

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

THE

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# REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



## The Age of DEMOCRACY?

**Revolution: How the Reformation Shaped the Modern World**

**Why Stopping Terrorism Is Harder than You Think**

**Leader Profile: Emmanuel Macron**

**In a Hyper-connected World, Why Do We Feel So Alone?**

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**REAL TRUTH**<sup>™</sup>  
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VOL. XV | NO. 5 | SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

A R T I C L E S

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■ **OPEN DEFIANCE:** “Luther Burns the Papal Bull in the Square of Wittenberg Year 1520” by Karl Aspelin was painted in 1885 and depicts Martin Luther publicly burning a Catholic document that was written in response to his Ninety-five Theses.

SOURCE: PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Revolution: How the Reformation Shaped the Modern World

Five hundred years after Martin Luther challenged the monolithic power of the Catholic Church, the effects of the movement he sparked continue.

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**FRONT COVER:** Supporters of President Donald Trump cheer during a rally in Youngstown, Ohio (July 25, 2017).

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Getty Images unless otherwise noted. Front cover and pages 4-7 by Samuel C. Baxter; illustration on page 16 by Paula C. Rondeau; 18-19 are in the public domain.

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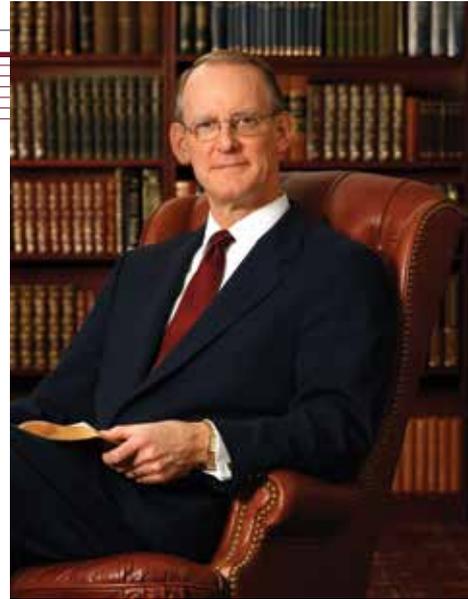
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David C. Fack



## *Can Christians Believe in Evolution? (Part 2)*

**T**HIS IS PART 2 examining whether God permits Christians to believe evolution. We learned in Part 1 that millions now profess Christ and evolution.

Many call themselves “New Testament Christians,” not recognizing the New Testament was built on the foundation of the Old. Both stand or fall together. Is the Genesis account a metaphor the New Testament does not support? Did God individually form the first couple or did human beings gradually evolve? We also learned that Jesus and the apostles spoke constantly of people and events in Genesis.

When people think of religion, they seldom link it to science. Some even consider these polar opposites—and that they can never mix. Christians should have no problem believing true science. Many scientific theories have been tested and proven—and are considered laws. These proven disciplines of science have caused many of the world’s Christians to assume that evolution underwent the same scrutiny when it did not. Therefore, most carelessly assume they should believe the evolutionary idea. This includes the world’s most powerful and influential religious figures. But it need not include you!

This final part brings more New Testament proof that Christians *cannot* believe evolution. Human opinions are worthless. My duty is to tell you what God says in the plainest verses—including ones that others fear to present. What remains to be seen is powerful.

### **Same Authority**

Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament (read I Corinthians 10:4). You will see this momentarily, including that He was the One who created everything. It was Christ who inspired the Creation account. He would never undermine Genesis. Part 1 showed that Jesus and His disciples constantly spoke of Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel and the devil—all found at the beginning of the Bible.

We left off in Part 1 looking at one verse after another on this topic. We pick up with more, starting in Matthew. Here is how Jesus answered a question about marriage. Read carefully: “Have you not read, that [God] which made them *at the beginning* made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder” (19:4-6).

Marriage derives its authority from Creation—God made them *at the beginning* male and female.

Mark's account is even plainer: "From the beginning of the creation God *made them male and female*. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they two shall be one flesh: so then they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (10:6-9). This reference to the Creation is plain. Incidentally, so is God's definition of marriage—from the beginning. A man is to cleave to his wife—and leave "father and mother" to do this—not father and father or mother and mother.

When people reject the Creation account they also throw out *God's definition of marriage*. The same God who brings authority to the book of Genesis regarding how He created all life on Earth brings the same authority to how He created—how He defined—the institution of marriage. Marriage is His institution. No human being has authority to either "sunder" marriage between a man and a woman, or to reinterpret God's definition of marriage. (This is covered in more detail in our booklet *The Purpose of Marriage – Ever Obsolete?* at [rcg.org/tpomeo](http://rcg.org/tpomeo).)

### More Verses Proving Creation

Now another reference by Jesus to Creation, this time in the context of end-time events soon to slam into all nations: "In those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created to this time, neither shall be" (Mark 13:19). How plain! The worst time of world trouble in history—also foretold by the prophets Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel—comes as something never seen before "from the beginning of creation"—"which God created." How is Jesus' statement true if there was *no Creation*?

The apostles Paul and Barnabas believed God created all life: "We... preach unto you that you should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are

therein" (Acts 14:15). Would any suggest that Paul lied to potential disciples in Lystra about an array of things God never did? And what about Acts 17:24 where he said almost the same thing to listeners in Athens?

He wrote the Ephesians: "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (3:9). Paul knew how life on Earth began. So can you. And Christ is plainly declared as the God who did the creating. When He, God—Jesus is God—discussed Genesis, He had firsthand knowledge. He knew what He was talking about!

The next passage in Colossians powerfully confirms Jesus' role in Creation: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God...for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...*all things were created by Him* [Jesus], and for Him [the Father]: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (1:14-17). This is impossible to misunderstand!

Paul wrote this to the Romans: "We know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now" (8:22). One reason for this is that God-rejecting atheists and fearful theologians who support their bogus science have dismissed plain statements in God's Word. Many ministers know all these verses, but will not preach them.

The apostle missed several perfect opportunities to clarify that mankind gradually evolved. Instead, he always fell back to God creating all things. Why do this—time and again? These passages cannot be exceptions to truth. If so, how would we know this? Recall that Paul said, "*All* scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (II Tim. 3:16). According to evolution-believing Christians, apparently not all, or even close.

### Genesis Confirmed

Other passages, not related to Creation, confirm Genesis. Certain people and

events were referenced over and over by Christ and New Testament writers. You will see the number of scriptures you must reject as part of God's literal Word is *enormous*. Remember: We are asking whether Christians are allowed to pick and choose which parts of the Bible to accept.

The apostle Paul in Hebrews references Enoch: "By faith Enoch was translated [taken away] that he should not see death; and was not found..." (11:5). Enoch's lineage lists descent from Adam.

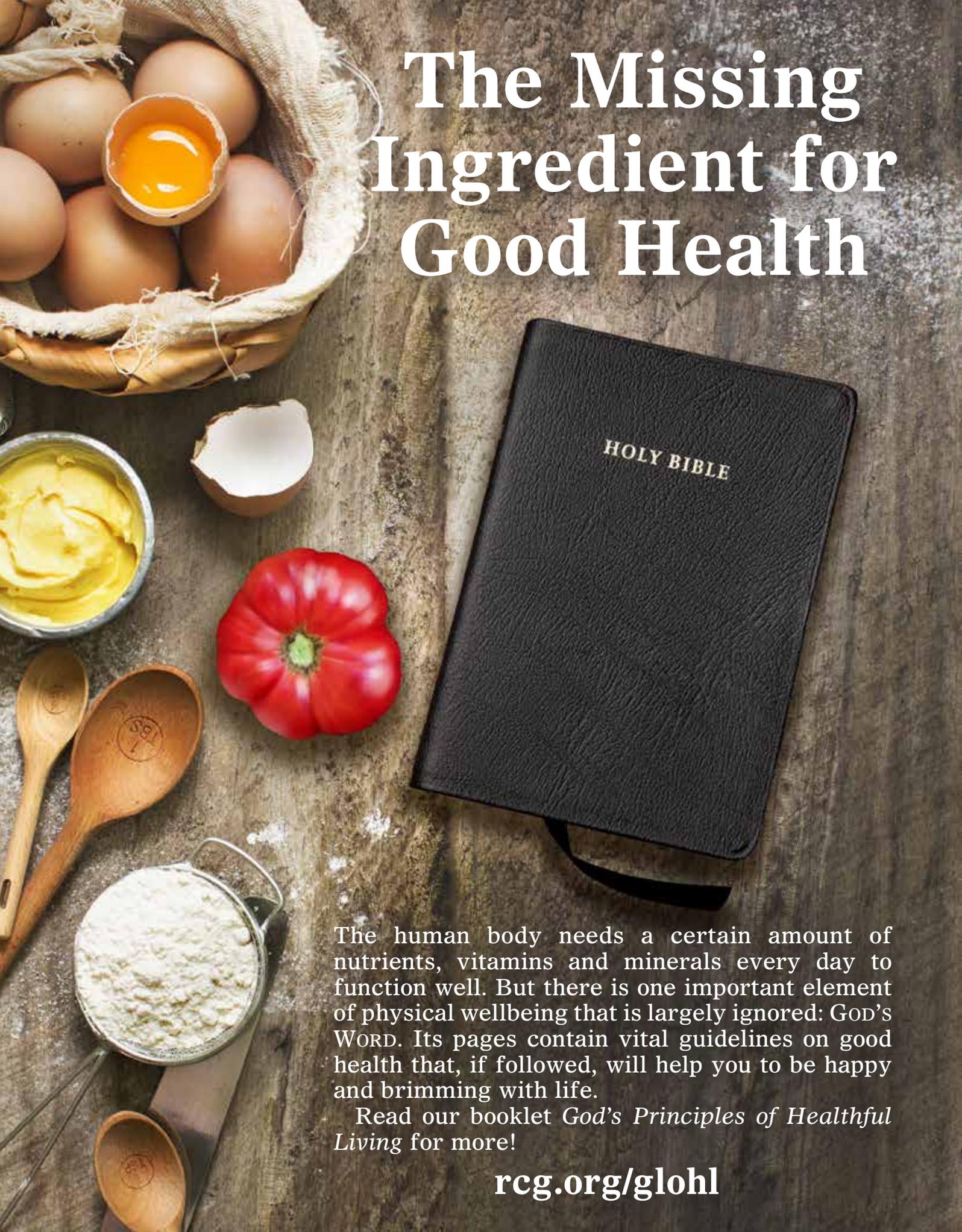
Almost as many people reject Noah and the Flood as they do the Creation account. Yet Jesus compared the end of the age—now just ahead—to "the days of Noah." Here is His stark warning to everyone: "As it was in the days of Noah [Enoch's great-grandson], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man [before Christ's Return]. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27). Matthew 24:37-39 repeats this.

The apostle Peter referenced Noah: "...the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (I Pet. 3:20). Also, God "spared not the *old world* [the ancient world from Adam to Noah], but saved Noah the eighth... preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:5).

Noah, the ark, and the Flood appear in Genesis *immediately after* the Creation account and Adam's lineage. Why are we allowed to reject the first five chapters of this book while believing chapter 6 and beyond regarding the Flood? We cannot.

Jesus further confirmed Genesis when speaking of Abraham. The Pharisees claimed descent from Abraham—and Jesus agreed, saying, "I know that you are Abraham's seed" (John 8:37). Jesus acknowledged this patriarch did exist, and by extension

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 28



# The Missing Ingredient for Good Health

The human body needs a certain amount of nutrients, vitamins and minerals every day to function well. But there is one important element of physical wellbeing that is largely ignored: GOD'S WORD. Its pages contain vital guidelines on good health that, if followed, will help you to be happy and brimming with life.

Read our booklet *God's Principles of Healthful Living* for more!

[rcg.org/glohl](http://rcg.org/glohl)

Half of the United States pinned their hopes on a president who promised to be their voice in Washington. The other half feels obligated to protest and resist until they get their way. America's government is caught in the middle and beginning to crack from the strain.

**P** EOPLE STILL do remarkable things for their cause. Even in a time of decreasing patience and increasing apathy, thousands stood in line for hours under the sweltering summer sun.

The crowd outside the Covelli Centre in downtown Youngstown, Ohio, that July afternoon clustered into a scene familiar for the public venue. Traffic inched forward. Men in fluorescent vests pointed and shouted instructions for parking.

Street vendors hawked T-shirts and overpriced water bottles. Television cameras and satellite trucks lined the building's perimeter.

But this day in the Rust Belt city was extra special. Seven months into his term, President Donald Trump—presidential entourage (and media) in tow—had escaped the confines of Washington, D.C., to visit the Steel Valley for another one of his campaign-style rallies. Some buzzed about seeing an American president in person for the first time. Others anticipated hearing from a man they regarded as their champion.

Defying the odds, Mr. Trump is now the most powerful man in the world. But more importantly to the blue-collar throng assembled to greet him, and the millions of other Americans who voted for him, he is their voice. Fed up with the political establishment, the president is their proof that America's democratic system is still intact.

How else could you explain a political novice with an unorthodox style becoming the 45th president of the United States? Almost no one in the political establishment saw it coming.

No less baffling is how a billionaire real estate mogul from New York City

has managed to take on the role of representing the common man. People with far less means claim this mega-wealthy businessman and leader of the free world as one of their own.

Admiring Mr. Trump's unflinching persona and brash style, a 45-year-old Pittsburgh resident told *The Real Truth* before the event: "I've never seen anything like that. I have never seen anyone take on this whole establishment. Fearless."

"He works so hard for us," the attendee added. "Have you ever seen a person that worked that hard? Have you ever seen a president doing a rally in Youngstown, Ohio, Pennsylvania for that matter, or Iowa? It's not even election time...He's so accessible to the people, so accessible to the nation."

And this was not just a Republican heaping praise for one of his own. The man, who had previously voted for Democrats, explained why he backs Donald Trump: "He's not a Republican, he's not a Democrat. He ran against everybody, and won...and I'm not disappointed in the country. I've never seen anybody that actually delivered on their promises."

Mr. Trump seems to have fully embraced his role as a hero for the people. His anti-establishment stance

# THE AGE OF



has been repeatedly pointed to as the reason he got into office. With his maverick use of social media and frequent visits to his supporters, the president has managed to pierce the thick cocoon typically surrounding the executive leader of America's government.

"I'm here this evening to cut through the fake news filter and to speak straight to the American people," Mr. Trump declared at the beginning of his address.

For the crowd, this was the sort of bold and nationalistic declaration that defines their man and reflects their views.

Mr. Trump said he relished being "back in the center of the American heartland, far away from the Washington swamp," and added, "This has been a difficult week for the media because I forced them to travel with us all around the country and spend time with tens of thousands of proud Americans who believe in defending our values, our

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*Real Truth* managing editor Edward L. Winkfield along with a staff reporter, photographer and videographer attended President Donald Trump's rally in Youngstown, Ohio, on July 25. After documenting Mr. Trump's speech and conducting interviews with attendees, they filed this report.



# DEMOCRACY?



culture, our borders, our civilization, and our great American way of life.”

The media stood literally and symbolically opposite the podium behind a barrier only 50 feet away. This group of reporters, photographers and camera operators, no doubt familiar with the president’s barbs, were a tiny island in a sea of Trump supporters.

*Real Truth* staff witnessed the tense and often volatile relationship between the Trump administration and the mainstream media. As the president spoke about what he sees as biased media coverage, many in the crowd were visibly irate, pointing toward the press section, shouting “fake news” and other insults. The hostility was palpable. And though *The Real Truth* is a media outlet that does not take political sides and strives for neutrality, we were effectively lumped in with the rest of the press.

This growing aggravation is because supporters of the president see the media’s coverage of him as slanted and unfair. Their frustrations are not completely unfounded.

While presidents have always had detractors and those publicly opposing their views, the current relationship between the Oval Office and the press is beyond sour. Instead of striving for neutrality, numerous outlets have morphed into the mouthpieces of Mr. Trump’s political opponents. Most in the media did not expect a political novice and Washington outsider to win. Some go so far as to say he did *not* win—at least not fairly.

Much of the media, representing millions of people, openly discredit him and would like to see him removed from office.



For those who flooded to the ballot box and selected “Donald J. Trump,” the constant negative press can feel like a slight against them personally. They may think, *No one has the right to say our votes did not count.*

Yet those who got what they wanted in the last election are not the only believers in democracy.

Whenever either side loses, no one is willing to concede victory and wait four years for another shot. They cannot wait that long to be heard. Galvanized by the loss, millions feel obligated to ensure their vision for the country prevails.

Democracy, in its rawest form, has left the nation at odds and teetering. Does it surprise you to read this?

The term democracy is a combination of two Greek words: *demos*, meaning “the people,” and *kratos*, which means “power.” In a democracy, the people rule. They have authority to choose leaders and make decisions. The current political turmoil in America, the most powerful and prominent democratic nation on Earth, is by nature the result of this form of government.

We hear much about democracy as a superior form of government, but little about its flaws. What happens when, as we see today, the people in a democratic

setting do not agree? You may say, “The majority rules.” But what about the 49 percent who disagree with the majority? Can their opinions simply be ignored? Are we stuck with an outcome simply because more people decided on it as the best course of action?

Also, since the U.S. is more correctly labeled a republic in which voters choose representatives who make political decisions for them, what if the decision of the majority is considered morally wrong by their representatives or vice versa?

These are just a few of the reasons British Prime Minister Winston Churchill labeled democracy as “the worst form of government, except for all the others.” A main problem is that this ruling system lacks a consistent central authority.

Many are surprised to learn that the word “democracy” does not appear in the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. This is because democracy in its purest form is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind for the new nation. While they wanted to provide power to the citizenry and not a select group of wealthy aristocrats or bloodline rulers, direct democratic rule was beyond the scope of their intentions.





They instead recognized the importance of the rule of law—the principle that the law is the ultimate authority by which a nation is governed. American law was designed to prevail over the opinions of people. In other words, when all else fails, the law prevails. The architects of our government were open to something.

Democratic government emphasizes the will of the majority. Without a higher authority, however, opinion-based standards invariably lead to multiple viewpoints. This explains why the United States is experiencing a historic level of division. The president and the media are merely the faces of this widening rift.

While rule of law still does—for the most part—prevail in America, the tens of thousands of rules and regulations on the books are still not enough to regulate every current and emerging issue. There remain countless ways people can disagree on how to proceed in life, let alone how to determine national policies.

Yet, as unrealistic as it may seem, there *is* a set of laws that, if obeyed, would ensure peace, harmony and fulfillment among the people in this nation. Even more astonishing is

that you can count the number of these laws on your hands. The Ten Commandments of the Bible encapsulate all the laws needed to govern a society.

*Just 10 laws? That is not enough to regulate a neighborhood, let alone a nation of millions of people,* one may think. However, it is! This becomes clear when you understand that the Ten Commandments are a set of *spiritual* laws that are a bedrock foundation for the more detailed laws needed in any society.

Understand. God is not against having laws beyond the Ten Commandments. In fact, He gave hundreds of them to the ancient nation of Israel while it was forming its government after God brought it out of Egypt. These laws were necessary to address more specific circumstances and conundrums that people would encounter.

The key is to understand that these 10 principles, established at the creation of mankind and repeated to Moses on Mount Sinai, form the core governance of human behavior. They are a lens through which all subsequent laws must be viewed and adhered to, with the first four addressing how to

relate to God and the remaining six outlining how to relate to people.

(To learn more about the Ten Commandments and their modern significance, read David C. Pack's book *The Ten Commandments – "Nailed to the Cross" or Required for Salvation?* at [rcg.org/syotc](http://rcg.org/syotc).)

To label the Ten Commandments as foundational is not a stretch. Many American ordinances were in fact developed with this ancient law in mind. However, as time passes, the nation moves further from this pattern. Instead of seeking a higher authority on matters of law, we have entered a time when people are turning inward, seeking to rule, judge and decide matters solely for and by themselves.

This behavior was foretold to occur. The Bible described a time when people would become very self-focused, ungrateful, corrupt and hateful (II Tim. 3:1-5). They would be filled with pride and hostility toward government or anyone in charge. This breakdown in character would drive people to take matters into their own hands instead of submitting to authority.

This should sound familiar—it is present not only in America's political system, but in society as well.

There is a reason it is important for you to recognize this conduct—and it is beyond the realm of politics. This behavior was foretold to intensify in the "last days," a reference to a time just before the return of Jesus Christ to Earth and intense world punishment. This prophecy was included in the Bible so that you can know what is coming!

Keep reading this magazine to learn more about what the future holds, and what comes after this age of democracy. □



# EMMANUEL MACRON

## President of France

France's new president entered office with immense popularity identifying himself as a political outsider, much like his United States counterpart. But will the Paris newcomer be able to deliver on his promises?

BY DAVID J. LITAVSKY

**P**RESIDENT Emmanuel Macron has likened his rebellious leanings to Joan of Arc, the 15th-century farm girl who rallied the nation's army to repel a British invasion. Yet most commentators compare the current French leader to another historical figure.

"Physically, Macron evokes more the young general, Napoleon Bonaparte, during his first campaign in Italy," *Euronews* reported. "He advances his mission through a combination of youthful energy, self-confidence, political cunning, technocratic competence, and a sense of moderation."

Mr. Macron himself hinted at the comparison during a televised debate: "I bring the spirit of French conquest."



PHOTO: ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

While he was running for office, Mr. Macron received no comparisons to larger-than-life figures. Most citizens did not recognize him. His opponents branded him as inexperienced as he had never before held an elected position.

But the 39-year-old wunderkind took Paris by storm, winning the presidency on May 7 with 66 percent of the popular vote—twice that of his far-right opponent Marine Le Pen. His one-year old party *Republique En Marche* (Republic Onward) then secured a parliamentary majority in June.

It was the first election in which either nominee did not come from mainstream right or left parties, and never before had an independent won the French presidency. Mr. Macron also became the youngest president in France's history.

Europe sighed with relief because Mr. Macron's victory halted the wave of right-wing populism heralded by Ms. Le Pen, who promised to follow the United Kingdom's pattern and pull out of the European Union. The euro responded by hitting a six-month high the day after the election.

Still, the overwhelming success signaled that voters were tired of politics as usual and wanted sweeping change. Mr. Macron's *En Marche* movement "all but obliterated the traditional political parties that have dominated politics in France for about 50 years, including the Socialist Party that governed the country until last month," *Time* stated. "The achievement has stunned political veterans, who liken it to a political revolution."

Yet conditions were ripe for change. France has endured some of its worst problems since the second world war. Its economy—the third largest in Europe—has barely recovered from the 2008 global financial crisis. Unemployment remains around 10 percent—more than double the levels in the United Kingdom and Germany—and government debt has ballooned to 90 percent of the GDP.

In addition, a string of deadly terror attacks since November 2015 has kept France in a near-constant state of emergency. Citizens are demanding greater security, which will require an overhaul of policies on immigration and EU border control.

French voters looking for drastic change rallied behind Mr. Macron, who has promised big shake-ups for France and its involvement in Europe and the globe.

Four months in, the president—and first-time politician—is facing the reality of the office. In July, a row with France's armed forces chief concerning nearly \$1 billion of military spending cuts resulted in Mr.

**“French voters looking for drastic change rallied behind Mr. Macron, who has promised big shake-ups for France and its involvement in Europe and the globe.”**

Macron's popularity rating declining 10 percentage points.

"The strife is likely to get worse as Mr. Macron works to cut more than five times that much from this year's overall budget, and more for 2018, to meet the European Union's deficit limit of 3 percent of gross domestic product," *The New York Times* reported. "The French have long understood the need to trim their spending, but every cut is fiercely, and often successfully, resisted. Town mayors are up in arms against cuts to local government budgets, university professors are furious about cuts to their funding, and an overhaul to pension and labor laws is certain to bring down the wrath of the unions."

During Mr. Macron's first 100 days in office, his ratings dropped faster than any previous French president. And this is just the beginning of his five-year term, in which he must make good on the promises that brought him to the Elysee Palace. But his path to presidency reveals that he may be able to carve a way to success, even against the odds.

### **A Different Path**

From the time Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frederic Macron was born on December 21, 1977, in Amiens, a city in northern France, his career seemed determined. Both of his parents were doctors and his two younger siblings entered the field as well.

But Emmanuel took a different route. He showed an aptitude for literature and theater while attending a local Jesuit school, La Providence. "Macron loved to read and existed slightly in his own world," *NPR* reported. His maturity level surpassed those of his classmates, as he "always felt at ease and mixed easily with adults."

It was this ease that led to the 15-year-old student's affair with his drama teacher, Brigitte Auziere Trogneux, a 39-year-old married mother of three who would later become his wife (the legal age of consent in the nation is 15). She later explained in the documentary *Emmanuel Macron – The Strategy of a Star* that "little by little, I became completely subjugated by the intelligence of this young man. His mind is so full and perfect. His capacities are completely beyond any normal human being's."

After discovering the relationship, Emmanuel's parents pulled their son out of the school and moved him to Paris. There he studied at one of France's most prestigious schools, Lycee Henri IV. Graduating at 18, he then pursued a master's degree in philosophy at Nanterre University, as well as a master's degree in public policy at Sciences Po. Meanwhile, he served as an editorial assistant for French philosopher and historian Paul Ricoeur.

The young man proved determined to learn and pursue a vigorous schedule. A classmate at Sciences Po told *Reuters*, “He was always doing so many things at the same time.”

Throughout his schooling, Mr. Macron’s true ambition was to become a politician. Another of his classmates told *Reuters*: “He always wanted to be in politics, be elected. He talked about it all the time.” This was especially clear when he pursued education at Ecole Nationale d’Administration, an elite school with a reputation for being a fast track into politics. Its founder was Charles de Gaulle, and many important French politicians graduated from there, including former presidents Francois Hollande, Jacques Chirac, and Valery Giscard d’Estaing.

Mr. Macron graduated near the top of his class, and immediately entered public service as a finance inspector for the French Ministry of Economy and Finance. He briefly became involved in politics when he was tapped by President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007 to join the bipartisan Attali Commission on economic growth.

But in 2008, Mr. Macron changed course and decided to leave public service. He bought out his government contract for about \$70,000 in order to enter the private sector, a decision friends believed would prevent him from ever becoming elected.

European news outlet *The Local* reported: “He became an investment banker at Rothschild & Cie Banque [a French branch of Rothschild financial group], with some close to him warning that earning millions as an investment banker could scupper his chances of a life in politics.

“But he ignored them and went on to earn €2.9m [\$3.4 million] for his role advising Nestle on its \$12 billion

acquisition of a unit of Pfizer in 2012 as well as the nickname the ‘Mozart of Finance.’”

“Even though Macron was targeted by rivals for his past in banking and was dubbed ‘the candidate of finance’ by Marine Le Pen, his stunning victory in the presidential elec-



■ **MAN OF THE PEOPLE:** President Macron meets with a crowd following the annual Bastille Day military parade on Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris (July 14, 2017).

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE ARCHAMBAULT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

tion proved he was right to ignore the warnings from his friends.”

### Entering Politics

Mr. Macron’s involvement in the Nestle-Pfizer deal caught the attention of then-presidential candidate Francois Hollande, who hired Mr. Macron to work in his Socialist Party ahead of the 2012 election. When Mr. Hollande won, he appointed Mr. Macron as deputy secretary-general. This position put him as France’s representative at international summits.

Recognizing Mr. Macron’s talents and investment experience, Mr. Hollande elevated him to minister

of economy, industry, and digital data. In this position, he was tasked with reforming the nation’s economy, which had experienced three years of zero growth by the time he was appointed.

Mr. Macron’s solution? *Le loi Macron* (The Macron law), a reform package intended to provide an economic shot in the arm. The left-wing Socialist Party resisted the law because it deregulated business, though it was eventually pushed through by bypassing parliament. The entire process tainted Mr. Macron’s view of the Socialist Party.

*Le loi Macron*, though unpopular with the public, loosened restrictions involving business on Sundays, but kept the highly contested 35-hour work week.

Ultimately, the measure proved Mr. Hollande’s undoing, as it prompted backlash from the left and right. In addition, Mr. Hollande’s handling of the migrant crisis caused his public approval rating to dip to a historic low—fueling the rise of nationalistic presidential candidate Marine Le Pen.

A disillusioned Mr. Macron announced in April 2016 the formation of *Republique En Marche* and stated his intention to run in the presidential election as an independent candidate.

Mr. Macron characterized his party as a “democratic revolution.” *Britannica* summarized: “Echoing the third way [centrist] paradigm that had been promoted by Bill Clinton in the United States and Prime Minister Tony Blair in Britain, Macron proposed a centre-left fusion of populism and neoliberalism. Observers noted that the timing of the announcement—slightly more than a year ahead of the 2017 presidential

election—strongly hinted at an outside bid for the Elysee Palace.”

The creation of the party soured the Macron-Hollande relationship, and four months later Mr. Macron resigned from his position.

Critics considered Mr. Macron’s bid for office a “shooting star.” One of his finance and economy minister predecessors predicted, “He won’t last five minutes with the bad guys in the campaign.”

But Mr. Macron “continued to confound opponents and pundits by building up huge grassroots support and winning endorsements from defecting center-left and center-right politicians,” *Reuters* reported. Flattering media coverage and stumbles of his more experienced opponents helped him surge to the front of the race alongside Ms. Le Pen.

Mr. Macron promoted centrist policies, which garnered support from both sides of the political spectrum. Right-leaning supporters took to his business credentials as a finance minister, as well as his proposals to cut corporate taxes and devote resources to defense, energy and transportation. Those on the left favored his promises to cut housing taxes, expand state healthcare coverage, invest in training programs for the unemployed, and devote resources to the environment.

While Ms. Le Pen had previously run three times for the presidency and adopted a more radical agenda, the politically inexperienced Mr. Macron had more public appeal in a time when citizens were largely fed up with established political parties.

Another reason for Mr. Macron’s unexpected rise is both his similarities and differences to U.S. President Trump.

### **Complex Relationship**

According to *Business Insider*, candidate Macron painted “himself as a maverick and anti-establishment,” and, like Mr. Trump, “Macron has been successful in part because he is seen as not being part of the political elite.”

Now that Mr. Macron is in office, he has become “one of the clearest global counterpoints to Trump,” according to *Time*. The French president “is seeking to position himself as the world’s anti-Trump, on issues from globalization and the environment to human rights. It’s a move that

**“While Ms. Le Pen had previously run three times for the presidency and adopted a more radical agenda, the politically inexperienced Mr. Macron had more public appeal in a time when citizens were largely fed up with established political parties.”**

brings short-term benefits, but carries long-term risks.”

One of the benefits of framing himself as a bulwark against the U.S. president, who is deeply distrusted in Europe, is the positive press it garners. This was evident during the NATO summit in Brussels and the G-7 summit in Sicily “where Trump scolded leaders for too-low defense spending, and hinted he would cancel the U.S. commitment to the global climate-change treaty, known as the Paris Agreement” (ibid.).

Viral videos and reports of their tense exchanges and white-knuckle handshakes confirmed that Mr.

Macron was sending a message to the American president: “I will not be intimidated.”

Mr. Macron even responded to Mr. Trump’s decision to pull America out of the Paris Agreement with a televised speech in fluent English: “To all scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, responsible citizens who were disappointed by the decision of the president of the United States, I want to say, that they will find in France a second homeland. I call on them. Come, and work here with us, to work together on concrete solutions for our climate, our environment. I can assure you, France will not give up the fight. I reaffirm clearly that the Paris Agreement remains irreversible, and remains implemented, not just by France, but by all the other nations.”

He concluded: “Make our planet great again.”

However, there is a delicate balance between working against and working with the American president. Mr. Macron is aware that the success of his agenda—and France—depends on the world’s most powerful and wealthy nation.

As such, Mr. Macron invited the American leader to Paris for Bastille Day celebrations, including a meal in the Eiffel Tower.

Following the visit, Mr. Macron stated that he intends to change Mr. Trump’s mind on the Paris Agreement using a “charm offensive.” According to *le Journal du Dimanche*, he said that Mr. Trump “understood the sense of my approach...He told me he would try to find a solution in the coming months.”

Then, Mr. Macron’s policy proposals began to reflect those of Mr. Trump’s administration. Part of his plan to reinvigorate the ailing French economy: slash corporate taxes to promote economic growth and reduce the public spending by 60 billion euros.

Mr. Macron also described Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad as an enemy of the Syrian people, and threatened

*Please see **MACRON**, page 27*



# WHY STOPPING TERRORISM

## IS HARDER THAN YOU THINK (PART 2)

BY DR. JAMES F. PASTOR, PH.D., J.D., AND EDWARD L. WINKFIELD

Terrorism's continued growth and unrelenting grip paralyze law enforcement and citizens. In a conversation with an expert on terrorism, we further relay the scope of the problem.

**N**O SERIOUS candidate for political office in modern times can ignore the ongoing problem of terrorism. Political speeches now include pledges to keep cities and neighborhoods safe from future attacks along with the usual assurances of more jobs, better foreign relations, lower taxes, and improved social welfare. These sweeping promises of protection are a permanent fixture in any campaign, testifying to the public's desire for safety and security.

According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, terrorism's global economic impact reached \$89.6 billion in 2015, with expenses due to terrorist acts increasing elevenfold since 2000. The U.S. Department of State tracked the number of terrorist events in 2015, reporting 11,774 separate attacks resulting in 28,300 deaths and more than 35,300 injuries. These statistics reveal the scale of this fear-provoking violence.

The increasing number of lone-wolf attacks, such as the high-profile incident in Manchester, England, only add to the unpredictable carnage and mayhem. Terrorism—whether state-sponsored or independent, religious or political, rightist or leftist in origin—is an enduring and universal threat.

In a previous issue, *Real Truth* managing editor Edward Winkfield spoke with Dr. James Pastor, a *Real Truth* contributor and terrorism expert. Dr. Pastor described his extensive background in law enforcement and how terrorism has changed over the last 40 years. During our talk, we examined the roles of both the media and government in communicating and stopping the problem of terrorism. We also explored the issues of

■ **FIGHTING TERROR:** Members of the New York Police Department Strategic Response Group, which are involved in counterterrorism efforts, stand outside NYPD headquarters after a press conference discussing counterterrorism budget cuts (Feb. 17, 2016).

PHOTO: ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

viewing terrorism as merely a criminal act versus an act of war, and how each drive public policy.

Our discussion continues with topics such as the Islamic State terror group, the underlying mindset of a terrorist, the increase of lone-wolf assailants, security versus rights, and more.

**Edward Winkfield:** It has been 16 years since 9/11 and we are already nearing the three-year anniversary of the opening of One World Trade Center—built on what at one time was smoldering rubble.

Those indirectly affected by this disaster may find it difficult to recall just how much this horrific event changed America. It stripped away a certain innocence and sense of invincibility from the world's foremost superpower.

**Dr. James Pastor:** Readers may recall from my *Real Truth* article “Shake-up: Will World Order Soon Collapse?” that I defended my doctoral dissertation on securing American streets just one day before those planes smashed into the towers. This tragedy changed everything for me and obviously for the country. September 11 was a key point in a sequence of world events and crucial in shaping the view of, and war against, terrorism.

Most people think of the obvious impact of the attacks that day in New York, and rightfully so. But in many less obvious ways, bringing down the Twin Towers deeply affected the fabric of our society.

Take the construction and insurance industries, for instance. People at the time openly wondered, “How are we ever going to build a building again knowing it may become the target of a terrorist act?” and, “Even if we could complete construction, what insurance company would be willing to provide coverage knowing a future attack is possible?” To this latter point, the federal government had to step in and essentially say, “We will insure you.” Now the costs and damages associated with terrorist attacks will likely be paid by taxpayers. This may seem nuanced, but terrorism has the power to shut down

major elements of our world—at significant costs to governments and taxpayers. The impact is felt 16 years later.

**EW:** September 11 was deemed a success for the terrorists given the scale of damage and number of deaths. High-profile targets in major metropolitan areas and the highest risk for loss of life seemed to be where authorities chose to focus at the time in order to fight the problem.

**JP:** Yes, 9/11 was very different from many of the attacks we see today. It was very sophisticated and took nearly a decade to plan. Several of the 19 hijackers had extensive knowledge of Western culture and language skills to better acclimate up to the moment of attack. They traveled across the country, trained in U.S. flight schools, and otherwise blended into society. It's amazing how much time and energy and precision went into it. Yet this was the earmark of al-Qaida—they were into big terrorist events.

**EW:** Though they may be on the verge of a comeback, we hardly hear of al-Qaida in the news as much as we used to, especially after the death of Osama bin Laden. It is as if they disappeared. What happened to them?

**JP:** The death of Osama bin Laden naturally played a big part, but they have had other leaders. I think one thing that President George W. Bush did that few give him credit for is taking out the legs of al-Qaida. It has taken them years to recover. Enough people—many terrorists—died during those years and it has taken some time for the next generation of young men to come along and be ready to fight.

I think the U.S. just beat the daylight out of that group and it has taken them some time to regenerate and stand back up. However, as you noted, many are now saying that al-Qaida is reemerging.

**EW:** ISIS seems fundamentally different from al-Qaida. They seem to prefer individual attacks and display-

ing inhuman levels of brutality—beheadings, burning people in cages, using trucks to run over people, etc. They recently called for more killing, stabbing and slitting throats in major cities. The threat to the U.S. and other Western nations is different than that posed by al-Qaida, and is very real.

**JP:** The rise of ISIS on the world stage was impactful and significant. Terrorist groups have become decentralized over the course of the last 15 or 16 years. Al-Qaida's leadership and membership was decimated, leading to a vacuum that resulted in the rise of ISIS.

Now, ISIS was defeated in Mosul, and they will soon fall in their self-described capital of Raqqa in Syria as well. I read a report from *Reuters* that stated fighting in Raqqa is raging in “every last block” and ISIS is “fighting for their own survival.”

Ironically, if their caliphate is destroyed, which seems imminent, ISIS likely poses an even bigger threat. They will have a choice to make: Do they fold up their tent, abandon the idea of a caliphate, and cease to exist? Or do they export action directly into the West? The short-term answer is predictable: they will redirect their approach from securing land to exporting terror. After all, it was the West, with the help of the Iraqis and Kurds, that have caused the caliphate's demise.

Always remember, the mindset of an Islamist is that America is the “great Satan.” The U.S. is the ultimate enemy, as it dominates the existing world order. Diminishing the U.S. and western Europe through terrorism may be the best option for ISIS once its caliphate is destroyed.

**EW:** I find it interesting how al-Qaida diminished and ISIS stepped in and took its place. If ISIS is defeated, do you think something will eventually replace it?

**JP:** The ideology is long-term. Their movement thinks in terms of infinity. People tend to get lost in the name.

The people who run ISIS are, frankly, just like kingpins in the Mafia or leaders of a gang. They run an organization that pushes an ideological framework. The organization is just a name that is run by people. But ultimately the name and the people are not that important. What's really important for them is the movement. If ISIS is defeated, there will be another name that will take the baton or move the ball in terms of fostering the goal of a worldwide caliphate. The goal or movement is sustained, not the name or the people.

**EW:** I feel we have gone from bad to worse in terms of threat. Attacks seem so random nowadays. Perpetrators, many of them young and with no strong terror group connections, commit vile acts, then later claim affiliation with ISIS or are claimed by the terrorist organization. In this way, ISIS has managed to outsource terrorism. How can security agencies effectively respond to such an approach?

**JP:** It's very difficult. The notion of outsourcing involves recruiting free agents—we would call them *lone wolves* in the lexicon of terrorism—who are given free rein to cause whatever level of destruction they're capable of causing, all under the umbrella of the ideology or allegiance to the group.

And factions like ISIS foster this by propaganda. They use magazines and internet sites to not only publicize the attack, but also to tell people exactly how to carry out further attacks. These independent contractors, if you will, are given the means via specialized information, the motivation via religious ideology, and then—most troubling—the discretion via their own time, place and choice of weapon. As they do their dirty work, ISIS stands on the sidelines cheering and takes credit for the act.

**EW:** This sounds exactly like the attacks in Orlando, San Bernardino, Fort Lauderdale, London and Manchester.

**JP:** Yes, these all represent the lone wolf approach. The attackers were radicalized either by traveling to foreign

countries or even deciding on their own to become a religious warrior. These types of attacks are not as catastrophic as 9/11, but are increasingly difficult to stop. They are more of the “nickel and dime” approach to terrorism in terms of number of deaths. In Orlando, you had 48 or 50 people die. In Manchester Arena—Britain's deadliest terror attack since the 7/7 London subway bombings—22 died from an explosion, many of them young children. These were terrible events with a large number of deaths. But they are still “nickels and dimes” compared to the nearly 3,000 who died on 9/11.

That said, I can make a case that the smaller, more frequent, less predictable attacks actually have a more devastating psychological impact on society. These kinds of attacks can be considered “commotions” that Christ in Luke 21:9 said would occur. The original Greek term for this word means instability and disorder. Significantly, this verse came with a warning to “be not terrified.” Of course, this biblical warning is understandable—as people *are* terrified!

**EW:** You said that “lone wolf” is a familiar phrase in your world. So, this approach by terrorists isn't new?

**JP:** The concept has been around for a while, but it is now reemerging as a viable tactic.

Looking back, terrorists tended to operate in cells. A cell was usually three, four, five or six people who didn't know each other and functioned separately as a way of maintaining security. Within a typical terrorist cell, there would be a person who cased the place of attack and provided data, a person who obtained finances for the attack, a person who secured the explosives or weaponry, and a person or people who were the actual attackers. These roles were all filled by different people.

With a lone wolf, one person does the three, four or five different things the entire cell did. All this has made policing and providing security much more difficult for authorities.



■ **LINE OF DUTY:** Pallbearers carry the coffin of a police officer killed in a terrorist attack in London, England (April 10, 2017).

PHOTO: FRANK AUGSTEIN - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

**“...both gang members and terrorists have a huge tendency or mindset about the use of force or asserting strength.”**

**EW:** The increase of lone wolf attacks seems to make it impossible to stop attacks beforehand.

**JP:** You throw your hands up and say it *is* impossible. Think about this: There was a time that no one would take the leadership role in the New York Mafia because the FBI made it very clear they would do all they could to take that leader down. This created a void of leadership that eventually led to a lack of discipline within the group and ultimately less predictability and more brutality. The same scenario has played out with criminal gangs over the years.

The lack of a solid leadership structure and organization within terrorist groups has likewise led to fracturing within its ranks, less discipline among its membership, and—to the frustration of law enforcement—less predictability, as lone wolf attackers are extraordinarily difficult to detect.

**EW:** This pursuit of predictability by law enforcement under increasingly difficult circumstances likely explains the increased use of controversial tactics such as the NSA’s surveillance program and more restrictions at airports.

**JP:** Yes, intelligence services rely on technology and the internet in the fight against terrorism. Much of the communication, propaganda and marketing for terrorism is being done via the web. Security, law enforcement agencies,

and intelligence agencies are spending more and more time paying attention to social media and other web channels, as well as attempting to track communications via cellphone, the internet, social media, and text messages—all things that are increasingly becoming encrypted. There is a real possibility that electronics such as laptops could be completely banned as carry-ons on all domestic flights due to the threat. It is the classic “cat and mouse” approach where each side tries to outflank the other.

**EW:** Take us inside the minds of these terrorists and their groups. They seem so beyond normal human behavior.

**JP:** A terrorist organization is first a human organization. In that way, it is no different than any other organization. It has people who are natural leaders. People who are followers. People who are more adept at violence and aggression. It also has people who are more cerebral, the thinkers and planners. Terrorists and their organizations are not necessarily all the same.

That said, I spent a lot of time dealing with gangs. The only real distinction between the two is that terrorists have the larger cause. However, both gang members and terrorists have a *huge* tendency or mindset about the use of force or asserting strength.

The average member of a gang understands strength. Strength is what drives the streets, and determines who

rules the streets. It is about the ability to intimidate and manipulate people. The goal is to be stronger physically, financially, mentally and, from a religious terrorist’s standpoint, spiritually.

Understanding and respecting strength drove my thinking as a tactical police officer and projected well into the world of fighting terrorism. Strength is what terrorists understand. Osama bin Laden used to call America the “weak horse.” He saw the U.S. as a strong country, but weak-kneed and weak-willed.

This notion that we can somehow get terrorists to like us is foolhardy. Nature abhors a vacuum. Somebody will rule. Someone’s strength will prevail. It’s just a matter of whose. The idea that being friendly or amiable to draw in, frankly, evil people is foolhardy and defeats anything that I know about human nature.

**EW:** It is interesting how the mind of a gang member or criminal is so similar to terrorist thinking.

**JP:** Yes, but there are differences that make terrorists so dangerous. I created a table in one of my books that compared a common criminal to the average terrorist.

The typical criminal tends to be opportunistic. He is looking for opportunities to commit an illegal act. He often will go around, arbitrarily looking

Please see **TERRORISM**, page 24

# REVOLUTION



**HOW THE REFORMATION  
SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD**

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## Five hundred years after Martin Luther challenged the monolithic power of the Catholic Church, the effects of the movement he sparked continue.

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BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

**T**HE WORLD CHANGED forever on June 6, 2013. British newspaper *The Guardian* released the first files that began to reveal the scope of America's National Security Agency spying program against its citizens and foreign nations.

Three days later, former intelligence employee Edward Snowden revealed himself as the source of the leaks, stating, "I have no intention of hiding who I am because I know I have done nothing wrong."

Mr. Snowden felt morally compelled to expose what was unwittingly occurring around the world. This was one man going against the most powerful government history has ever seen.

The actions of this self-proclaimed whistleblower, and similar ones from organizations such as WikiLeaks, reveal a world in flux. We are in a transition period of history. This is a brave new world where ideas and opinions can be spread globally with a few strokes of a computer keyboard.

As of yet, those alive today cannot know what new world will emerge from this time of transition.

The actions of Mr. Snowden spawned countless results—good, bad and everything in between. Supporters of his actions feel he shined a noble spotlight on gross governmental overreach. Many detractors see the man as nothing more than a traitor, plain and simple.

Right or wrong, Edward Snowden owes a lot to the revolutionaries and whistleblowers who came before him—those who refused to back down no matter what.

Yet there was one who started it all. While Mr. Snowden was born in 1983, there was another man born 500 years earlier in 1483: Martin Luther, the father of the Protestant Reformation. He too lived during a tumultuous period and stood up against the most powerful institution of his time, the Catholic Church. He used the relatively new technology of the printing press to spread his ideas. And we *can* know what effects his actions had.

Legend has it that, on October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. The monk had previously organized a debate to discuss corruption in the Catholic Church—

namely the use of paid indulgences to forgive sins—but no one showed. Instead, he had his complaints printed and began distributing them.

What started as wanting to reform the Catholic Church quickly spawned countless denominations, armed revolts, and a new age. Ultimately, Luther's fabled hammer blows echoed throughout time to shape the modern world.

### Why Luther Succeeded

Luther, whom historians have called “the last medieval man and the first modern one,” was not the first to take on the Catholic Church. But he was the first to get away with it. Men like John Hus, a Czechoslovakian priest, took umbrage against Rome and was burned at the stake in 1415. Girolamo Savonarola stood up to the Vatican and was hung and his body burned in 1498.

According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, one way Luther distinguished himself from previous reformers was while they “attacked corruption in the life of the church, he went to the theological root of the problem—the perversion of the church's doctrine of redemption and grace.”

But this rogue monk was not a mythic figure that came out of nowhere. Rather, he was a product of his time.

The 11th edition of *Britannica* states that “the roots of the movement in which he was the central figure must be sought for in the popular religious life of the last decades of the 15th and opening decades of the 16th century—a field which has been neglected by

almost all his biographers...Pious parents, whether among the burghers or peasants, seem to have taught their children a simple evangelical faith. Martin Luther and thousands of children like him were trained at home to know the creed, the ten commandments, the Lord's prayer...”

“Alongside this we can trace the growth of another religious movement of a different kind. We can see a sturdy commonsense religion taking possession of multitudes in Germany, which insisted that laymen might rule in many departments supposed to belong exclusively to the clergy.”

“Lastly, the medieval Brethren were engaged in printing and distributing tracts, mystical, anti-clerical, sometimes socialist. All these influences abounded as Luther was growing to manhood and laid their marks upon him.”

There were also financial motives behind Luther's success. Wealthy supporters and noblemen backed the Protestant cause because a decrease in the Vatican's political and economic influence meant laymen could amass more wealth.

Yet the printing press most allowed for the Protestant movement to take hold. Before Johannes Gutenberg's movable type printing press came in 1439, Rome had squelched out disagreeing ideas quickly and publicly. But everything changed when one person's ideas could be spread by simply handing someone a leaflet. Ideas could spread like viruses until they became impossible to eradicate.

### German Impact

Of course, Martin Luther's teaching spawned the Lutheran Church. His actions made way for the Reformed, Anabaptist and Anglican denominations. But his impact was not just religious. His handprints remain on the German nation today.

A longer quote from *The Economist* summarizes the national impact of this one man: “Start with aesthetics. For Luther this was, like everything else, a serious matter. He believed that Christians were guaranteed salvation through Jesus but had a duty to live in such a way as to deserve it. Ostentation was thus a disgraceful distraction from the asceticism required to examine one's own conscience. The traces of this severity live on in Germany's early 20th-century Bauhaus architecture, and even in the furniture styles at IKEA (from Lutheran Sweden). They can be seen in the modest dress, office decor and eating habits of Angela Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, and of Joachim Gauck, Germany's president and a former pastor himself. Both may partake of the glitz of the French presidency while visiting Paris, but it would never pass in Berlin.

“Luther shared his distaste for visual ornament with other Protestant reformers. But he differed in the role he saw for music. The Swiss Protestants John Calvin and Huldrych Zwingli viewed music as sensual temptation and frowned on it. But to Luther music was a divinely inspired weapon against



**1517**

German monk Martin Luther reportedly posts his Ninety-five Theses on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany.

**1519**

During the Leipzig Debate, Luther argues *sola scriptura*, meaning Scripture alone is the source for Christian doctrine.

**1520-21**

Luther denies the Pope's authority to interpret the Bible. After refusing to recant at the Diet of Worms, he is declared a heretic and excommunicated.



**“Luther’s revolution has influence on nearly every facet of modern culture.”**

the devil. He wanted believers to sing together—in German, in church and at home, and with instruments accompanying them. Today Germany has 130 publicly financed orchestras, more than any other country. And concerts are still attended like sermons, somberly and seriously.

“Luther’s inheritance can also be seen in the fact that Germany, the world’s 17th-most populous country, has the second-largest book market after America’s. After he translated the Bible into German, Luther wanted everyone, male or female, rich or poor, to read it. At first Protestants became more literate than Catholics; ultimately all Germans became bookish.

“Finally, a familiar thesis links Luther to German attitudes towards money. In this view Catholics, used to confessing and being absolved after each round of sins, tend to run up debts (*Schulden*, from the same root as *Schuld*,

or ‘guilt’), whereas Protestants see saving as a moral imperative. This argument, valid or not, has a familiar ring in southern Europe’s mainly Catholic and Orthodox countries, which have spent the euro crisis enduring lectures on austerity from Wolfgang Schauble, Germany’s devoutly Lutheran finance minister.”

#### **Global Impact**

Luther’s revolution has influence on nearly every facet of modern culture. Certainly, there are theological implications, but it also influenced law, ethics and the humanities.

*Deutsche Welle* reported: “‘Protestantism contributed largely to the development of the American nation and its self-image,’ say the [500-year Protestant anniversary] exhibition organizers in Berlin. ‘It impacted the idea of America as the Promised Land and of the Americans as the Chosen People.’”

According to the newspaper, “the phenomenal effect” of the Ninety-five Theses “quickly spread throughout the country. Luther probably became famous because the theses critical of the church were printed on a leaflet that was in circulation.”

*Time* expounded on the widespread impact of the Reformation: “Luther’s conviction that all men stand equally naked before God constitutes the theological substratum justifying liberal democracy. His teaching on ‘the two kingdoms’—that man with his soul belongs to the church, and his body to the world—contributed to the rise of the modern secular state. Luther’s conception of the ‘priesthood of all believers’ implied that man served God best in his daily existence—the basis of the Protestant ethic of work and achievement. His insistence that men must read God’s word contributed to the spread of literacy. And in his own

## **1522**

A German translation of the New Testament is produced by Luther, with a translation of the Old Testament following in 1534.



## **1526**

English scholar William Tyndale publishes a translation of the New Testament in the English language.



## **1531**

Catholic forces fight and defeat a Protestant army in Switzerland led by Swiss Reformation leader Ulrich Zwingli, who is killed in battle.



## **1533**

In defiance of the Catholic Church, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer nullifies the marriage of King Henry VIII of England and Catherine of Aragon.

translation of the Bible—a rendering whose only peers are the King James version and the Latin Vulgate—Luther wrote a German of poetry and power that has been matched only by Goethe himself. In effect, he created a common language for Germany, the necessary prelude to nationhood.”

In addition, the declining power of the Catholic Church allowed for further intellectual progress, which helped spur on the scientific revolution of the time. This movement included Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, and many other fathers of modern science.

Though Luther’s historical impact is without question, he was not without flaws. *Spectator* reported in a review of the book *Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet* that he was at once a “charismatic, bruising, paradoxical and appalling Augustinian monk turned renegade.”

Though *Time* praised him for detailing his scriptural ideas with clarity and elegance, the magazine stated that “he was capable of a four-letter grossness of language. He was the archetype of individual Christian assertion; yet he could be brutally intolerant of dissent, and acquiesced in the suppression of those he considered heretics. Prayerful and beer-loving, sensual and austere, he was the least saintly, but most human, of saints.”

Luther’s image is also tarnished by his anti-Semitic writings that were later used by the Hitler-era Nazis to espouse their Final Solution.

The paradoxical father of Protestantism gave rise to a host of effects both good and bad—but most of them were unintended.

### Tumultuous Change

The theological revolution quickly gave way to political bloodshed. In 1524, the German Peasants’ War began when peasants and farmers went against the aristocracy. One cause of this war was interpreting the teachings of Jesus Christ to support socialist ideologies. Up to 100,000 lost their lives in the short-lived conflict.

Violent clashes between Catholics and Protestants were another result of the Reformation. The Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) was born out of tensions between the two Christian groups. When the Treaty of Westphalia ended the conflict, eight million had been killed.

All in all, the decades after 1517 were filled with tumultuous change, but *slowly*, the modern world appeared. Europe became increasingly secular. Britain split from the Catholic Church, started Anglicanism, and grew into a global empire. America—built largely on Protestant ideals—became the most influential nation of all time.

Yet years of relative global stability are at an end. Political order is again shifting. While there has been armed conflict throughout the years, it used to be a relatively simple “us versus them.” Think of Axis and Allies

in World War II, or U.S. versus Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Today is not so simple. The global war on terror has sparked a period in which attacks can come from anywhere at any time. As stability wanes, the number of impossible situations continues to grow: North Korea’s escalating nuclear program, Ukraine’s civil war, ISIS, Syria’s war and refugee crisis, and China flexing its muscles in the South China Sea.

All of this is occurring in a world where power is more evenly distributed and borders are increasingly meaningless. A new world is being born.

As has happened ever since the Bible was printed in the common tongue, many today read certain prophecies it contains and attempt to apply it to world conditions.

One popular passage to lean on is Jesus’ Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24, Mark 12, and Luke 21. This speaks of “wars and rumors of wars” to occur at the “end of the age,” right before Christ’s return.

Yet there is a problem with attempting to tie current events with what is written in the Bible. Self-proclaimed prophecy experts constantly disagree and offer up competing ideologies.

How can you know who is right? Is prophecy even something worth investigating?

Even 500 years after the start of the Reformation, one of Luther’s main hopes remains utterly unfulfilled—that

*Please see REFORMATION, page 31*

## 1534

Spanish priest Ignatius of Loyola founds the Society of Jesus order as part of the Catholic Counter-Reformation; King Henry VIII becomes supreme head of the Church of England.

## 1545

The Catholic Church begins holding the Council of Trent to address church reform, clarify doctrine, and repudiate Protestantism.

## 1555

A Catholic peace treaty grants toleration to Lutherans under the principle *cuius regio, eius religio*, meaning, “He who governs the territory decides its religion.”



# WARS. RUMORS OF WARS. COMMOTIONS.

Millions worldwide are terrified by worsening war, political instability, terrorist attacks, and other violent threats. What is causing these problems? Jesus Christ warned of specific conditions that would precede His return—and His words reveal **WHY** world trouble and instability are on the rise! Watch *The World to Come* broadcast “Christ Foretold ‘Wars, Rumors of Wars and Commotions’—Here Now!” to learn the biblical truth behind these events—and what is coming next.

**WORLDTOCOME.ORG**

# In a Hyper-connected World, Why Do We Feel So ALONE?



**I**N A WORLD of online communication and instant connectivity, people have more “friends” than ever. But there is one thing they are losing: close friends.

A study by the charity Relate revealed that 1 in 10 people in the United Kingdom do not have a close friend, and 3 percent reported having no friends at all. In addition, 19 percent said they never or rarely felt loved in the two weeks before the survey.

One person wrote about her personal experience of lacking close friends in *The Washington Post*: “Friends lived mere subway stops away, dispersed between neighborhoods. I’d see them every few weeks, enjoying the intimacy of reunion. But in the quiet moments, the rides from work or on solo weeknights—time I once spent at dining halls or libraries, surrounded by friends—I became fixated on what I lacked. At 22, I’d senselessly stress about who would be my maid of honor, who would rock beside me at the nurs-

ing home and who would star in the reckless, exaggerated stories I’d tell my kids someday.”

According to John Cacioppo, the director of the Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, prolonged loneliness triggers the same response as hunger, thirst and physical pain—it drives a person to seek human contact. If left unsatisfied, depression follows.

Loneliness has been affecting increasing numbers of people over the past few decades. According to *Fortune*: “The percentage of Americans who responded that they regularly or frequently felt lonely was between 11% and 20% in the 1970s and 1980s [the percentage varied depending on the study].

“In 2010, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) did a nationally representative study in 2010 and found it was closer to 40% to 45%. And a recent study done on older adults out of University of California – San Francisco put it at 43%. In our own longitudinal studies, we’ve seen it at about 26% and longitudinal studies

in Europe have found around the same thing...”

The irony here is that these statistics coincide with the increased use of social media applications that allow users to routinely amass lists of friends and followers.

How can you buck the trend, cultivate close friendships, and reap all the mental and physical benefits that come from such relationships?

## **Humanity’s Ultimate Self-help Book**

Visit a bookstore or scour the internet and you will discover countless self-help books and guides addressing virtually any problem. People are not naturally born with the ability to manage a marriage. Parents do not instinctively know how to rear happy, healthy children. And men and women do not automatically know how to find and sustain intimate, personal friendships.

Each person must be taught.

Of course, well-intentioned books can help us learn some helpful general principles. But there is an ancient instruction book containing priceless knowledge that was laid out specifically

for mankind. Most people dismiss it, but its words bring depth of understanding that surpasses all of man's books combined.

That book is the Bible. It contains instructions from our Creator that teach us how to successfully get along with other people.

Jeremiah 10:23 reveals that "the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps." While physical knowledge can be attained through trial and error, true spiritual understanding must be revealed.

The Word of God sheds light on the topic of friendship. It defines healthy, personal relationships between friends—and instructs us how to develop, nurture and maintain them.

### Foundational Principles

The Bible advises readers, "...there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24).

Such friends stick closer than family members because they *are* family, in that, they share the same beliefs, the same values, the same goals, the same passions and desires—and they share the same willingness to sacrifice their very lives and freedom for what they believe. They are also comfortable confiding secrets, sharing innermost thoughts, bearing the full brunt of their emotions toward one another while speaking face-to-face. They are even comfortable with each other in silence.

It is this type of connection that Jesus and the apostle John shared. Both had in common a personal focus on love, which the Bible defines as genuine, *outgoing* concern for others. Numerous accounts describe John as the disciple whom Jesus "loved" (John 13:1; 21:20). John, who came to be known as the apostle of love, devoted much of his accounts to expand on the importance and meaning of love.

The biblical definition of love, which includes the desire to selflessly give, is a prerequisite for a "friend that sticks closer than a brother." In fact, this is the kind of love that the first part of this same verse in Proverbs describes: "A man that has friends must show himself friendly" (18:24).

Often people assume that others will enter into their lives and become friends—they are either too afraid to initiate conversation or do not know how. This is especially true in a time when people tend to move frequently, leaving behind family and established friendships and relying on technology to keep in touch.

The same *Fortune* article described some of the roadblocks of living in an increasingly mobile world.

"We aren't as closely bound. We no longer live in the same village for generations, which means we don't have the same generational connections. That releases social constraints—relationships are formed and replaced more easily today. We have Tinder, Match, eHarmony and all these kinds of places you can dial up and find friendships, connections and opportunities that didn't exist. In the last 15 years or so, many of those face-to-face connections have been replaced with social networking. We've found that if you use social networking as a way to promote face-to-face conversation, it lowers loneliness. But if you use a destination, as a replacement for the face-to-face, it increases loneliness."

How can you overcome these realities? The Bible teaches that a person must make the first step—and do so in a friendly manner—in order to have friends.

Look at this verse another way. "A man that has friends must show himself friendly" means to avoid the tendency of using friendships to get something out of them. True friendship requires continual effort and giving of your personality in order to reveal to the other person that you are "friendly." Friendliness includes being trustworthy, honest, open and willing to help. Sometimes this means being forward with information you feel is personal to yourself (within the bounds of decency). But by being willing to be "heart to heart," you open the door for another person to reciprocate.

Another principle in God's Word: friends must agree (Amos 3:3-7). At

the very least, they should be able to find common ground and be willing to compromise. A friend makes it a habit to put the needs and concerns of others first. For this reason, God considered Abraham His friend (Jms. 2:23)—despite the patriarch being a fallible, flesh-and-blood human being. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his personal desires to satisfy God's will (read Genesis chapters 12-24 for the full account).

### The Ultimate Friendship

Human beings are wired to have reciprocal friendships. One of our greatest desires in life is to share ourselves with others, and to have others share themselves with us.

This should be no mystery because God—who *is* love and created mankind to share Himself with it (I John 4:8, 10)—is the same.

This sheds light on why Jesus, when He was told that His physical mother and siblings were waiting to speak with Him, stretched His hands out toward a crowd of followers and declared that *they* were His true family (Matt. 12:46-49). Christ was not being rude. He simply took the opportunity to drive home the point that "whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, *the same is My brother, and sister, and mother*" (vs. 50).

To have a close, personal relationship with God—a friendship—means obeying Him. Christ declared, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). He also stated: "I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him" (vs. 20-21).

Just as close human bonds bring satisfaction and eliminate loneliness, a friendship with God brings fulfillment—a greater reward than any could imagine. I Corinthians 2:9 states: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him." □

# TERRORISM

Continued from page 15

and seeking to capitalize. It is more random. A terrorist, on the other hand, can be much more focused. He tends to settle on a target and act in a much more sophisticated way. He will go out and case the place: take photos and make diagrams. He may plan for weeks or months to commit a single crime that the typical criminal would otherwise fall into.

Also, the criminal's goal is to escape. He seeks to commit a crime and get away. A bank robber is a classic example. Robbing the bank itself is usually less difficult than getting away with the money. As with most crimes, the escape is the most complicated part of the plan.

A terrorist—particularly one that is suicidal—doesn't have to include an escape plan. Taking away the element of escape from the planning and commission of the crime makes it substantially easier for the terrorist. If he died on the scene, it was likely a *part of the plan*.

Training is another factor. You've seen TV shows and movies where the gangbanger ineptly points his gun side-

ways. Conversely, it can be scary to realize that terrorists are often trained warriors. They may have been trained in Syria or Iraq and came back to the streets with a level of sophistication found only in a war zone.

Add to this a level of commitment. A criminal tends to be non-committed—not concerned about a larger cause. A terrorist, on the other hand, exhibits high levels of commitment—to the point that many are willing to die. Most criminals are not willing to die. While they may be willing to go to jail, most are not willing to risk their lives for whatever is in a purse or for what they can take from a bank.

**EW:** I can see how a person willing to kill himself makes terrorism such a unique evil. So, it sounds like strength is the answer to addressing the issue.

**JP:** The bully on the playground backs down when somebody stands up to him. This still holds true in the logic of terrorism.

A terrorist causes terror. He doesn't negotiate his way through the matter. He doesn't try to give you better logic. He tells you he is going to kill you. By using that technique, he is using strength. He understands strength and

thus you have to stand up to him with strength. The 2007 troop surge in Iraq under President Bush was a good example. Bush just dumped troops into Iraq and partnered with the Sunnis to take out al-Qaida. They saw the surge as an in-your-face, you-die-or-I-die mindset. Large numbers of Islamists died in that approach. U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis now speaks in terms of using "annihilation tactics" to defeat ISIS.

Now, I am not saying you take an "only strength" approach. I am reminded of the Bible passage that speaks to the "goodness and severity" of God. God has been extraordinarily merciful and patient in my life—and that is another side to the approach. Just like some gang members I dealt with on the street, you can touch them with softer approaches. And you generally don't go with strength as the first or the only option. But with God, who gives people time to get it right, sooner or later His patience will end and His severity will become very, very obvious. There is a parallel for dealing with terrorists.

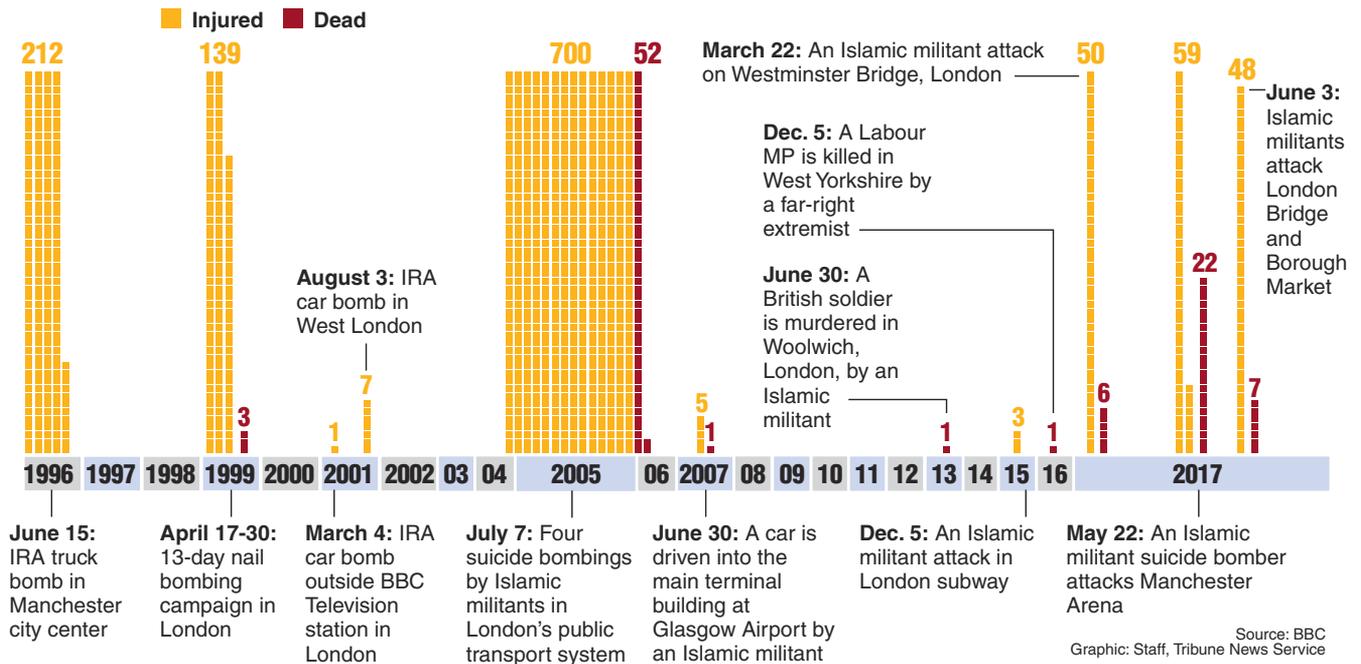
**EW:** How does fighting terrorism at the street level work? Talk about the challenges there.



■ **REMEMBRANCE:** A man views photographs of victims at the 9/11 Tribute Museum in New York City during its grand opening (June 13, 2017).

PHOTO: DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

# Terrorist Attacks in Great Britain over the Past 20 Years



**JP:** It is also difficult. If you are a good policeman, you work off probabilities, because you don't necessarily know who's a good guy and who's a bad guy. When engaging in investigative or tactical methods, you use probabilities to increase your chances of catching somebody doing something wrong.

When you see multiple attacks or attempted attacks committed by Muslims or those claiming a connection with ISIS, you naturally learn to profile, looking for certain characteristics to enhance your probability of finding the "bad guy." While it is politically incorrect to say so, this greatly increases when you engage those who fit a certain profile. This logic of profiling those likely to commit acts of terror held true in the early to mid-90s, when this country experienced high-profile attacks by domestic right-wing extremist groups such as those involved in the Oklahoma City bombing. They tended to be white males.

You run the risk, however, of being labeled Islamophobic, a racist, a xenophobe, and any other "phobe" that we have now applied to the lexicon of American culture. And from a law enforcement standpoint, a reasonable

officer is now less willing to risk dealing with proactive, characteristic profiling because he doesn't want to be accused. He doesn't want to be seen as part of some kind of "ism" when he is just trying to do his job.

**EW:** This sounds like the negative side of political correctness. I am sure this erodes strength.

**JP:** It does. It fuels the bad guy. He is emboldened because he has two things going for him. For one, if you engage him and he's not "dirty" at that moment—meaning you didn't catch him with a gun or a bomb—then he immediately becomes the victim. As the victim, he can seek redress through the legal system or through the media. Such cases result in those like him being less likely to be engaged by law enforcement and thus given more leverage or more opportunity to commit a crime in the future.

We see it in Chicago, where the police department has largely sat down in the last few years and criminals have stood up and started killing more people. This is the result of law enforcement entities deciding not to engage because of the risk of being accused of certain "isms" and either

being sued, losing a job, or being killed, either politically or physically. For many in law enforcement, it is a risk not worth taking. This plays in both the criminal and terrorist spheres.

**EW:** This comes back to the argument of security versus rights, which you covered extensively in one of your books. You wonder how many rights people are willing to sacrifice to ensure their security.

**JP:** The ultimate goal in any environment, particularly in a democracy, is to find a balance between security and freedom. The case for leaning toward more security is simple—do you want to die? Another way of saying this is, are your rights worth dying for?

Most people are only willing to go so far. They don't want to die in a quest to maintain their rights. The challenge in a terroristic environment is to find the optimal balance of security and rights.

Concerning the case for rights, we live in an environment where we can generally come and go as we see fit. The ideas of freedom of religion, freedom of association, and freedom of travel are important parts of life. The larger the threat, the more likely



■ **TERROR ALERT:** Soldiers are deployed near Buckingham Palace in London, England, in the wake of the Manchester Arena terror attack (May 24, 2017).

PHOTO: JACK TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES

people are willing to give away their rights—as evidenced after 9/11 when two or three hour waits in lines at an airport became the norm and people were, for the most part, okay with that.

Now, longer lines in an airport are less tolerable because many people perceive that their security is not at immediate risk, certainly not as it was shortly after 9/11. Think about all the public relations incidents committed in commercial airlines lately. Almost all these stem from ill-fated attempts to enforce “security protocols” on passengers who did not believe they were at risk.

But you may not feel the same way if you were in France or the UK right now. The kind of dynamic that goes on in a particular environment will often dictate how much of “my rights” or “my life” is emphasized.

Plainly speaking, the war on terror can only be won when more people are willing to sacrifice their lives for freedom as opposed to those who are willing to die for a fanatical world view.

**EW:** I think about pivotal times in our nation’s history: The Revolutionary War, World War I, and World War

II. Do you think people still have the fortitude to fight and die for freedom?

**JP:** Some in America do. But if you get a snapshot of the country, it’s arguably the case that most people don’t care about anything but themselves. Most go with the flow and put their finger to the air and decide to do whatever is right for them at that moment in time. That is the prevailing mindset among Americans. I don’t think most have the character to commit themselves to anything that is hard or dangerous. They try to find the easy way out in life and avoid standing up for convictions because it requires courage that most do not seem to have.

**EW:** Where do you see terrorism, if things continue, in the next five to 10 years?

**JP:** I believe that law enforcement will have to change the way it is policing. I advocated a new model of policing, which I called *public safety policing*. It featured a militarized police force with a huge reliance on technology, intelligence gathering, and surveillance. These could be combined with private security providers as the country’s police departments,

particularly in urban areas, are simply overwhelmed by the number of threats. But even this approach is not a panacea. The issues are just so hard and complex.

I think the bigger point is that certain lessons can come out of this crisis. In the midst of perpetual fear, violence and uncertainty, society has an opportunity to look inside itself and ask: What is life for? What is my life about? Once you strip away all the niceties of everyday life, the realities of life and death become much more prominent.

In a terroristic environment in which you could lose your life at any time, questions like: Who am I? Why do I exist? Why am I here? What is life? Is there something bigger than me? Is there a God who I can look to for protection?—all prevail.

The percentage that ask these questions will largely be proportionate to the level of problems we face. The bigger and more impactful the problems, the more likely people become introspective.

I believe mankind’s inability to stop terrorism will compel many to begin searching for answers to these much deeper questions. □

## MACRON

Continued from page 11

that the “use of chemical weapons will see a response, including by France alone,” according to *Reuters*. “France will therefore be completely aligned with the United States on this.”

“Did someone from Trump’s team get to French President Macron at the recent G20 Summit?” Vladimir

Signorelli, founder of investment research firm Bretton Woods Research in New Jersey, wrote in a note to clients. “That’s the question we’re asking ourselves as we see France beginning to row in the same direction with U.S. policymaking on taxes, Syria and Russia.”

And similar to Mr. Trump, whose first year in office has begun to test his policies, Mr. Macron’s policies are being held up to the light.

**“...similar to Mr. Trump, whose first year in office has begun to test his policies, Mr. Macron’s policies are being held up to the light.”**



■ **RECEPTION:** French President Emmanuel Macron welcomes U.S. President Donald Trump prior to a meeting at the presidential palace in Paris, France (July 13, 2017).

PHOTO: THIERRY CHESNOT/GETTY IMAGES

### Untested Leadership

While Mr. Macron’s first few months in office have been characterized by optimism and powerful promises, uncertainty remains.

“If there are reservations about Mr. Macron’s ability to lead, they concern his untested political resolve,” *The Economist* reported. “Faced with a fractured country, restless unions and a potentially unstable parliament after legislative elections in June, would he have what it takes to stave off, or withstand, revolt? ‘He is fearless,’ says a team member, pointing to the way that he, a newcomer to elections, has swept aside political veterans and is now dictating terms to them.”

For example, one of Mr. Macron’s reforms to tackle the budget deficit includes cutting the number of lawmakers in parliament by a third and slashing 120,000 public sector jobs. He announced to parliament while attempting to push through these measures: “I want all these deep reforms that our institutions seriously need to be done within a year. These reforms will go to parliament but, if necessary, I will put them to voters in a referendum.”

But others see this as all charm—the same old wine in a shiny new bottle. One person told *The Local* that Mr. Macron won simply because he “is the lesser evil.”

*BBC News* wrote that what got the French president into power was his ability to play on the hopes of common French laborers, the frustrations of corporate owners, and the overall desire for change, modernity and youth to replace the established French government. However, the news agency stated that “he won’t be able to govern that way. He has five years to solve France’s problems, or risk at choosing more radical change next time.”

Then again, this is the same man who found success even when the odds seemed stacked against him. □

## PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

that his life story starting in Genesis 12 was real. He also spoke of Isaac and Jacob: “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you [the Pharisees] shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out” (Luke 13:28).

Paul wrote of the patriarchs: “By faith he [Abraham] sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise” (Heb. 11:9). He also wrote: “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac...his only begotten son...By faith Jacob, when he was a dying [only those who first live can die], blessed both the sons of Joseph...” (vs. 17, 21).

Just in Galatians, Paul mentions Abraham and Isaac many times. The apostle James added, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac...?” (James 2:21).

Peter also mentions Abraham’s wife Sarah: “Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters you are, as long as you do well...” (I Pet. 3:6). If Sarah never lived, no woman reading this has a chance to be her daughter. She did live!

Pause and consider what you are reading. These people are all found in the book of Genesis and in the early chapters!

### Sodom and Gomorrah

Jesus also referred to Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, recorded in Genesis: “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:28-29). He also stated: “Remember Lot’s wife” (vs. 32).

Do not let today’s normal societal conditions fool you as they will many.

Time is short! Matthew records: “It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city [He was referring to]” (10:15). Jesus talked about Sodom and Gomorrah because He knew these cities existed. He did not spiritualize them away as myths. It was Jesus, as the God of the Old Testament, who destroyed them!

As the nations of the world mirror Sodom and Gomorrah more with each passing day, such passages grow in importance to any thinking reader. But many simply do not, and will not, care about these passages—these great truths—because the stark language God uses is not “intellectual” enough for them. He does not speak as though He is sufficiently “enlightened” to modern views about love, dignity and inclusion. *Poor God*. To so many who profess to follow Him, He is just lost in the past, unable to separate fact from fiction so He can progress with an advancing society.

Speaking of our modern nations, Paul wrote: “As Isaiah said before, Except the LORD of Sabaoth [hosts] had left us a seed, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrah” (Rom. 9:29).

Peter added: “Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; and delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation [meaning filthy conduct] of the wicked” (II Pet. 2:6-7).

The apostle Jude recorded: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal [meaning permanent] fire” (1:7).

How can things that *never happened* be examples of what not to do? How can destruction that *never happened* herald what will happen again? Such warnings would be based on fraud! Of course, increasingly, politicians and judges seem to believe these what-should-be *deeply sobering* exam-

ples never occurred—and that Peter, Paul, Jude and Jesus Himself were all scaremongers who at best exaggerated, and at worst invented stories to make a point.

These passages alone confirm a widely rejected Old Testament event—the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Either this event happened or the New Testament writers were uninspired liars—Jesus included! Be careful what you believe. I have been to the ruins of Sodom and held the ashes and burnt rocks that crumble in your hand. Lot was a real person, and Sodom and Gomorrah were real cities! So says GOD. This includes His explanation of *why* He destroyed them. Ponder this. And ponder how it validates the Bible’s first book.

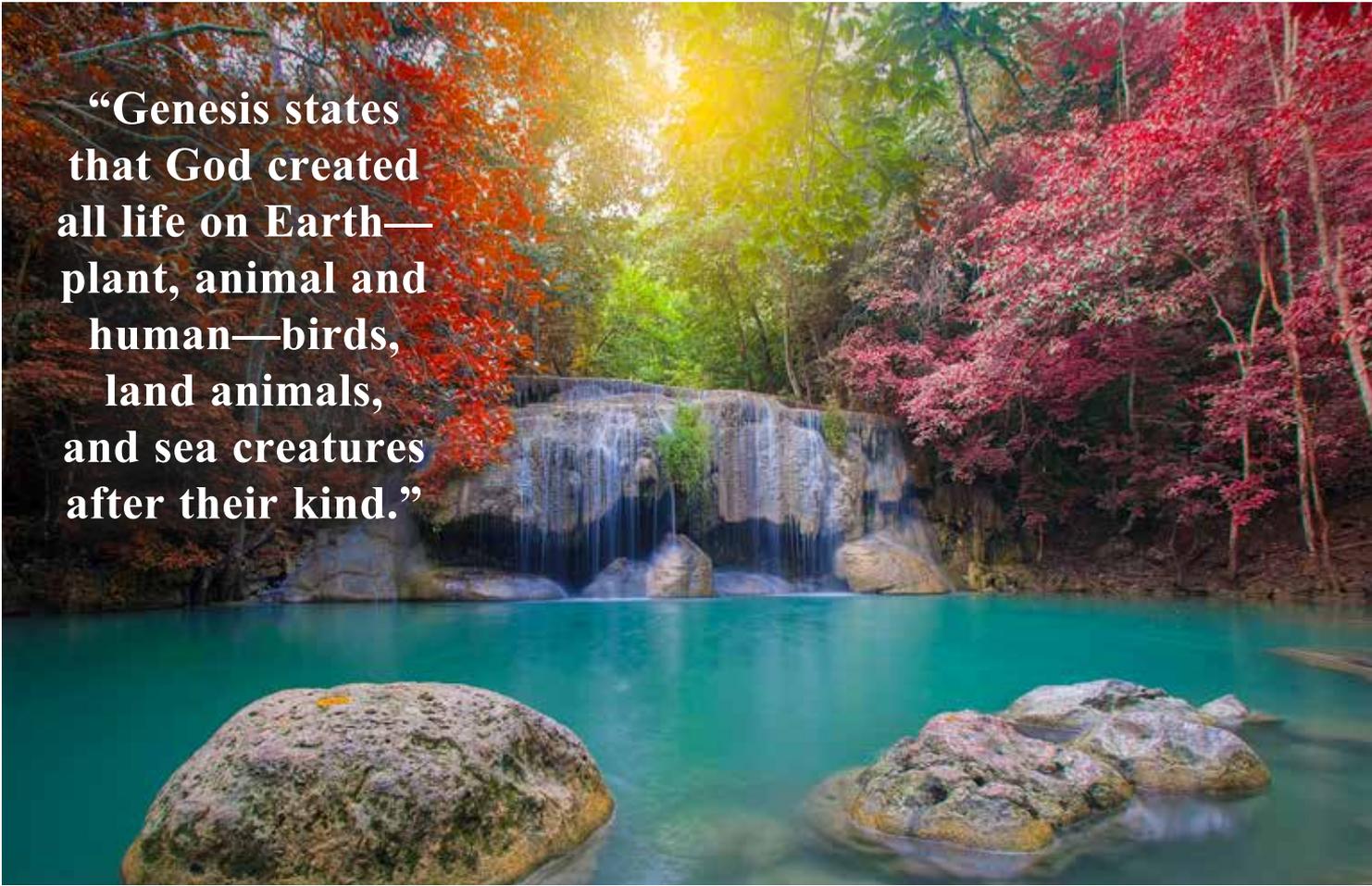
Notice what the deacon Stephen said about Joseph before he was killed: “The patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him” (Acts 7:9), and, “...Joseph’s kindred was made known unto Pharaoh. Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him...” (vs. 13-14).

Moses, who wrote Genesis, is mentioned 80 times in the New Testament alone! Some examples: “Moses said, Honor your father and your mother...” (Mark 7:10); “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17); “Jesus said to them...Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven” (John 6:32); “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31). Millions believe Moses existed but do not believe what he wrote. Christians—not just Jews—are to believe the words of Moses.

### Christ Is the Creator

Countless more examples could be given. Each would add its own additional strength. The New Testament without the Old would be a building with no foundation—and no support. No wonder Christ and the apostles quoted Moses so often.

The apostle John underscored that Jesus Christ is the Creator—



**“Genesis states  
that God created  
all life on Earth—  
plant, animal and  
human—birds,  
land animals,  
and sea creatures  
after their kind.”**

the Lord—the God—of the Genesis account. Notice: “In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things* were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3). All things—including Adam and Eve—means all things. And “without Him was not anything made that was made” means what it says! You must decide if this is true or false—if you should believe God or scientists.

The book of Genesis opens declaring, “In the beginning God created the heaven[s] and the earth” (1:1). Psalms records: “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...Let all the earth fear the LORD...For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and [the earth] stood fast” (33:6, 8-9). Thinking of all you have heard so far, I ask: Do you

believe this? Do you fear God? Make yourself answer *yes* or *no*.

Genesis states that God created all life on Earth—plant, animal and human—birds, land animals, and sea creatures after their kind. (Read Genesis 1:20-25.) “After their kind” means God set distinctions between animal groups and between all animals and humans. Human beings are different. The account states: “God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them” (1:27), and, “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” (2:7). This cannot be spiritualized away as any kind of picture of evolution.

Every living thing on Earth was created by God. Human beings were formed in the image and likeness of their Creator. Genesis 1:31 states God created man at a *specific point*—the sixth day.

(While *man* has existed for 6,000 years, Earth has for billions of years. This was covered in my *World to Come* series proving God’s existence titled “Does God Exist?—Many *Absolute* Proofs!” Watch it at [worldtocome.org](http://worldtocome.org).)

If the Creation account was not *literal*, then it must be a metaphor, allegory or nice story. Were this true, how many other biblical accounts are similarly fictional—including accounts of Jesus’ own life? And how would we know which are which?

### **Faith Is Required**

Most know Christ spoke in parables. Few know *why*. They are not for the purpose of illustration. Notice: “The disciples...said to Him, Why speak You unto them [the masses] in parables? He answered...them, Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given...Because they seeing see *not*; and hearing they hear *not*, nei-

ther do they understand” (Matt. 13:10-11, 13). Jesus said He used parables to hide His meaning from those He was not calling—those to whom it was “not given” to understand. Millions today “see but see not,” “hear but hear not,” and “do not understand.”

Here is the point. This Personal is not to those who cannot understand. We will see why God did this with some. This article is to those who are “given” to understand by God. Others will not care.

Which are you?

Ironically, it is a parable that tells you, “Whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock” (Matt. 7:24). The test is whether you ACT on Jesus’ words—His sayings.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, *and* that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). Let’s see how coming to and seeking God involves faith *in His Word*—as it is written.

First recall from Part 1 that Jesus declared, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). He spoke this before any of the New Testament was written. He called the Old Testament record true—the truth! Be careful of calling it something else because powerful religious figures do.

Now recall Proverbs: “Every word of God is pure: He is a *shield* unto them that put their trust [their faith] in Him. Add you not unto His words [by calling them mere stories or representations], lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar” (30:5-6). Do you trust God that His Word is true—pure? Or have you allowed confused, atheistic scientists to cast doubt on the Bible? Remember, without faith you cannot please God.

Hebrews 6:18 speaks of *another* impossibility: It is “impossible for God to lie.” *Men* do, and sometimes often, but not God—ever!—else how would men be able to trust Him? And without faith—trust—a person cannot please Him.

The Bible is an all or nothing proposition—with no middle ground to stand

on. Either you believe every word, or you might as well throw out the entire Book! Anyone who says otherwise is a liar—period. I did not say this, and you do not have to call them liars—GOD DOES it for us! And to disbelieve God is to say He is lying.

The position that God did not create Adam—that Adam did not exist—makes Peter, Paul, James, Jude, John and even Jesus Himself into liars—men who tampered with God’s Word. Worse, if evolution is true, these men and God Himself said things that were patently false and called them truth. How destructive would this be to faith?

Let’s visit Romans 1 (covered in my *World to Come* series proving God exists). Paul identified the *real* problem with modern scientists and evolutionists. First notice this: “For the invisible things of [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse...Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...[and] changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creation more than the Creator... and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind [the margin says void of judgment]” (vs. 20, 22, 25, 28).

God says He gave those who reject Him minds void of judgment. They can see certain facts but cannot come to right conclusions. Such people are deeply confused—ignore them.

A powerful New Testament warning about the perilous last days just before Christ’s Return speaks of men who are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Tim. 3:7). Recall a final time Moses’ central importance and that he recorded Genesis. Now read with yourself in mind: “As Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest [made obvious] unto all men...” (vs. 8-9).

This is scheduled to happen soon.

## Facing a Choice

The God of the Bible presents Himself as a God who does great miracles. The Creation week involved many miracles. Many today cannot grasp things so “unscientific.” Instead of looking for the truth of the Creator—described in His divinely revealed Book—science has chosen confusion, suppositions and deceit, with millions of ministers and parishioners following blindly. Jesus warned, “...if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch” (Matt. 15:14). He also taught that any who practice the traditions of men—evolution has become its own traditional Christian belief—worship Him in vain—meaning they are already in the ditch.

No matter how powerful a person who tells you otherwise and claims to speak for Christ, it is utterly vain to worship Jesus while believing evolution instead of scores of scriptures to the contrary.

*Examine* your beliefs and analyze why you hold them. The Bible record is clear. The New Testament underscores the Old Testament and Creation. Jesus and the apostles were neither confused nor deceived! They knew what they were talking about!

Jesus’ listeners saw He spoke with authority. So do I! Speaking truth and facts allows this. And we do this on every subject. Where the Bible is plain, so are we. Think. If you are going to be persecuted for your beliefs, would you not rather be persecuted in the true Church, learning from ministers who speak with authority because they stand on truth? (And if you can prove that Creation is true, you can prove which is the true Church. Concerning this, here is a free book you can request at [rcg.org/wittc](http://rcg.org/wittc): *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!*)

You face a choice: Believe confused, Bible-rejecting scientists, and the weak ministers who agree with them—or believe God, and that He created all life as He said. Believing both is not possible.

You must choose! □

## REFORMATION

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everyone could read God's Word and come together in agreement.

*Time* magazine explained: "Even after the break with Rome, church historians agree, Luther wanted only to reform the one true church—and not to found a new Lutheran denomination. With that in mind, many contemporary theologians agree that he could hardly fail to be displeased by much of the present condition of the churches."

### One or Many?

Luther hoped that getting a Bible in the laps of commoners would lead to everyone reading Scripture and coming to the same conclusions. Again, this hope has utterly failed.

Look at just Lutherans in the United States. The three main synods are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. ELCA takes a liberal view that women can be ordained, does not condemn homosexuality, and believes the Bible should not always be taken literally. LCMS is somewhere in the middle. It condemns same-sex relations and believes God's Word is literal. WELS is the most conservative and does not even recognize those in the other two synods as true Lutherans.

Now take the 10,000-foot view. There are an estimated 33,000 separate Christian groups around the globe—each with their own ideas and interpretations of Scripture.

Ask yourself, is this what God intended? Be honest!

*Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack addressed this question in *Where Is God's Church?*

"Jesus Christ declared, 'I will build *My Church*' (Matt. 16:18). No matter how men interpret it, this passage speaks of a single church! Christ continued, 'and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it.' He promised that *His Church* could never be destroyed.

"Over 2,000 different professing Christian church organizations have been 'built' by men in the United States. Another is started every three days. Estimates place the number of professing Christians at more than two billion. While church atten-

"God's Church (composed of *many* congregations of saints) was to reflect *peace*—not confusion. You need not be confused about the identity of the true Church. God commands, '*Prove* all things; hold fast that which is good' (I Thes. 5:21). While this certainly refers



**"Over 2,000 different professing Christian church organizations have been 'built' by men...While it has been said, 'They can't all be *wrong*,' it is more correct to say, 'They cannot all be *right*.'"**

*dance* seems to be increasing, it is not increasing as fast as the confusion surrounding the question of which is the *right* church.

"While it has been said, 'They can't all be *wrong*,' it is more correct to say, 'They cannot all be *right*.' If Christ built His Church as He said, then it can be found somewhere on earth today—and it is the only *right* Church. But we must ask: How do we find it—what do we look for—how do we identify it—how do we know it if we see it?"

Mr. Pack continued: "Your Bible declares, 'God is not the author of *confusion*, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints [the context shows this refers to all *congregations* of the true Church, not all *organizations* of men]' (I Cor. 14:33).

to *scriptural* matters (not the car you drive or house you buy), it does say that 'ALL things,' not '*some* things,' should be PROVEN! Surely God would not exclude something of such magnitude—such vital importance—as the matter of where His true Church is found. And He would never emphatically tell people to prove things that *cannot be proven!*"

Five hundred years after Martin Luther stood up to the Catholic Church, his greatest impact was making way for thousands of disagreeing and competing groups. Yet God says there *is* ONE Church on Earth—and the Bible provides the clues so that you can locate it today.

Read the rest of the life-changing booklet *Where Is God's Church?* at [rcg.org/wigtc](http://rcg.org/wigtc). □

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Europe Braces for Business Losses as Governments Set Goals to Ban Gas-powered Cars



■ **GOING ELECTRIC:** An electric vehicle recharges in Edinburgh, Scotland (March 8, 2017). Senior treasurer for the United Kingdom Philip Hammond allocated more than \$350 million toward the development of electric cars, robotics and artificial intelligence in March.

PHOTO: JEFF J. MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Automotive industries in Europe are increasingly concerned about losing business after several European countries announced plans to eliminate vehicles that run on fossil fuels. These proposals have come after the European Union decreed that all diesel- and gas-powered engines be replaced with greener alternatives by 2050 in a bid to combat the Continent's worsening air pollution crisis.

Germany's legislative body voted to ban diesel and gasoline cars by 2030. The proposal was met with resistance from Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt who said, "A complete end of the internal combustion engine from 2030 on would be totally unrealistic."

The crossover would be expensive and labor-intensive as Germany is home to 41 car and engine plants. One in every five cars sold globally are made in the country, and automobiles represent its biggest industry.

In order to curb the 23,000 to 40,000 deaths attributed to poor air quality in Britain, the government made a similar announcement for 2040. Yet London officials are not certain the nation is capable of pro-

viding infrastructure for more electric vehicles on its roads. Jack Cousens, spokesperson for Britain's motoring organization AA, said there would need to be "significant investment in order to install charging points across the country." He also questioned whether the electricity grid "could cope with a mass switch-on after the evening rush hour."

Swedish company Volvo declared it will manufacture all of its vehicles to be fully electric or hybrid by 2019, "marking the historic end of cars that only have an internal combustion engine," the company stated in a press release.

Yet experts believe that, if European car companies stopped producing gas powered cars, they are at risk of losing vast amounts of profit, as demand for electric cars is markedly low in Europe. Currently, more than 50 percent of cars sold are diesel engines, although that number has been declining in favor of gas-powered cars since a scandal with Volkswagen tainted public opinion of diesel cars. Gas-powered cars are increasingly preferred by customers due to the lower cost of fuel. This trend

is likely to continue while oil prices remain low.

"While most major automakers offer hybrids and battery-powered options, none of them have been willing to forsake cars powered solely by gasoline or diesel fuel," *The New York Times* reported. "On the contrary, United States automakers have continued to churn out S.U.V.s and pickup trucks, whose sales have surged because of relatively low fuel prices."

According to *CNN*: "The stock of tiny Tesla...may be worth more than either General Motors...or Ford... but it has yet to report an annual profit. Traditional automakers are making billions of dollars selling millions of gasoline-powered cars each. No one has yet figured out a way to make a profit selling electric-only vehicles."

Executive analyst for Kelley Blue Book Rebecca Lindland believes such proposals are unlikely to be realized. "It's hard to find technology that is better suited for cars," she said, referring to the efficiency of gas-powered engines. "The idea that we are moving completely away from internal combustion is completely exaggerated." □

## Study: Stressful Experiences Linked to Mental Decline

Even one highly stressful experience early in life may have an impact on later brain health, according to experts led by a team from University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health.

The study, which examined data from over 1,300 people who reported stressful experiences such as losing a job, experiencing a divorce, the loss of a child, or growing up with an abusive parent, revealed a direct relationship between the number of stressful events to poorer cognitive function in later life.

Dr. Doug Brown, director of research at the Alzheimer's Society, stated to *The Guardian*: "We know that prolonged stress can have an impact on our health, so it's no surprise that

this study indicates stressful life events may also affect our memory and thinking abilities later in life. However, it remains to be established whether these stressful life events can lead to an increased risk of dementia.

"Studying the role of stress is complex. It is hard to separate from other conditions such as anxiety and depression, which are also thought to contribute towards dementia risk.

"However, the findings do indicate that more should be done to support people from disadvantaged communities that are more likely to experience stressful life events. As we improve our understanding of risk factors for dementia, it is increasingly important to establish the role that stress and stressful life events play." □



## SOCIETY & LIFESTYLES

### Fear of Terrorism Is Driving Americans to Avoid Crowds



Americans' fear of being caught in or witnessing a terrorist act is causing more to stay away from large throngs of people. According to a June 2017 Gallup survey, 38 percent are less willing to attend crowded events. For comparison, after the September 11 attacks, 30 percent said they were less willing to be a part of a crowd.

In addition, Gallup reported the following related trends:

- Forty-six percent of U.S. adults said they were less willing to travel overseas, up eight percentage points since 2011.

- Nearly a third said they were less willing to fly on an airplane, up from 24 percent in July 2011.

- Twenty-six percent said they were less willing to enter skyscrapers. This is the highest percentage recorded since September 2002.

In another study titled "Survey of American Fears" and conducted by Chapman University, terrorist attacks ranked second on the list of things Americans feared the most. □



# IT'S TIME TO GET THE RIGHT EDUCATION

Everyone, adults and children alike, do not instinctively know how to excel in life. They need the right education—which involves being taught how to live, not just how to earn a living. This is a crucial foundation for success. Read our free book “The Laws to Success” to learn more.

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