to move from my home country, the Netherlands.

After giving notice to my employer in Holland and putting my house up for sale, I moved with all my belongings to an apartment in London in February 2017.

As a minister for The Restored Church of God, the publisher of this magazine, I travel frequently to visit Church congregations throughout the United Kingdom and continental Europe—from Belgium to Greece and everywhere in between. This allows me to see and hear many different perspectives on Britain's divorce from Europe.

More than two years after my move, the deadline for Brexit is now around the corner. The realities are looming large for me and those in my pastorate.

On March 29, the UK will depart from the EU. There is uncertainty over how businesses and citizens will be affected if the date passes without an exit agreement. British lawmakers on January 15 voted to reject Prime Minister Theresa May's EU divorce deal, and attempts to find a replacement have been gridlocked.

A growing number of UK firms have braced for disruption by stockpiling goods or shifting operations overseas. Nearly a third of the firms may shift their operations abroad because of Britain's looming departure.

"No deal is a possibility," said UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox.

If a no-deal Brexit does occur, it would also disrupt ordinary travel and trade. I live close to London's Stansted Airport, the city's third-busiest airport, which primarily hosts flights to Europe. And the ferry port of Dover is not too far from where I live either.

Both Stansted Airport and the port of Dover will be severely affected if there is *no deal* between the UK and the EU, as visas and customs would cause delays and cancellations.

Hard Borders

Perhaps the most disconcerting issue that could arise from a hard-Brexit is the resurgence of hard borders, particularly the only land border between the EU and UK: Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

One member in my pastorate who lives near the border said the reestablishment of hard borders could "bring Ireland back 25 years." She continued by recounting a story from her childhood.

"When I was young, the borders surrounding our area had army units.



PHOTO: BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The back roads were not manned. Main roads are. There are 283 main roads on the northern border while there are another 283 by roads that are not manned. These roads became inhibited by IRA smuggling. My dad had the end of a rifle pointed at him through a small opening in his window by men dressed in balaclavas. They wanted his car. My dad courageously refused to get out and told them he wanted to see their superior. Another man approached, also wearing a balaclava, who recognized my dad and said, 'On you go.'

"It is not physically possible for the EU to put a border between north and south. They simply don't have enough people to man the borders. Trying to do so would only bring back smuggling. When we used to have a border, there were only 10 official border crossings. The customs had mobile units on the road all the time trying to catch smugglers.

"On the front of our local newspaper, the headline stated, 'Gardai [Irish police force] looking for volunteers to man the border.'



“Is this a sign of things to come? We will have to wait and see.”

Uncertainty, Division and Fatigue

A member who lives in London stated, “The uncertainty is worrying many, it’s causing complications for some, and warnings of food shortages and dire consequences are abundant.”

Food shortages would come because “one third of the UK’s fresh produce comes from the continent via Calais and into Dover,” another member stated. “There is only a 24-hour window for this to be achieved to keep products fresh, and that is very unlikely to be maintained with the bureaucracy that will surely come with Brexit.”

“Those living in the southeast of the country will see more congestion on the roads while large heavy goods vehicles have to stack up on the motorways, due to the increased time it will take them to be processed through the ports. Plans to ease the situation include the opening of a large disused airfield to hold these container lorries. This will inevitably push up the price of food in the UK.”

So, for me and the members in the Church naturally there are causes for concern. Major delays at vital transportation hubs would make it more difficult for members to travel into and out of the country for church functions.

Brexit has led to a lot of anxiety in the British populace. “Brexit fatigue” has begun to affect citizens so much so that some who voted “Yes” to Brexit are stating they regret their decision simply because it has been such a long, tiring process.

Another member noted the polarizing effect of the divide among the British citizenry: “What’s striking is the level of tribalism that’s forming. The country is divided almost down the middle with those who voted in 2016 to leave becoming increasingly agitated and feeling betrayed because a second referendum, which is increasingly likely, would render their vote to leave useless. Some ‘Leave’ voters are so dejected, they have gone as far as to say they wish they’d never trusted the government to deliver the ‘will of the people.’ Others have even said they wish they had voted to remain because the withdrawal agreement seems worse than the current relationship. Those who voted to remain seem gleeful at the turmoil within the government and countless humiliations the prime minister has endured both home and away trying to secure her deal.

“There is a very real possibility of rioting in the streets and the government reportedly has 3,500 armed forces personnel on standby should Britain leave the EU with no deal. There is equal possibility of unrest should there be a second referendum. The UK is headed into an ominous and precarious future.”

I have heard firsthand stories from Polish workers who complained about the pound dropping in value and thus resulting in less zlotys (Polish currency) going to their family members on the Continent. The Polish are to a large extent the English workforce, and their departure if economic conditions continue to deteriorate could devastate the UK economy.

European Perspective

Those in other European countries do not always understand why Britain chose to leave the union. My homeland, the Netherlands, is one of the biggest UK partners in trade and the British heavily rely on Europe’s biggest harbor, which is in Rotterdam. A separation between the two nations would negatively affect this relationship.

France’s government has scrambled to detail a readiness plan in the case of a no-deal Brexit. Its parliament adopted a law allowing emergency measures including things like extra customs officers after Brexit, and a temporary rule allowing Britons employed in France to keep their jobs.

Among other European nations, the debate in Britain over the past two years has, according to a member in Hungary, “widened the divide between those who are liberals, who believe in open borders and welcome migrants, and those who believe in nation states, protected borders, and all the ideologies that come with it.”

Poorer European countries, mostly those in the east, do not understand why Britain would leave the EU because they have seen their economies revive and standards of living increase as a result of being in the EU. For them, leaving the EU means leaving the stability and the prosperity it has brought to them since the Berlin Wall fell.

But whether understood or not, we are left to see what will take place in the coming weeks when the deadline passes, and what the effects will be months, even years out.

Restored Church of God members here in England are understandably uncertain about the Brexit ordeal, but they understand that their lives are in God’s capable hands and are therefore not dreading the future.

Readers of this magazine do not have to be in the dark about the future of Britain, either. Read our book *America and Britain in Prophecy* (reg.org/aabibp) so you can arm yourself with confidence in these uncertain times. □



What Your
Minister
Won't Tell You About
EASTER

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

HAVE YOU HEARD this Easter story? In the spring of the year, King Herod began persecuting the early New Testament Church. The apostle John's brother James was martyred with a sword—soon after Peter was imprisoned.

Acts 12:4 continues the story stating that when Herod (grandson of Herod the Great) had apprehended Peter, “he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after *Easter* to bring him forth to the people.”

God intervened and Peter was rescued before Herod could hatch his plan. The angel of the Lord visited the apostle, his shackles fell off, and he walked out. A miraculous escape!

...a miraculous *Easter* escape?

Realize this is the *only* place in the King James Bible the word *Easter* occurs. The original Greek word, however, is *pascha*—meaning Passover. In truth, Acts 12 is talking about the Days of Unleavened Bread mentioned in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23.

Every other Bible translation does not say *Easter* in this account. Even the New King James version says Passover. The fact is, *Easter's* tie to Christ's death and resurrection *cannot* be found in the Bible!

Holy Week, as it is called—the period between Palm Sunday and *Easter*—is the busiest time of year for faithful Protestants and Catholics. The other observances

during this period are Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Have you ever heard your minister say WHY you keep these days? Sure, there are stated reasons they are observed. For one, they point to some of the most monumental events in human history.

Yet has your minister given you BIBLE PROOF why you should be keeping these days? Have you seen—IN GOD’S OWN WORD—why you should attend church services four times in the spring?

Just like the word Easter, many other long-held traditions have no biblical backing. Yet you will never hear your minister utter one word about this—let alone what God’s Word *really* says.

All in a Name

With Easter absent from the Bible text, where it does come from is profound. The answer is found in the name of the holiday itself.

The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states that “the origin of the term for the feast of Christ’s Resurrection has been popularly considered to be from the Anglo-Saxon *Eastre*, a goddess of spring...the Old High German plural for dawn, *eostarun*; whence has come the German *Ostern*, and our English *Easter*.”

Catholics admit Easter comes from a *pagan* goddess of spring!

A Manual of Church History adds to this: “The fact that vernal festivals were general among pagan peoples no doubt had much to do with the form assumed by the Eastern festival in the Christian churches. The English term *Easter* is of pagan origin.”

The book *Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints’ Days* states this also: “On this greatest of Christian festivals, several survivals occur of *ancient heathen ceremonies*. To begin with, the name itself is not Christian but pagan. *Ostara* was the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring” (emphasis added).

Do not miss the words “ancient heathen ceremonies.” The practice of Easter predates the birth of Christ!

Should you be celebrating Easter? The name *itself* is that of a false goddess.

This is no different from saying, “I am celebrating Baal.” Or, “I observe a day called Moloch.” Any Bible student knows what God says about those false deities.

If you ask your minister about this, you will likely get a stock answer. Perhaps you have even heard it before.

“We changed the meaning of the day. Now it relates to Christ’s resurrection,” goes the common thinking. “Even though there are different historical origins, it is now an important Church holiday.”

Easter is loaded with symbols and practices from paganism and fertility rites. Our booklet *The True Origin of Easter* (rcg.org/ttooe) has the full story.

It does not matter what you think or what you are told by others regarding Easter. What matters is what God thinks. How *He* feels about adopting heathen practices.

Jeremiah 10:2 reveals the plain answer: “Thus says the LORD, *Learn not the way of the heathen*, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”

Heathen practices should not be followed, adopted or adapted to serve God. How plain!

Matthew 15:9 adds to this: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Easter as a doctrine is a commandment of men. You have seen the proof. It is simply not found in God’s Word.

Yet there *are* clear days in the Bible you should keep, and many of them fall right around Easter. More on that later.

How Long in the Tomb?

According to traditional teaching, Jesus was crucified on Friday and was resurrected on Sunday morning.

The Catholic catechism puts it this way: “Mary Magdalene and the holy women who came to finish anointing the body of Jesus, which had been buried in haste because the Sabbath began on the evening of Good Friday, were the first to encounter the Risen One...Everything that happened during those Paschal days involves each of the apostles—and Peter in particular—in the building of the new era begun on Easter morning.”

Do the math. Friday evening until Sunday morning is 36 hours. Is this how much time Jesus said He would be in the grave? Does it really matter?

Matthew 12:39-40 reveals the answer is significant. Jesus said this to scribes and Pharisees who were seeking a sign: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall *the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*”

How long Jesus would be dead is of crucial importance! He declared He would show *one* sign. He said He would be dead and buried for three whole days and three whole nights—72 hours.

So which day is off: Good Friday or Easter Sunday? The answer is both!

John 19:14 explains that Jesus’ crucifixion landed on “the preparation of the Passover.” Verse 31 further states “for that sabbath day was a high day.”

What does this mean?

An extended quote from our booklet *Christ’s Resurrection Was Not on Sunday* reveals the answer in detail.

“Any Jew will tell you that a ‘high day’ is a FEAST DAY or an ANNUAL HOLY DAY! Leviticus 23 describes seven of these days that the nation of ancient Israel was commanded to keep year by year. A simple review of this chapter (verses 24, 26-32 and 39) reveals that God considered these days to be Sabbaths. Notice that Leviticus 23:2 refers to all of these Sabbaths as ‘the feasts of the LORD’ and ‘even these are My feasts.’ This same verse also calls them ‘holy convocations’—meaning commanded assemblies. These days do not fall on the same day, year after year, any more than do the common pagan holidays that most people observe today.

“Matthew 26:2 states, ‘You know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.’ (Leviticus 23 shows that the Passover was the one feast that was not also a Sabbath, wherein work was prohibited.) There is no doubt that Christ was crucified on the Passover.”

Please see **EASTER**, page 23



Remembering Rwanda

100 DAYS OF TERROR





The world said “never again!” after the Holocaust, only to see the 20th century close with a genocide that left people dead at a rate three times faster. At the 25th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, we ask: Why could it not be stopped?

BY DAVID J. LITAVSKY

TWO EVENTS IN 24 hours sparked the greatest tragedy of the 1990s.

First, two missiles cut through the evening calm in the capital Kigali and downed a jet airliner carrying Rwanda’s President Juvenal Habyarimana. Though no evidence was discovered to support the claim, the military presidential guard blamed the attack on the minority ethnic group—the Tutsi.

The following morning, a military commander’s voice crackled on radios nationwide: “Cut down the tall trees! Crush the *inyenzi* [cockroaches]!” These were code words for the Tutsi. The Hutu majority—from police to peasants—were given orders to utterly destroy the minority group.

The declaration on April 7, 1994, unleashed waves of Interahamwe, unofficial militia, to hack their way through the entire Tutsi population. United Nations peacekeeping forces, outmanned and outgunned, stood back and watched.

With machetes and small arms—neighbor against neighbor and family member against family member—Rwandans were murdered at a pace three times faster than Jews in the Holocaust.

“It almost seemed as if, with the machete, the nail-studded club, a few well-placed grenades, and a few bursts of

■ The skulls and bones of victims killed during the Rwanda genocide on display in the Nyamata Church (March 12, 2014).

PHOTO: PHIL MOORE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



PATH TO GENOCIDE

1894

Germany colonizes Rwanda.

1918

Belgium assumes control of Rwanda.

1933

Belgians mandate Rwandans have cards identifying them as Tutsi, Hutu or Twa.

1959

Hutu rebellion against Tutsis and Belgians; approximately 100,000 Tutsi killed.

July 1, 1962

Rwanda gains independence from Belgium.

April-May 1972

After a failed coup by Hutu rebels, Burundi's Tutsi President Michel Micombero declares martial law, resulting in the murder of up to 300,000 Hutus.

July 5, 1973

Hutu Major General Juvenal Habyarimana takes control of Rwanda in a bloodless coup.

December 1987

The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a Tutsi armed political group, is formed in Uganda.

October 1, 1990

RPF invades Rwanda, starting a civil war.

July 8, 1993

RTLM (Radio Television Libre des Milles Collines) begins broadcasting propaganda messages of hatred toward Tutsi.



automatic-rifle fire, the quiet orders of Hutu Power had made the neutron bomb obsolete,” American reporter Philip Gourevitch wrote from Rwanda for *The New Yorker*.

The scenes of the killing are nothing short of horrifying.

In the town of Kibuye, Tutsi fleeing the marauding Interahamwe were advised by their governor to gather in a church.

“They soon realized their mistake,” *The Guardian* reported. “The church was perched atop a small peninsula jutting into Lake Kivu...there was nowhere to flee. Some Tutsis ran to the water only to be attacked by men in boats. The genocidaire tossed grenades into the lake just as they used explosives to catch fish.”

Thousands were slaughtered there in a single day. The newspaper reported of a rare survivor of that attack named Lucie. Even decades later, she has made a living of washing the skulls of the dead.

In just 100 days, up to 1 million Rwandans were killed. Most were Tutsi, though some 10,000 Hutu lives were taken for refusing to take part in the systematic murder.

The genocide has taken its place among the killing fields across the world borne of ethnic hatred: The Ottoman Empire’s Armenian genocide during World War I, the Holocaust, the Soviet Union’s systematic starvation of Ukraine, Bangladesh in 1971, the killing of Hutus in Burundi, Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, Mayans in Guatemala, Kurds in Iraq, Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

And, if we are under any illusion that it could not happen again, recently we witnessed the killings by Islamic State militants, the purging of Rohingya from Myanmar, and the persecution of Uyghur in China.

Humanity is left to ask after each tragedy: How does an ethnicity come to be seen as LESS THAN HUMAN? How can mass killing be stopped?

And this is perhaps what makes what occurred in Rwanda so unspeakable—beyond the carnage itself. The international community, including those who had the most power to stop the genocide, had plenty of warning that large-scale violence was going to occur.

Reflecting on the fact the UN was unable to intervene, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on the 10th



■ Young militia forces sit in a hidden truck near a church in Kigali where 2,000 Tutsi refugees were gathered (June 22, 1994).

PHOTO: ABDELHAK SENNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

anniversary of the slaughter: “Such crimes cannot be reversed. Such failures cannot be repaired. The dead cannot be brought back to life. So what can we do?”

On the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan killings, we revisit a question: How did it come to this?

Artificially Divided

The causes of the Rwanda genocide certainly run much deeper than a single plane crash and a few trigger words. The scale of death and violence revealed a fundamental, deep-seated hatred.

It is unclear precisely where the ethnic hatred between the Tutsi and Hutu developed. The two peoples have coexisted in Rwanda for centuries—speaking the same language, living in the same lands, practicing the same religion (Christianity) and following the same cultural standards.

If judging by appearance, “There is no clear-cut distinction in the physical features between the two,” Genetic Literacy Project explained. “Even for

Rwandans, during the genocide, some Tutsi survived because they were mistaken for Hutu, while some Hutu mistaken for Tutsi were killed.”

Rwandans were never thought of as two tribes until they were more distinctly labeled by colonists in the early 20th century. Their labels developed to describe people of a particular rank—Hutu referred to peasants, Tutsi referred to nobles.

Genetic Literacy Project paints a fuller picture: “Many researchers have traced the origins of the conflict to pre-colonial Rwanda. While the Hutu are known to be a Bantu population from central and southern Africa, understanding the precise background of the Tutsi poses a challenge to scholars. One popular theory, derived from Rwandan folklore and a diversity of research efforts, traces the origin of the Tutsi to the Horn of Africa, and more specifically to what is today Ethiopia. According to this theory, migrating populations from the Horn of Africa somehow occupied Rwanda and formed a monarchy around the sixteenth century. A hierarchical social system is thought to have evolved. The *Ganwa*, the elite ruling class,

were at the top; below them were the *Tutsi* cattle herders; and they were followed by the majority of the population, *Hutu* farmers. Under this theory, both the *Ganwa* and Tutsi eventually adopted the local language and were assimilated into the mainstream culture and religion of the Rwanda region. Over time, the *Ganwa* were essentially absorbed by the Tutsi; thus the Tutsi became the most powerful group in the monarchy.

“When the Belgians arrived in Rwanda in the early twentieth century, they allowed the Tutsi to continue their leadership under colonial supervision. The Tutsi were, accordingly, granted better opportunities than the Hutu, which would have exacerbated tension between the two groups. Moreover, the colonial system allowed the Tutsi easier access to education and placed them in superior administrative positions.”

“Later in their rule, the Belgians came to redefine the boundaries between the two groups by economic status, more so than by ethnicity. In the early 1930s, for example, the Belgians in Burundi classified an owner with ten or more cows as Tutsi and a poor citizen as Hutu regardless of ethnic iden-

DAYS OF TERROR

April 6, 1994

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane is shot down.

April 7

Hutu extremists kill political opponents, including the prime minister.

April 9

Gikondo massacre: Hundreds of Tutsis sheltering in a Catholic Church are killed. It is the first clear sign of genocide against the Tutsi.

April 15-16

Thousands of Tutsis are murdered in churches in Nyarubuye and Ntarama by grenades, machetes, clubs and gunfire.

April 18

The Kibuye massacres: An estimated 12,000 Tutsis sheltering at the Gatwaro stadium in Gitesi are killed, and another 50,000 are killed in the hills of Bisesero.

April 28-29

Approximately 250,000 people, mostly Tutsi, flee to Tanzania.

May 23

The Rwandan Patriotic Front takes control of the presidential palace in Kigali.

July 5

The UN sends 2,500 French troops to create a safe zone in the southwest of Rwanda.

July 13

Approximately 1 million Hutus flee to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

July 18

The Rwanda genocide officially ends when the RPF takes control of the country.

tity. Another colonial policy, of similar effect, involved the introduction of an ID card that allowed a citizen to change ethnic identity, either to Hutu or Tutsi, though a certain fee was required.”

By 1962, Belgium relinquished control and granted Rwanda and its southern neighbor Burundi, which had a large population of Hutu and Tutsi, independence. Ethnic tension boiled over during this freedom, resulting in multiple lesser-known genocides prior to 1994. For instance, Hutu riots in 1959 left more than 20,000 Tutsi dead and many more fled to neighboring countries. In 1972, the Tutsi slaughtered up to 200,000 Hutu in Burundi.

These only served to build up tension culminating in the 1994 killings, which were so severe and widely publicized that it seemed it could never happen again. At least one would hope...

Hatred Hides

The 100-day genocide ended when a Tutsi military force from Uganda called the Rwandan Patriotic Front

■ Left, family photos of victims of the 1994 Rwanda genocide hang inside the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center (April 5, 2014). A survivor stands in the church of Ntarama where some of her relatives were killed during the massacre (April 24, 2007).

PHOTOS: CHIP SOMODEVILLA/ (LEFT); YORAY LIBERMAN/ (RIGHT); GETTY IMAGES

(RPF) took control of the capital Kigali. Fearing retribution, two million Hutus fled to Rwanda's western neighbor, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Rwanda's now Tutsi-led government has since twice invaded the DRC in an effort to wipe out Hutu forces there implicated for the genocide.

The result: a reverse genocide, as those who were being killed sought to turn the tables on their attackers.

“In 2010, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report documenting serious violations of international humanitarian law in DR Congo between 1993 and 2003,” *BBC* reported.

“It estimated tens of thousands of civilians, mainly Rwandan Hutu refugees and Congolese Hutus, were killed.”

“It accused Rwanda of war crimes and suggested certain crimes committed in the DR Congo between 1996 and 1998 could amount to genocide against the Hutu population—accusations flatly rejected by Rwanda's government.”

Since then, much of the conflict that has occurred in the DRC is the result of the Rwanda genocide. Armed groups in the Congo continued the fight against the Tutsi Rwandan government. The Tutsi has responded by



backing groups in Congo to fight the Hutu. One of these, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo, “was the first of several Rwandan-backed groups to take up arms in DR Congo,” *BBC* described.

“Uganda financed several others and dozens of local self-defense militias emerged in the late 1990s, initially as a reaction to the foreign or foreign-backed groups, to defend local communities—which were in turn armed by the Congolese government.

“Today there are more than 30 armed militias in eastern DR Congo still making a living from the region’s minerals—trafficking, poaching, taxing and pillaging.”

Hutu and Tutsi militias continue to clash in eastern Congo. And though a 13,500-strong UN peacekeeping mission is stationed in the region—the largest such mission in the world—it has struggled to protect civilians and contain the fighting since its arrival in 2014.

Meanwhile, Rwanda today is still working to undo decades of ethnic animosity by disbanding the labels Tutsi and Hutu. Genocide participants are expected by the government to apologize for their actions, and Tutsi survivors are supposed to accept their pleas for forgiveness.

But is this approach removing the deep-rooted hatred between the ethnicities? Or is it merely pushing it under the surface?

At the church in Kibuye, a former Interahamwe participant now sweeps leaves from a mass grave of 4,500 Tutsi. “He is short, with the same tightly cropped beard and haunted look I encountered in 1994 a few weeks after the church massacre, when the stench of the dead tossed just outside its walls still overwhelmed Sunday mass,” Chris McGreal of *The Guardian* reported. “Members of the congregation held cloths over their faces as they prayed, and then emerged to blame the Tutsis for their own deaths.

“Lucie [the Tutsi survivor of the church massacre] reminds me that the man’s name is Thomas Kanyeperu and that he had been the church groundsman. She says he served nine years in prison for genocide. ‘He said he didn’t do it,’ she tells me. ‘He said he saved Tutsis. Maybe he saved some Tutsis but he killed others. Even today he hates us. Ask him. You’ll see.’”

Never-ending Cycle?

Following the second world war and the horrors of the Holocaust, the newly born United Nations established The Convention on the Prevention and

Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It defined genocide as acts committed “with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”

In an article released on the 24th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, stated that genocides do not take place “all of a sudden.”

“Genocide is a process. The Holocaust did not start with the gas chambers. It started with hate speech.”

The article continued: “In Rwanda and Bosnia, too, mass killings followed escalating hate speech and dehumanization.”

The organization stated that, in order to prevent future genocides, world powers must intervene. Yet the same article bewailed today’s “rise of racism, hate speech and xenophobia around the world.” It also noted that—despite saying “never again” after previous genocides—today we witness the “brutal persecution of the Rohingya, which has caused more than one million members of the ethnic and religious minority to flee to Bangladesh,” and “atrocities against civilians in Syria and South Sudan.”

As these events continue on, will the world be stuck in a continuous



“Rwanda today is still working to undo decades of ethnic animosity by disbanding the labels Tutsi and Hutu.”



“Genocide reveals that an entire population can turn against others it once deemed neighbors, friends, even relatives.”

■ A Hutu refugee boy bears scars from a machete attack that occurred during the 1994 genocide (1996).

PHOTO: REZA/GETTY IMAGES

loop of saying “never again,” again and again?

How It Will End

One of the few Americans to stay behind in Rwanda and witness the genocide said, “In each one of us, there’s such a potential for good and there’s such a potential for evil” (*Frontline*).

Genocide may be the ugliest side of the human spectrum. It reveals that an entire population can turn against others it once deemed neighbors, friends, even relatives. It also reveals mankind is utterly capable of letting “simple” hatred boil over into a full-blown desire to eliminate an entire race.

Think again of all the genocides in just the past 100 years. Despite the horrifying scale of each of them, the hatred that started them has never truly went away. Anti-Semitism is still alive and well. Tutsi and Hutu continue to seek one another’s throats.

Mankind must recognize that hatred is the reason for murder. Without changing his disposition and proclivity to hate, genocide is inevitable. And, sadly, all it takes for human beings to

hate is to recognize differences in others, whether real or perceived.

Readers of this magazine know that man’s efforts do not stop his greatest problems. The reason for this is he addresses the **EFFECTS**, not the *root causes*, of these problems. (Read *Why Man Cannot Solve His Problems* at rcg.org/uun to better understand this subject.)

Yet God hates violence. Psalm 11:5 states, “The LORD tries the righteous: but the wicked and him that loves violence His soul loathes.” He never intended mankind to remain in this miserable state. His solution is to address the **CAUSE**.

As the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2), the devil makes this extraordinarily difficult without God’s help. Satan routinely sends thoughts of confusion, deceit, anger, pride, hate, vanity, jealousy, lust, greed, envy, rebellion and much more directly into people’s thinking. It is this kind of thinking behind the tragedy in Rwanda and other wicked incidences both large and small.

Yet, from God’s perspective, human beings were designed to change! Change starts with each individual choosing to do good over doing evil—even in the face of pressure.

Our booklet *Why Do You Exist?* explains this by quoting a verse in

Romans: “Because the carnal [physical] mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (8:7).

The book continues: “This verse offers startling insight into the working of every person’s physical—‘carnal’—mind. Cut off from God, the natural mind is His **ENEMY**—it hates Him.”

To eliminate hate and stop genocide from ever happening, *each* person must go through a process of rejecting his own nature and turning to God’s perfect nature.

The booklet continues: “God has perfect character in all respects. He *is* love. Remember, love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10; I John 5:3), which requires yielding to God. It is outgoing, outflowing concern for others, putting them first—ahead of self-interests.

“Satan’s nature is selfish, incoming and concerned only with what is best for self and how to get more for self.”

“You were created to become like God—to build perfect, holy, righteous character.”

Read the rest of the *Why Do You Exist?* (rcg.org/wdye) to see how each person must, with God’s help, change this world of violence to ensure genocide will truly happen “never again.” □

EASTER

Continued from page 15

Read our free booklet *How Often Should the Lord's Supper Be Taken?* to learn more about this subject. You can access it at rcg.org/hostlsbt.

The quote continues: "The Old Testament Passover always preceded the annual Sabbath called the first Day of Unleavened Bread. This day was a high day or a feast day to be celebrated each year, again, on the day immediately following the Passover. Notice Numbers 28:16-17: 'And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast.' This feast was the first Day of Unleavened Bread.

"Jesus Christ was slain by crucifixion on the exact same day that the Passover lamb had been slain every year... Christ was crucified on the Passover and this day then would automatically be a preparation day for the feast day, or annual high day Sabbath—which was to begin almost immediately after His burial.

"As mentioned, annual Sabbaths could occur on any day of the week. Tuesday and Thursday are more common than any other day for the first Day of Unleavened Bread, following the Passover. Thursday is probably the most common of all. For instance, in the thirty-six years (counting inclusively) between 1998 and 2033, the first Day of Unleavened Bread occurs on a Thursday 12 times, and on a Tuesday 10 times. All other days are less often during this period. In the year of Christ's crucifixion, according to the Hebrew calendar, the Passover occurred on a Wednesday! This means that the annual Sabbath had to be one day later—or Thursday! It was, in fact, THIS SABBATH that was approaching, thus requiring the swift burial of Jesus' body prior to its arrival. The weekly Sabbath, or Saturday, was to occur two days after that."

Re-read this last paragraph until it becomes crystal clear. When all the facts are in, the day of Christ's resurrection is simple. Three days and three nights from Wednesday evening is Saturday evening. THIS is when Jesus came out of the tomb.

Realize what this means: Jesus Christ was NOT resurrected on Sunday. You have seen the proof in your Bible! With this information comes an all-important decision you must make...

Decision Point

Back up and look at Christendom as a whole. Almost every denomination uses Christ's *Sunday* resurrection as proof that you should keep Sunday. You have seen this is utterly false thinking. Coming off this, what day should you keep?

The Bible answer is again plain. In fact, you likely have already memorized the answer, which is found in Exodus 20: "Remember *the sabbath day*, to keep it holy" (vs. 8). Any Sunday school student knows this as one of the Ten Commandments!

If pressed, many ministers will state it is good to set aside a day or parts of a few days to rest and recuperate. However, almost none will state definitively that the Sabbath is a specific day.

But God states it *is* one day. Keep reading in Exodus: "Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD your God: in it you shall not do any work... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (vs. 9-11).

Count the days of the week. The seventh is Saturday. God leaves no wiggle room here, and He wants that specific day kept! (Note that this should be set aside from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday.)

Begin to ask yourself, "Am I ready to keep the seventh-day Sabbath as God commands?"

What about yearly observances such as Easter, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday—all of which commemorate biblical events? These are based on ancient heathen customs, but there *are* annual Holy Days God commands to keep.

God is clear what days He wants you to keep in the spring. These are the very same days Jesus Himself kept. Yet, again, your minister will never tell you to keep them. Recall that Christ's crucifixion

happened on the Passover leading into the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Ministers will tell you "this was done away" or "those days were kept for you by Christ."

Exodus 12:17 contains a command of God: "And you shall observe the feast of unleavened bread...by an ordinance forever."

This command was not "done away." It is "by an ordinance forever."

Will you believe your Bible? Forever means forever!

The New Testament Church knew this. It continued to keep God's Holy Days after Christ ascended into heaven. Paul told the Corinthians to keep the Days of Unleavened Bread: "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us *keep the feast*, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Cor. 5:7-8).

The *only* thing Paul could be talking about here is keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread!

All of God's Holy Days—seven altogether—have specific instructions tied to them. They can be found throughout Scripture and are intended to demonstrate God's incredible plan of salvation for all mankind.

Most people never question their beliefs. This is especially true of cherished religious traditions. Do not believe what your minister tells you about Easter or any other manmade holiday. Do not go off what you were taught in Sunday school or by your parents. Instead, *investigate* God's Word. He is clear what weekly day you should keep holy. He is clear what annual Holy Days you should keep—with detailed instructions on how to observe them properly.

But you have to do the work. To understand more on biblical feast days, request your free copies of *God's Holy Days or Pagan Holidays?* and *Saturday or Sunday – Which Is the Sabbath?* at rcg.org.

While reading, open up your Bible and PROVE for yourself what God wants! □

7 Ways to Lead Your Child to Success!

Forty percent of United States marriages end in divorce. Ninety percent of cohabitating parents in the United Kingdom split up before their children reach age 16. While such worldwide trends severely limit potential futures of sons and daughters, your family does not have to be a statistic.

WHEN A MOTHER first gazes into the sweet face of her newborn daughter, she does not imagine a life of chaos, anger or violence. She pictures giggles, sticky fingers and pink tutus. A father envisions teaching his son to build a tree house or watching him score his first touchdown.

Parents do not aspire for their little ones to lead lives filled with failure, poor decisions and drug use. But such circumstances are common. Modern parents must navigate a minefield of seemingly impossible situations: living in unhappy marriages, coping with the stress of being a single mom or dad, holding down multiple jobs to provide for a family...the list could go on.

Amid it all, children are often the first casualty.

The United States Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families reported that fathers play a significant role in their children's well-being: "One study of school-aged chil-

dren found that children with good relationships with their fathers were less likely to experience depression, to exhibit disruptive behavior, or to lie and were more likely to exhibit prosocial behavior."

"This same study found that boys with involved fathers had fewer school behavior problems and that girls had stronger self-esteem. In addition, numerous studies have found that children who live with their fathers are more likely to have good physical and emotional health, to achieve academically, and to avoid drugs, violence, and delinquent behavior."

Regarding mothers, researchers found that a mom's affection "physically changes the brain." According to LiveScience, "Brain images have now revealed that a mother's love physically affects the volume of her child's hippocampus [an area of the brain important for emotional recognition and coping with stress]. In the study, children of nurturing mothers had hippocampal volumes 10 percent larger than children whose mothers were not as nurturing."

When both a mother and father are in the home, "Children...are better off emotionally, socially and economical-

ly, according to a review of marriage research..." (*USA Today*).

Most savvy parents who want to help their sons and daughters be successful have read the statistics. They agree that effective parenting is a key to securing a positive future for their children. But what does this mean? In a world that is constantly bombarded with stresses that did not exist 50 years ago, how can parents rear truly balanced children?

Even though proper parenting may seem impossible in the 21st century, there are certain time-tested principles that can help you beat the odds.

Proper Foundation

Consider for a moment. What is the foundation of your knowledge on parenting? How your mother and father reared you? Books by psychologists? Past experience?

Each of these can have some merit, but you must be certain that the parenting advice is based on fact. You want to use a sure-fire *instruction manual* that clearly breaks down the basic principles.

Science has proven that a stable home with both a mother and father provides the best chance of success for children. Although this research has been done by modern scientists, all they really have done is catch up to what was written about parenting thousands of years ago.

While it often sits collecting dust on bookshelves, the Bible contains everything needed to guide parents—and their children—to have happy and fulfilling lives. This Book—which can



be likened to an Instruction Manual for mankind—is brimming with crucial principles that every parent should know.

As already established, mankind knows that a strong marriage produces children that “are better off emotionally, socially and economically.” A big reason for this is that a husband-and-wife team is better at taking on problems life throws at them. The Bible book of Ecclesiastes summarizes this principle: “Two are better than one...though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him...” (4:9, 12, *Revised Standard Version*). (To learn about this principle, read our booklet *You Can Build a Happy Marriage* at reg.org/ycbahm.)

A couple becomes even stronger when children are added. The last part of verse 12 makes this clear: “A three-fold cord is not quickly broken.”

In society today, there are times when single parenting is a necessity due to circumstances. In such a situation, your child is not doomed. As a parent, though, you will need to work harder than ever to raise your child correctly. Focus on your strengths and accept your weaknesses. Tap your social circle to fill in where you may fall short. If you are

a single mother to a son, seek out good examples of uncles, grandfathers, male teachers and coaches who can teach your son what it means to be a man. Single fathers of girls can do the same. Aunts, grandmothers and the mothers of classmates can all help you guide your daughter on the path to womanhood.

Proverbs 22 contains the secret to successful childrearing: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (vs. 6).

The key word here is train. Mothers and fathers must constantly and consistently teach their children everything they need to know, starting with right principles found in the Bible.

The following are seven training points to equip your child for success.

Teach Loyalty

Parents, teach your children that they represent the family name. They should understand that their actions can bring either praise or disgrace to their parents, siblings and extended family.

Honoring the family name is part of the Fifth Commandment, which requires everyone, regardless of age, to honor his or her father and mother. Proverbs 19:26 expounds on this all-important command:

“He that wastes his father, and chases away his mother, is a

son that causes shame, and brings reproach.”

A child and young adult can “waste” his father’s name by not being conscientious, diligent and responsible. Likewise, a son or daughter can “chase away” his or her mother by rejecting her counsel and advice. The ensuing results bring both shame and reproach to the family name.

One way to have your children invested in their family name is to teach them their ancestral history. Tell them about the accomplishments of your parents, grandparents and so on. As always, focus on examples of good character. Communicate to them the importance of responsibility and honor. Research your genealogy together and give your children the gift of knowing their roots.

The oldest son has a special place in the family and should set an example of upholding the family name. In ancient Israel, the eldest son received a double portion of a family’s inheritance (Deut. 21:17; Gen. 48:22; I Chron. 5:1). This did not mean that other siblings were of lesser value. Rather, for a firstborn son to earn his “double portion,” he had to work *doubly* hard!

Fathers should expect the oldest boy to set the standard among the children. They must prepare them to bear responsibility as soon as they are sufficiently mature. An eldest son can have a tremendously positive impact upon a family—or he can cause much harm! Teach him to make right decisions and to protect his sisters and younger brothers. Teach him the importance of honor and upholding high standards. His brothers and sisters will *naturally* want to follow him.

Understand Them

Society today is nothing like 30 years ago, or even 10 years ago. For example, 49 percent of boys and 47 percent of girls between the ages of 15 to 19 years old have engaged in oral sex, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Generations ago, most teens did not even know what that term meant!

Fathers and mothers must *understand* their children. Listen to them when they come to you. “Be swift to hear, slow to speak” (Jms. 1:19). Heed the lesson of Proverbs 18:13: “He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him.” Applying these verses will pay immeasurable dividends in your relationships with your children.

Fathers should empathize and feel compassion for their children. Such empathy usually comes more naturally to mothers, but fathers should strive to develop these qualities if they want to connect with their children.

A man’s compassion toward his son should be *genuine*, with care taken not to overreact and coddle him. For example, a good father will feel the pain of his child’s cut or skinned knee and wish in his mind that he could put himself in his son’s place. Yet he should be an example of self-control and show his son how to manage his emotions.

Listening to and understanding your children will yield positive results and help them build character.

Teach Morality

Young people should strive for high moral standards. God always blesses virtuous behavior, though it may not be immediately evident. Conversely, sin may *seem* “fun” for the moment, but it always leads to pain, misery and death (Prov. 16:25).

Children today battle tremendous pressures that encourage them to take shortcuts—to take the “easy way.” The expression “take it easy” sums up the current generation’s attitude toward hard work and honesty.

For example, many students of all ages believe cheating is acceptable. According to *The New York Times*, “Eric Anderman, a professor of educational psychology at Ohio State University, has been studying cheating in schools for decades. He says research shows that close to 85 percent of all kids have cheated at least once in some way by the time they

leave high school (boys tend to cheat a bit more than girls, although they might just be more likely to admit the transgression; otherwise, cheating is fairly uniform across demographic groups).”

Sexual activity among teenagers today is common, with those abstaining prior to marriage a shrinking minority.

Many think that teenagers use recreational drugs as a quick fix to cure unhappiness and depression. But a study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* showed conclusively that teenage sex and drug use *increased* depression. This report confirms God’s Word that sin both causes and spreads misery.

While teenagers are under tremendous pressure from their peers and society to act immorally, the responsibility lies with parents to teach their children right from wrong, good from evil. This education must start when they are young and should continue until adulthood.

Guard your children—especially when they are still younger—from evil influences. In I Corinthians 15:33, Paul clearly states that association with poorly behaved children will corrupt your own: “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals’” (*New American Standard Bible*).

While they should strive to be well-rounded, do not allow them to socialize with those who may have a negative influence on them. Teach your sons and daughters to associate with peers who strive for excellence in how they speak and behave.

Make your children aware of the evil around them through life’s daily lessons and the news. Instruct them to avoid destructive activities. Guide them and encourage them.

Both Parents Nurture and Admonish

Ephesians 6:4 exhorts fathers to be balanced: “...fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Some interpret this to mean that a father should never be stern or

resolute with his children. But that is *not* what this verse is stating!

“Admonition” means discipline, yet always tempered with mercy. “Nurture” refers to teaching. A father’s habitual hostility toward his children will “provoke a child to wrath.” A bitter father who continually heaps unreasonable demands and punishment upon his children can be 100 percent assured that they *will* be provoked to wrath—if not broken in spirit! A father who does not listen to his children and empathize with them is *unwise*. He is sure to bring misery upon his family and himself.

Fathers and mothers must *work together* to rear children, which includes teaching them and disciplining them when necessary. Parents must *share* this responsibility.

There can be a tendency for mothers to overly rely on fathers when it comes to administering discipline. While a father should not shirk this responsibility, it is best if a mother is also involved to create one “parental voice” in the household.

Children should never witness arguing or intense disagreement between parents. Such disagreements should be handled privately. Psalm 133:1 states, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” While this exhortation speaks of unity between Christians, it certainly should be practiced at home.

Instruct Children About Their Roles

There are (or *should* be) distinct differences in how males and females think. Parents should work to develop and nurture the characteristics and strengths that naturally apply to males and females.

Teach boys to be strong—mentally and physically. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 20:29, “The glory of young men is their strength.” At the earliest age possible, insist that your sons perform heavy work such as cutting and hauling wood for burning, helping with landscaping, painting a house, working on automobiles, or other activities that will cause them to sweat! Do not be

afraid to push them—expect them to perform. However, be keenly aware of their *real* limits (not just when they say they are tired). Also, recognize that some boys need more coaxing and supervision than others.

Along with strength and determination, teach boys to have a gentle nature and that “gentleness” is a part of godly character (Gal. 5:22). Some events and circumstances in life should be met with muscle and a square jaw, but toughness must be tempered with gentleness, especially when interacting with girls and women.

Girls should also be taught to be strong, but not to dominate. I Peter 3:7 reveals that women are *physically* weaker: “Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the *weaker vessel*, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

This does not mean that women are inferior to men. This verse shows that boys and young men must never “bully” or manhandle women, but rather be gentle and treat them with respect.

Girls must be taught to be emotionally and mentally strong. They need to understand that, though a wife’s role is to work under her husband’s authority, she should never allow herself to be abused—emotionally, physically or otherwise.

Regarding sexuality, Song of Solomon in the Bible addresses the difference between a young girl who is a “wall”—a virgin—and one who is a “door”—sexually promiscuous.

Parents should ask themselves: “Have we sat down with our daughter and taught her to save herself for marriage? Have we explained what Solomon meant and how she should be a wall and *not* a door? Or, have we made the mistake of assuming that she already knows?”

Teach your sons the same principles, and that being sexually active before marriage is not a sign of manhood. Both sons and daughters should be taught to save themselves for their

future spouses. How tragic that we live in a world that views traditional family values as antiquated and old-fashioned!

Teach your daughters to be strong and self-motivated like the highly valued woman described in Proverbs 31:10-31 as a “virtuous woman.” This woman, whose value is placed above rubies, knows how to properly handle money and organize and manage her household—not to mention her own business. She also nurtures her children, so much so that they call her blessed.

Help your daughters understand the importance of modest yet elegant clothing choices, and to not flaunt herself with what she wears. In this way, a mother should be an example and not wear clothing that is too tight or revealing.

Expect femininity from your daughter. A father should especially be aware of his daughter’s appearance and regularly compliment her. If properly trained and encouraged, daughters will naturally desire to be beautiful. They will understand what *real* beauty is as opposed to how Hollywood and the fashion industry define it.

Boys should also be encouraged to keep themselves well-groomed and to seek out classic fashions rather than modern trends that include pants that sag past the hips or are too tight.

If you teach your children their proper roles and responsibilities early in life, you will save them—and yourself—grief later.

Be Honorable

The Bible commands all children to honor their parents (Deut. 5:16) and you should teach your children to do just that. Make sure to lead by example. Your sons and daughters should see you honoring your own parents and others in positions of authority. Teach them that even though leaders make mistakes, they still deserve respect.

Be approachable. Your children should feel comfortable coming to you with questions and concerns. If and when your children confide in you—even if there is some criticism in the message—*listen!*

The phrase “I hate you,” spoken at any age and directed at any family member, should be dealt with swiftly by parents. Such words should not be allowed in any home. Modern psychology encourages parents to tolerate outbursts of anger from their children—but God does not!

Honoring parents is *not* optional.

Draw Together in Crises

Crises, which **are** sure to come, should bring parents and children together as one resolute unit. Notice: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for *adversity*” (Prov. 17:17). Even if your childhood was filled with bad conduct and unpleasant experiences—determine to make your children’s experiences better. Rearing them into adulthood can be difficult at times, but it can also bring some of the greatest blessings.

Prepare your family to meet and overcome difficulties by implementing these seven points into your daily lives. Constantly teach them to your children!

That said, parents must recognize when it is time to begin letting go. Children do grow up to become adults and must eventually make their own decisions. Prepare your children for life, but do not meddle in their affairs after they leave the nest. You can be sure that, if your relationship with them has been good, they will want your advice often and will come to you no matter how old they are.

As society continues to fall to pieces morally, all who desire to protect and strengthen their families must maintain biblical standards. No matter the circumstances, God always helps those who seek to obey Him.

Even in an unhappy world, happy families can still be built and maintained. To learn more about how you can bring up your child “in the way he should go” according to the standards outlined in the Bible, read David C. Pack’s *Train Your Children God’s Way* at reg.org/tuyc. This fact-filled book breaks down the complexities of 21st-century parenting and clearly outlines how to arm your child for success! □

NUCLEAR WAR

Continued from page 11

What about North Korea's Kim Jong Un, whose woefully outmatched military could use nuclear weapons "as part of a last gasp, twilight of the gods, pull the temple down upon themselves kind of move," as Bruce Klinger, a 20-year veteran of the CIA, put it.

Perhaps these and the seven other leaders of nuke-wielding nations would never go this far, but the bottom line is we are one human decision or miscalculation away from nuclear holocaust.

This should not sit well with the vast majority of us who could have absolutely nothing to do with the decision to end humanity.

Is There Hope?

A wise man once said that mankind only creates weapons he intends to use. This is not far-fetched. The fear this willingness generates is at the fundament of the mutually assured destruction doctrine or its latest iteration, which bases nuclear weapon deterrence on "usability."

■ A frontal view of four B-61 nuclear bombs at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana (Dec. 1, 1986).

PHOTO: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Man, in his creative genius, would utterly destroy himself if given the chance.

In the Bible, God spoke to this in the years following the Noachian Flood. As the Earth repopulated, mankind, all speaking the same language (Gen. 11:6), became focused and unified on a building project that directly violated God's purpose.

As God observed all that transpired, He recognized that men would succeed in this purpose, and to their own detriment, unless He intervened. To stop their progress, He chose to scatter them from one another and "confound [mix] their language, that they may not understand one another's speech" (vs. 7-8). God had to do this. Otherwise, He knew "nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6-8).

Our Creator demonstrated that He is willing to intervene in man's affairs for his own good—including preventing his complete destruction.

There is a coming time of "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21). It will be the worst time in human history. Scripture nowhere promises that nuclear weapons will not be involved. In fact, the tragedies in Japan that

ended the second world war leaves one to wonder if they will.

What *is* certain is, unless God intervenes, no flesh would be saved (vs. 22). All human beings would be wiped off the face of the planet.

But this is *not* what God ultimately wants. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9). Allowing weapons of mass destruction to proliferate and take out His most precious creation—human beings—flies in the face of this plan. This is why weapons must eventually be eradicated.

God promises He will "judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it" (Mic. 4:3-4). Reread and consider the reality of this detailed promise. Proper judgement. No oppressive regimes. No weapons. No war. Peaceful surroundings. No fear.

Notice human beings will be directly involved. By transforming weapons into agricultural equipment, man's genius will be turned from eliminating life to helping sustain it. Our creativity will be put to good use, allowing us to eventually enjoy the positive fruits of our labors. It will be a truly wonderful time.

The pathway to this utopia will be long and winding, but the destination is real and will be reached.

For more on this process, read our powerful booklet *How World Peace Will Come!* and the related booklet *How God's Kingdom Will Come – The Untold Story!* Both are available at rcg.org.

They reveal in exquisite detail the process through which nuclear weapons will be eliminated and how man can finally stop living in fear of war and instead live in anticipation of peace. □



PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

This is made possible by an unseen, unrecognized component of the mind. Without this invisible, non-physical element, mankind would be just another dumb beast!

Soul and Spirit

Let's now establish a basic Bible teaching. The patriarch Job wrote, "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding" (32:8). This statement is plain. God reveals that men possess a kind of spirit, called the "spirit in man." Fully understanding this spirit requires examination of other scriptures describing it.

But before looking into the truth of this matter we must understand and accept what the Bible does *not* say. To do this, we must examine the most popular fallacy taught and believed by countless millions.

Many read verses like the one in Job and conclude it is speaking about *immortal souls*. But is it? Is the phrase "spirit in man" synonymous with an "immortal soul" composed of spirit? Most people do not understand the relationship between men and souls. They assume human beings are born with immortal souls. The popular belief is that upon death the souls of sinners go to hell forever, and those of the just go to heaven forever, since all souls are supposedly immortal. Is this what the Bible teaches?

Romans 6:23 states that "the wages of sin is *death*," not life in hell. So, does God's Word somehow also teach that people have immortal souls? It does talk about souls, but in what context?

The Bible does teach there is a connection between men and souls. Notice: "The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

This does not say men *have* souls, but that they *are* souls. Adam became a soul—he was not *given* one. Then, almost immediately, God warned him,

"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you [not just your body] shall surely die" (vs. 16-17). When placed together, these three verses reveal that men *are* souls and that souls can *die*!

The prophet Ezekiel confirms Genesis. Twice he recorded, "The soul that sins, it shall *die*" (18:4, 20). Death is the *absence* of life. It is the discontinuance—the cessation—of life. Death is not life in another place.

Finally, on whether the soul can die, notice this: "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him [God] which is able to *destroy* both *soul* and *body in hell*" (Matt. 10:28).

The Bible says souls can be destroyed! According to this verse, they can be destroyed as much as *bodies*. All recognize that bodies eventually die and afterward naturally decompose. They are certainly destroyed due to the process of normal corruption. This verse explains God does the *destroying* of souls in hell! Bodies can die in many ways. Souls are destroyed in hell by God.

Let's consider the soul from another angle. We must be certain.

Human minds are differentiated from animal brains by intelligent thought. Presumably, if the dead are not dead, but are really still alive, then they must be capable of intelligent *thought*. They must at least be conscious of their surroundings. Let's consider a series of scriptures.

First is: "Put not your trust...in the son of man...His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day *his thoughts perish*" (Psa. 146:3-4). When people die, their thoughts end immediately—"in that very day." This verse is not compatible with the souls of the dead consciously suffering in a place of torment—or that souls are conscious in heaven. For instance, if the wicked are suffering in hell, they do not have *knowledge* they are. They are unaware of what is happening to them. We could ask: what kind of suffering is that?

The next verse is more direct: "For the living know that they shall die: *but the dead know not anything...*" (Ecc. 9:5). To the honest reader, there is no possible way to mistake the meaning here!

This is because, as Solomon stated, "That which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: *as the one dies, so dies the other*; yes, they have all one breath; so that *a man has no preeminence above a beast...All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again*" (Ecc. 3:19-20).

Now another verse: "The dead praise not the LORD, neither *any* that go down *into silence*" (Psa. 115:17). Death involves "silence." This does not square with the popular concept of millions of the souls of the dead wailing and screaming in agony. This would hardly be the sound of silence! And, if the souls of some of the dead go to heaven, we could ask, why are these not audibly praising God?

Psalms 6:5 adds that the dead experience no conscious memory: "For in death there is *no remembrance of You*: in the grave who shall give You thanks?" Could anyone seriously suggest that souls in heaven could perhaps experience human memories *but not be aware of God*—not "remember Him"? Be honest. Most people never read their Bibles.

You are now ready to discover what almost *no one* understands. While man is composed of flesh, he has a *non-physical* component, the spirit in man, which can only be known of by what God has revealed in His Holy Word.

Understand that man is made of physical matter—flesh. John 4:24 reveals that God is Spirit. God had to have a way for Himself (Spirit) to be able to work with and communicate with man (flesh). Later, we will understand more about the vital spirit connection between God and humans, and how it works.

Human Mind Versus Animal Brain

Now this passage: "...the LORD... stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth, *and forms the*

spirit of man within him” (Zech. 12:1). It is God who creates, designs and “forms” the spirit of man in each human being. All people possess this spirit. Notice: “The LORD, the God of *the spirits of all flesh*” (Num. 27:16). The One who creates all the spirits in men calls Himself the God of these spirits.

All physical creatures—men and animals—eventually die. Consider again: “A man has no preeminence above a beast...All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows the *spirit of man* that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?” (Ecc. 3:19-21). Solomon is not saying there is a spirit in beasts, but rather asks rhetorically, “Who knows?” Many verses reveal there is a spirit in man, but men are ignorant of this truth and of whether *animals* also have some kind of spirit. This verse shows that it cannot

be talking about mere breath, plainly something different.

Now notice this astonishing verse. The apostle Paul wrote, “For what man knows the things of a man, save [by] the *spirit of man* which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but [by] the *Spirit of God*” (I Cor. 2:11).

Do not try to “interpret” this scripture. Accept it for what it says. It interprets itself. This passage identifies two kinds of spirit—the *Spirit of God* and the *spirit of man*. They are not the same. Each provides a different function in acquiring knowledge, and this verse identifies how.

Human knowledge (“the things of a man”) is acquired because God has given men a *human* spirit. Paul’s inspired statement also makes clear that spiritual knowledge (“the things of God”) can only be acquired by the presence of the *Spirit of God*. This very

knowledge—that these two spirits exist and how they work—is in itself amazing knowledge! Think of it this way. Virtually no one has the knowledge about how either *physical* or *spiritual* knowledge is acquired!

Now recall Job’s statement, “There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding” (32:8). Job said exactly what Paul said. He identified this spirit, while distinguishing spiritual understanding (or knowledge) as something that comes from God—“the Almighty”—through His “inspiration.” This happens through the indwelling of the Spirit of God in converted minds.

Animals do not have the spirit in man. Animal *brains* are different from human *minds*. Humans are given this spirit from conception, allowing them, through use of the five senses, to acquire and retain knowledge. Without this unseen spirit element, mankind would be just another dumb beast. But he has been given the power to acquire, retain and use knowledge for all kinds of purposes.

All human beings were created by God to receive two entirely different spirits. One comes at conception, and the other by completely different means—repentance and baptism. Without the Spirit of God, people are *incomplete*. Their existence remains limited to what they can acquire on their own—without God’s help. Vast amounts of *spiritual* knowledge remain beyond reach. Though their ability to acquire physical knowledge is beyond that of brute beasts, they cannot attain any of this other marvelous understanding.

The Spirit of God

Let’s learn more about how the Spirit of God works with the human spirit in *converted minds*. Proverbs 20:27 offers crucial insight: “The *spirit of man* is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.” Think of this verse in the following way: God can work within a physical brain—communicating with and inspiring it—by means of, or through use of, the non-physical component of the spirit in man.

Where’s the Proof?

Millions believe God exists! Few have proof. Have you proven that God exists? Or do you hope—suspect—feel—believe—think—He does? Can His existence be scientifically proven? Can you know with certainty that an all-intelligent Mind created the universe and all life on Earth—including you? Must the answers be “accepted on faith”?

In addition, the Bible purports to be the Word of God. Must its authority be accepted on faith? Can its divine authority be demonstrated?

It is time for you to squarely face these questions!

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Consider one example of how God can work through the human spirit. It illustrates an important principle. The setting involves King Cyrus of Persia. God wanted him to permit others to return to Jerusalem and build a second temple to replace Solomon's, which had been destroyed: "...that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD *stirred up the spirit* of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom" (Ezra 1:1).

God communicated with Cyrus through (by "stirring up") his *spirit*. He does the same to certain individuals today.

Now we examine another crucial scripture. It adds a new dimension to the verses we have read about how the spirit in man works.

In the *converted* mind, both the Spirit of God and the spirit in man are present. They work together—with one another: "*The Spirit* itself bears witness with *our* spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16). This is fascinating. The converted person is different from animals in two distinct ways.

Recognize that science could *never* learn what you just saw!

Now consider an additional point. From the very moment you are converted, purchased by the blood of Christ, God owns you: "For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in *your spirit*, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:20). God has literal ownership of your spirit—and it is His to work with.

It is critical to understand the character-building process at work in the converted mind and how it involves the human spirit. Notice: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules *his spirit* than he that takes a city" (Prov. 16:32).

Self-control—temperance—is listed as a fruit of the Spirit of God in Galatians 5:23. When placed together, these verses show that only through the Spirit of God working with the spirit in man is temperance built!

At the end of the converted person's life, God returns the human spirit

to Himself. In it He has preserved a complete, detailed record of all that pertained to the life of that individual. This is the plain statement of Scripture. Notice: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God *your whole spirit* and soul and body be *preserved* blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thes. 5:23).

The spirit, soul and body represent all that was the person. The personality, experiences, accumulated knowledge and character of each human being is reflected in the human spirit—the spirit in man.

This is why this spirit returns to God at death: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and *the spirit* shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecc. 12:7). At death, the human spirit returns to God, the One who formed and placed it in the mind. Recall this: "Who knows the *spirit of man* that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?" (Ecc. 3:21). Now *you* know what few others know—that human spirits *do* return to God—upward.

The deacon Stephen understood. As he was being stoned to death for preaching a powerful sermon that antagonized his listeners, the Bible records, "They stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, *receive my spirit*. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell *asleep*" (Acts 7:59-60). Stephen died ("fell asleep") knowing God would receive his spirit and it would reunite with him, we will learn, when he is resurrected.

Preserving the Spirit of Man

Now we are ready for more key verses. They are the capstone that explains the "preservation" of all human spirits and exactly where God keeps them. Let's understand: "But you are come unto mount Zion [speaking of those who do this in prayer], and unto the city of the living God, *the heavenly Jerusalem*, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and

to *the spirits of just men made perfect*" (Heb. 12:22-23).

This is an incredible passage. The "God of all spirits" (including of "just men made perfect") keeps them with Him, until a resurrection.

It is in heaven—the heavenly Jerusalem—where the spirits of all God's saints from the last 6,000 years are held—are *preserved* intact—awaiting the "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We need to at least mention one other kind of spirit. Paul wrote to the Ephesian church about the power of the devil and his influence upon the world: "In time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the *prince of the power of the air*, the *spirit* that now works in the *children of disobedience*" (Eph. 2:2).

Besides the Spirit of God and the spirit in man, note that the devil is a spirit. He is part of the angelic realm of spirits, consisting of faithful angels and demons (fallen angels).

Notice verse 2 states Satan's "*spirit...works* in the children of disobedience." The devil is a spirit and he has power—through *his spirit*—to influence humanity toward disobedience! His spirit sends moods, feelings and attitudes of hostility into people's minds, bringing disobedience. The devil has enormous power of influence, allowing him to send thoughts of deceit, anger, pride, hatred, greed, envy and more, directly into people's thinking!

For more on these subjects, read our eye-opening booklets *Did God Create Human Nature?* (rcg.org/dgchn) and *Who Is the Devil?* (rcg.org/witd). They present fascinating knowledge known to so few.

Satan, as this world's god (read II Corinthians 4:4), has seduced the masses of supposed Christianity into rejecting God's supreme purpose—that involves obedience to Him—so that they can follow the permissive *false* christ, so popularly worshipped and believed today.

To learn more, watch the two-part *World to Come* broadcast series "The Human Mind – What None Can Discover" at rcg.org/worldtocome. □

TERRORISM & SECURITY

Colombians Fear Renewed Terror Threats After Police Academy Bombing



■ Emergency personnel respond to the scene of a deadly car bombing in Bogota, Colombia (Jan. 17, 2019).

PHOTO: AP

Bogota, Colombia (AP) — A brazen car bombing on January 17 at a police academy in Bogota rattled residents and raised tough questions about lingering security threats in the wake of a peace deal with the nation's largest rebel group.

The death toll from the bombing reached 21, making it the deadliest attack in Colombia in over a decade.

It proved especially unsettling because the target, the General Santander school, is one of the most protected installations in the capital and indications it may have been the result of a suicide bombing—something unprecedented in decades of political violence in the Andean nation.

President Ivan Duque, visiting the academy in the aftermath, condemned what he called a “miserable” terrorist act that recalled some of bloodiest chapters of Colombia's recent past.

“The terrorists are looking to intimidate us as a society and attack the state,” Mr. Duque said in a televised address.

With the help of security cameras, authorities identified the suspected

bomber as a 56-year-old man with no criminal record. He died in the attack.

Chief Prosecutor Nestor Martinez said the suspect drove a 1993 Nissan pick-up loaded with 175 pounds of pentolite explosive past a security checkpoint and onto the school's leafy honor ceremony had just finished.

There were unconfirmed reports that when bomb-sniffing dogs detected the explosives the driver got nervous and floored the vehicle past the barrier and onto the campus, where it exploded moments later in front of a red-tile-roofed dormitory for female cadets.

Videos shot on cellphones show panicked officers hauling injured colleagues on stretchers with debris and body parts strewn in front the skeletal steel remains of the still-burning truck.

Little is known about the suspect, but records show he had the car inspected six months ago in the eastern city of Arauca, near the border with Venezuela.

The same volatile area is a stronghold of the National Liberation Army,

or ELN, the country's last remaining rebel group following a 2016 accord between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that saw some 7,000 rebels disarm.

Investigators are reportedly looking into the suspect's possible ties with the rebel group after reports—so far unconfirmed—that he was a longtime explosives expert for an ELN cell.

The ELN has been stepping up its attacks on police targets and oil infrastructure amid a standoff with the conservative Duque government over stalled peace talks. A year ago, the group claimed responsibility for the bombing of a police station in the coastal city of Barranquilla that left five officers dead.

But until now the Cuban-inspired group, which is believed to have around 1,500 guerrilla fighters, has never been capable or much interested in carrying out such a high-profile act of violence. The attack on January 17 was the deadliest since a 2003 car bombing against the elite Bogota social club El Nogal that left 36 dead, an incident that hardened Colombians' resolve against the FARC.

Mr. Duque has demanded the ELN cease all attacks and kidnappings as a condition for restarting the talks and has condemned Venezuela and Cuba for allegedly providing a safe haven for rebel leaders even as their troops continue to sow violence in Colombia.

For decades, residents of Bogota lived in fear of being caught in a bombing by leftist rebels or Pablo Escobar's Medellin drug cartel.

But as Colombia's conflict has wound down, attacks have fallen to historically low levels and residents in turn have lowered their guard, something that magnified the shock at the latest carnage. □

U.S. Medical Marketing Surges to \$30 Billion Annually, Sparks Concern from Doctors

Ads for prescription drugs appeared 5 million times in just one year, capping a recent surge in U.S. medical marketing, a new analysis found.

The advertisements for various medicines showed up on TV, newspapers, online sites and elsewhere in 2016. Their numbers soared over 20 years as part of broad health industry efforts to promote drugs, devices, lab tests and even hospitals.

The researchers estimated that medical marketing reached \$30 billion in 2016, up from \$18 billion in 1997. Spending on consumer-focused ads climbed fastest. But marketing to doctors and other health professionals still grabbed the biggest share with the bulk of it paying for free drug samples.

“Marketing drives more treatments, more testing” that patients do not always need, said Dr. Steven Woloshin, a Dartmouth College health policy expert.

He analyzed marketing data from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Medicare, other federal and state agencies, private companies and medical research. The report covers 1997, when the FDA eased rules for TV ads, through 2016. Although some types of spending waxed and waned during those years, Dr. Woloshin said the upward trend is concerning and suggests consumers need to be increasingly skeptical about marketing claims.

The report was published January 8 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. All marketing spending was adjusted to 2016 dollars.

A journal editorial notes that medical marketing has survived legal challenges and “needs no apologist.” It has helped make patients more informed consumers and it is up to doctors to help their patients understand product claims, although some

physicians need more education themselves about deceptive marketing, the editorial suggests.

Consumer-focused Marketing

Spending on direct-to-consumer marketing climbed fastest, from \$2 billion or 12 percent of total marketing to almost \$10 billion and one-third of overall spending. Only the U.S. and New Zealand allow prescription drug advertising, which in the U.S. went from just over \$1 billion and 79,000 ads to \$6 billion and 5 million ads in 2016.

The category also includes TV ads and other marketing for hospitals, which skyrocketed to almost \$3 billion.

Spending on disease-awareness ads more than doubled, to \$430 million spent on 401 campaigns. Dr. Woloshin said this was among the most disturbing trends. Drug names are not mentioned, but manufacturers often use these to “sell” diseases that can be treated by costly new drugs, he said.

Doctor-focused Marketing

Marketing aimed at doctors, nurses and other health professionals went from \$16 billion to \$20 billion, about two-thirds of all spending. About \$12 billion went for free drug samples, although that spending has dropped recently. Spending on personal pitches from drug company sales reps was mostly unchanged at \$5 billion after an early increase.

The government’s Open Payments website lists doctors with financial ties to drug and medical device makers and in 2022 it will expand to include physician assistants and nurses with advanced training.

Regulatory Oversight

Federal law says advertising must be truthful and backed by scientific evidence. The FDA oversees prescrip-

tion drug and device advertising; the Federal Trade Commission regulates over-the-counter products. The analysis suggests that the surge in medical marketing has led to spotty oversight by both agencies. It notes that while company submissions more than doubled over the two decades, reaching nearly 100,000, FDA violation letters for misleading drug marketing dropped from 156 to 11. That could mean drug companies are doing a better job of self-policing but Dr. Woloshin said it is more likely regulators are overwhelmed by the volume and cannot keep up.

Still, the report notes an increase in FDA violation letters about marketing of unapproved genetic tests. And off-label or deceptive marketing practices have resulted in \$11 billion in fines and 103 settlements between drug companies and federal and state regulators since 1997.

What Doctors Say

The American Medical Association in 2015 supported banning direct-to-consumer ads for prescription drugs and says doctors should not accept medical industry payments or gifts intended to influence prescribing habits. “The vast majority of physicians prescribe drugs and treatments they believe are in the best interest of their patients,” the AMA said in a response to the new analysis.

What the Industry Says

Holly Campbell, spokeswoman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, defended industry marketing practices and said direct-to-consumer ads can make patients better informed about their health and treatment options. She said these ads also “increase awareness of the benefits and risks of new medicines and encourage appropriate use of medicines.” □



**17,670,000,000,000
miles**

The night sky has a way of making us ponder our existence. The stupendous grandeur of stars, planets and galaxies—or the Bright Pillar in the Carina nebula pictured here—can make us feel tiny and insignificant. This feeling is nothing new. Millennia ago, ancient Israel's King David wrote this in Psalm 8:3-4: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?"

What is your purpose? While most never find a concrete answer to this question, you CAN know! To learn about your incredible human potential, read the eye-opening book *The Awesome Potential of Man*.

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