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Discontented, Disillusioned and Demanding Change
Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture
Part 1
Too often, agriculturists see only the effects, while the actual causes of the crisis grow worse and more complicated. Yet we must recognize our agricultural problems—their causes—and CORRECT THEM.

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You Can Prove the Bible’s Authority!

The Bible has been called the Book of books. Why does this all-time best seller remain a mystery to so many—with few even professing to understand it? And why are most Bibles merely a dust-covered showpiece? The answer? People are unsure if it carries authority. Let’s ask: Does it? Or is the Bible mere superstition—an uninspired work of men? Are its 66 books simply a collection of fables, allegories, myths and metaphors, which have become time-honored? Or just Hebrew and Greek literature—perhaps only useful as a history book?

The Bible is also called the Word of God. Must this be accepted on faith? Or can its divine authority be seen? Can one actually prove the Bible? Those who approach this subject with an open mind can cut through the fog of confusion and settle these questions. Here comes proof of the Bible!

Many actively try to discredit the Bible. Others treat it with passive indifference. Still others hold it in awe—but blindly trust that it is divinely inspired. They seem to require no proof of this, and lack the conviction to apply its words. Do any of these descriptions fit you?

Prove All Things

Most people own a Bible—and family Bibles can be treasured possessions. But just as most never seek to prove the existence of God, most never concern themselves with proving its authority. They either have no interest in such proof or assume this cannot be done! Others may not want to know because then they would have to act on the Bible!

What about you? Have you taken the time to seek actual, tangible proof of the Bible’s authority? Have you accepted it on faith? Most are never challenged to find real proof the Bible is the inspired record of a Supreme Being. While I regularly went to church growing up, I was never required, or compelled, to prove either that God exists or that He authored the Bible. Nor was proof ever given or offered to me! And not one person even suggested I should be concerned with proving the answers to these two giant questions.

Let’s apply basic logic. What God would write an Instruction Book on how to live, command it be followed as His Word, and then offer no proof that it is? No God would be capable of such inconsistency—and unfairness! With no way to know its authenticity, on what basis could He require obedience to such a Book?

Thinking proof cannot be known, and not content to merely accept it on faith, some blow off the Bible,
rejecting it as the revealed Word of God. Others profess to believe that God authored the Bible, but do not understand it—and twist verses to fit preconceived ideas.

Most simply do not believe God! The apostle Paul warned of “dishonest” people who “handle the word of God deceitfully” (II Cor. 4:2). Because they do not really accept the Bible’s authority— or fear the Bible’s Author— theological institutes and seminaries of this world have developed a systematic way of spinning its plain words and meaning in favor of making passages appear to say what they need them to say. This permits preachers to come from a false premise of Bible authority for beliefs. And this helps them much more easily snare the unwitting and wary. Thus, proving the Bible’s authority goes hand in hand with reverence for the God who wrote it.

Speaking on behalf of the One who claims to have authored the Bible, Paul wrote, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes. 5:21). If God (not men) wrote the Bible, and He tells you to “prove all things,” surely He would not exclude proof of His authorship of this Book. Would God require you to prove what the Bible teaches in all other points, but not expect you to absolutely know beyond a doubt whether an all-powerful God stands behind its authorship, requiring you to then obey it—to adhere to its teachings? Get this! God would never exempt someone from needing to prove His own existence and His authorship of the Bible!

If God says “prove all things,” and “prove Me now herewith” (Mal. 3:10), then He means it. And if God did not make the answers to these questions provable, He set Himself up to be discredited. But if the Bible is the inspired Word of a living God, then it is the standard by which you and I will be judged.

Those who dismiss some or all of this Book as the opinions of men who lived long ago—for example, labeling the bulk of the New Testament as mere “Pauline theology”—overlook its real Source. Notice: “All scripture [New Testament and Old] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness…” (II Tim. 3:16). The apostle John recorded, “…the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). So, if proven to be inspired, all the books of the Bible transcend the human instruments used to write them. Further, it states, “Every word of God is pure…” (Prov. 30:5) and the Bible is described as “purified seven times” (Psa. 12:6). And Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4).

Most spend their entire lives worried about what people think and say. Few concern themselves with what God thinks or says. Start with yourself. This begins with the question, have you sought to prove God exists? In fact, the first great proof of the Bible is inseparable from proof God exists. You will see each different proof that the Bible is the Word of God is also its own proof there is a God!

Both can be proven!

**God’s Own Challenge to Disbelievers**

The most powerful—and perhaps single most convincing—proof of the Bible’s authority is fulfilled prophecy. To the open-minded, it stands undeniable. Few know that nearly one-third of the Bible is prophecy—history written in advance. The Bible has foretold many things—small and large—that history proves happened! It foretells other coming events, and offers proof they will happen. God’s Word details specific trends and major events that will affect every nation on Earth, and declares, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed…” (II Pet. 1:19).

Consider the following challenge—in fact dare—from the God of the Bible regarding what He foretells. This comes from the Moffatt translation: “The Eternal cries [actually you will see He mocks], bring your case forward… STATE YOUR PROOFS. Let us hear what happened in the past, that we may ponder it, or show Me what is yet to be, that we may watch how it turns out; yes, let us hear what is coming, that we may be sure you are gods; come, do something or other that we may marvel at the sight!—why you are things of naught, you can do nothing at all!” (Isa. 41:21-24).

Fulfilled prophecy proves the divine authority of the Bible. No human can foretell events, let alone in detail, to occur far beyond his own lifetime. No person can affect the course of cities, states or kingdoms for centuries to come. No wonder it has been said that prophecy is the challenge that skeptics dare not accept! You saw God taunts all such skeptics.

Now notice: “…I am God, and there is none else…there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand…” (Isa. 46:9-10). Only an Omnipotent Being has the power to carry out events that span centuries or millennia of time. Only God can create or destroy nations, or pronounce sentence on an entire civilization and bring it to pass! Prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of God and the authority of the Bible.

**Daniel’s Amazing Prophecy**

Most people are completely unaware there is a purpose—a great Plan—for mankind—let alone what it is! The Middle East will soon play a large role in God’s Master Plan for humanity. This region lies at the center of an astounding prophecy that will affect every human being.

Over 2,500 years ago, God inspired the prophet Daniel to record a prophecy involving many fascinating twists and turns throughout history. This prophecy centers on the Middle East, and culminates with tremendous events to occur in our time! Some prophecies are general. Others highly specific. Some involve single events that occur at specific moments in time. Others are fulfilled slowly over many years—or even over centuries or millennia. Daniel’s prophecy involves many smaller prophecies that can be examined one by one, until arriving at the modern age.
This longest single prophecy becomes one of the greatest proofs the Bible carries divine authority. After studying it, it becomes clear there is only one way to explain each of its 45 separate verses. The fulfillment of each verse is not subject to human reasoning, opinion or interpretation! These prophecies have been fulfilled exactly as God foretold, and have taken their place in history. They are now facts that can be examined—and are powerful proofs that a Supreme Being foretold them and then brought them to pass!

This long prophecy begins in chapter 10, goes through 11, and concludes in chapter 12, revealing what would happen in the last days. To see how these prophecies were fulfilled—verse by verse—and to learn about all that these prophecies were fulfilled—verse by verse—and to learn about all that God plans to do in the next few years, read *The Bible's Greatest Prophecies Unlocked!*—*A Voice Cries Out at reg.org/tbgpu.* Afterward, you will never again doubt the authority of anything found in the Bible!

**Evolution Disproved?**

Any discussion of the Bible’s authorship must address the idea of evolution. This represents the next subject, in overall priority, that should be examined. And it speaks directly to the existence of a God.

Most have been taught from childhood that mankind evolved through a long, gradual process. While the evolutionary theory is commonly accepted throughout the Western world, it has never been more than an unproven theory. Yet believing in the Genesis Creation account is considered unfashionable, un-"chic"—and even unintelligent. Those who do are ridiculed. And since the Bible contains the story of Creation, if evolution is true, the Bible is a flawed book.

Think. If the Bible is wrong on a matter as important as the beginning of all life on Earth, it cannot be trusted on any other point. It must be tossed aside as not worth the paper it is written on. Again, if evolution occurred, the entire Bible collapses like a house of cards. But if evolution can be disproved, and the Creation account firmly established, the Bible’s authority has also been established.

Make no mistake! All of the Bible purports to be the Word of God. It all stands or falls together. Either the Bible is a book of truth from start to finish, or it must be judged false. It would thus stand as the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on an unsuspecting mankind!

Evolutionists invariably use terms such as, “We suspect…We suggest… We are coming to believe…What may have happened…We may theorize that…It is our opinion that…What probably occurred is…or We do not know…” etc. These terms do not inspire confidence. The dogmatic statements of the Bible do! The God of the Bible never speaks in such terms. He does not have to. He speaks boldly—with authority—about what He has done—and what He knows He can do! God speaks knowing He is right!

The book of Psalms states, “Your Word is true from the beginning…” (119:160). Actually, the more correct translation should be, “The beginning of Your Word is true.”

An aside at this point has much to do with whether you will believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. In Luke 17 Jesus compared conditions before His Return to those in Sodom and Gomorrah, described in Genesis 18 and 19. But almost everyone has been told that the early chapters of Genesis do not describe real people and real events. This is to accommodate the nonsensical fiction of evolution in place of a literal Adam and Eve. Now, had you realized Jesus said Sodom and Gomorrah existed, as did their destruction, and so did Noah, the ark, and the Flood?

Those who dismiss these and other Genesis accounts seem unaware that Jesus Christ validated this first book of the Bible. They also forget—or willingly ignore—that Jesus and the apostle Paul referenced both Adam and Eve, and how this confirms the Creation account. Incidentally, we might ask: how many will believe and act on great prophecies just ahead when Jesus compared these future events to past Bible events most do not accept as true—as having ever happened?

Evolutionists do not know the purpose of life. They do not know why they were born. And they reject the authority of God’s Word because they do not want Him “sticking His nose” into their lives. If they can discredit the authenticity of His Word, then they need not obey Him.

But it is evolution that is easily discredited! This theory is shot full of inconsistencies. Evolutionists have seized on many hypothetical scenarios within the overall theory of evolution in an attempt to explain the origins of plants, animals, the heavens, and Earth. Over and over, these theorists try to explain how life evolved from inanimate material into more complex life forms until it reached the pinnacle—human beings.

But perhaps the biggest reason so many little theories collapse within the general theory of evolution is because they contain terrible logic that, ironically, require great leaps in faith to believe. Many examples could be cited to prove this, but space does not permit. But for now think of evolution as entirely faith-based thinking. In other words, it is the Christian who stands on facts, and the evolutionist who stands on faith! Let no one tell you it is the opposite.

Think of the big bang theory—evolutionists’ explanation for how life formed. Everyone has witnessed explosions. Have you ever seen one that was orderly—even a little bit? One that created a watch or a computer? Or one that produced a single thing of design, never mind exquisite design? No, explosions always produce destruction. If you threw a million hand grenades, you would see them produce destructive chaos a million times! There would never be an exception.

Consider the following quote, involving the likelihood of an explosion eventually creating the entire natural realm of life all around us on Earth—let alone the beautiful magnificence

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A warm breeze blows on a spring day as hundreds of young men and women fill a main square in one of Europe’s biggest cities. Some brandish signs: “Down with the government!” “Stop the EU!” “We want jobs!” “No more pain!”

By nightfall, masses of colorful tents begin to appear—as do temporary toilets and shower facilities. Police arrive in armored vehicles and forcibly disperse the crowd. As those who resist are dragged away, they scream: “Pigs!” “Traitors!” “Scum!”

In retaliation, one of the protest leaders calls for a mass rally via Twitter. Thousands descend upon the square. They once again set up a makeshift city and challenge police to remove it. This movement mushrooms to tens of thousands of people in Spain, Italy, Greece and other European countries.

In another nation, thousands amass in front of a government headquarters to oppose budget cuts. Waving “No more austerity!” and “Vote them out!” placards, demonstrators shout obscenities against prominent politicians, most notably the prime minister and minister of finance. As their chanting intensifies, they hurl rocks at the building, which break several windows.

They storm the edifice and a wild melee erupts with security guards desperately holding off the frenzied mob.

Riot police move in and a young man launches a Molotov cocktail, forcing officers to run for cover. At the same time, the crowd pelts them with rocks and wounds several.

Police throw tear gas and spray protesters with rubber bullets. The baton-wielding officers then wade into the sea of youth.

Amid the chaos, ambulances rush to attend the wounded. The bloodied but unbowed crowd eventually disperses, but vows revenge.

In other cities, demonstrations escalate more quickly. Protesters burn cars, smash windows, vandalize buildings, and loot stores. Such scenarios are typical of those playing out across Europe.

Youth aggression springs from the hopeless mood spreading throughout the continent.

A young Greek woman explained her desire for change to the BBC: “I have a degree, I speak several lan-
OUT OF WORK: Opposite page, students chant slogans to protest against austerity measures and unemployment outside the finance ministry in Athens, Greece (Oct. 12, 2012). Top, job seekers line up for an interview during a job fair in Barcelona, Spain (Nov. 29, 2012). Bottom left, demonstrators protest against Spain's economic and jobless crisis at Puerta del Sol square in Madrid, Spain (May 26, 2011). Bottom right, demonstrators clash with riot police during a protest against unemployment in Naples, Italy (Nov. 12, 2012).

PHOTOS: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP (OPPOSITE PAGE); DAVID RAMOS (TOP); PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/AFP (BOTTOM LEFT); MARIO LAPORTA/AFP (BOTTOM RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES
guages and I have something to offer the country but they don’t let me, there are no opportunities.”

She and her friends speak of revolution.

Young people, frustrated with the lack of long-term employment, are rising up. Feeling they have nothing to lose, they are venting their anger on governments, businesses and anyone they feel has betrayed them. Known in the UK as “NEETS” (not in employment, education or training), they are determined to change the status quo.

The United Nation’s International Labor Organization has warned that riots similar to those that broke out in Britain in the summer of 2011 are likely to reoccur.

“The current situation for many young people in many EU countries is becoming dramatic,” the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Laszlo Andor said in a statement. “Without decisive action at [the] EU and national level we risk losing this generation…”

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Europe is “failing in its social contract,” which could spark increasing disenchantment with the political system and cause a chain of events similar to what occurred with the Arab Spring.

The stage is being set for a drastic upheaval.

Youth in Crisis

The numbers paint a grim picture. Upwards of one-fifth of European youth are unemployed—with little hope of finding a job. Since the 2008 economic crisis, unemployment has risen by 50 percent. According to a Guardian article, well over one-half of Greek and Spanish youth do not have jobs (58 percent and 55 percent, respectively). In Portugal and Italy, it is well over one-third (39 percent and 37 percent). Even in relatively prosperous France and Britain, the numbers are one-quarter (27 percent) and one-fifth (20 percent).

Unemployment has made it difficult for young people to move away from home and start lives of their own. Close to one-half (46 percent) of those younger than 34 still live with at least one parent. It is common to find a well-educated 30-year-old with a master’s degree still living with his parents.

The stories are rife with despair.

■ One woman with a degree in literature and languages from France’s elite Sorbonne University has been unable to find a job after four years—even as a housecleaner!

■ A highly qualified quintilingual Italian lawyer lamented, “I have every possible certificate…I have everything except a death certificate.” Even with a law degree and a master’s degree, she has not been able to secure a permanent job and is instead working as an unpaid trainee. As she ruefully told The New York Times, “I am a repentant college graduate…if I had it to do over, I wouldn’t go to college and would just start working.”

■ One young man stated, “I’ve been out of work for a year now…I keep going to places handing my CV in, even begging the landlord of pubs, managers of shops, literally going down on my knees” (BBC).

■ Another young Frenchwoman, who was laid off from her factory job, expressed her outrage to The Christian Science Monitor. “Something’s not working in our system, but we don’t need to accept it.”

■ The lack of opportunity is also causing some to turn to crime.

One young British man joined a gang and became a burglar to make ends meet. Explaining the rationale behind his decision to The New York Times he said, “I just don’t care anymore…I am sick of living like rubbish.”

Underlying Causes

The current European generation is the first since the second world war to have dimmer prospects than their parents. The 27-state power bloc is mired in recession. It has never recovered from the global slump of 2008. Saddled with enormous debts and prodded by the EU, individual governments have imposed strict austerity measures to rein in spending.

Vast numbers are employed directly by governments or by businesses that cater to civil servants and depend on government contracts. According to the European Personnel Selection Office, the European Union alone employs more than 40,000 people from all EU member states, many with permanent and fixed-term contracts. In addition, there are also those who work for the governments inside of their home countries. Government cutbacks mean job cutbacks.

Due to the nature of typical employment contracts in Europe, young people are often the last hired and the first
fired. Tough labor laws make it virtually impossible to fire tenured employees and companies are often reluctant to hire young workers. When they do, it is often on a temporary contract, which accounts for nearly 42 percent of young workers. Temporary contracts enable organizations to easily get rid of staff when deemed necessary.

All of this has wrecked the career aspirations of many young Europeans, even well-educated ones.

Despite this gloomy scenario, however, there are still over three million unfilled jobs in Europe. Why the dichotomy?

One reason is the mismatch between the qualifications of young people and the requirements for jobs.

Many university graduates have degrees that are unsuitable for the current job market and companies are looking for workers who can hit the ground running with minimal training. Degrees in subjects such as “media,” “history,” “sociology,” “literature,” “languages” and other similarly broad areas are not attractive to most employers.

But this does not explain the entire problem. Many of the three million available positions are nontechnical, in the service industry, and lower-wage jobs.

A deeper reason lies in a trend noticed by employers: unrealistic expectations. This includes a disdain for having to start at the bottom and gradually working up the company ladder. Instead, many only want their ideal job at the salary they demand.

Business managers find this untenable. Responding to a Cabinet minister’s call on businesses to hire more homegrown workers, the director general of the Chamber of Commerce in defending UK businesses replied that employers “expect young people to come forward to them who are able to read, write and communicate and have a good work ethic and too often that’s not the case…” (London Evening Standard).

The Telegraph reported that the situation is similar in Scotland. One of the nation’s largest car dealerships told the Scottish Parliament that, of 2,280
applications received for the company’s apprentice program, only 430 were deemed employable. Of those, only 121 were offered jobs.

Incredibly, four-fifths of applicants were considered unemployable! The dealership described how many expressed shock at the length of a working day given that university students spend a maximum of 18 hours per week in class.

Other problems cited were “applicants’ poor attitude and communication skills, a lack of understanding of the standards expected and a ‘culture of wholly unrealistic expectations.’”

One employed young man who works the late shift at a train station explained the attitude of his peers to The Christian Science Monitor: “Too many of my friends don’t work, have never worked, and don’t know the value of work…They are into football and video games. They think about tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. They don’t want to make decisions until they have to.”

Later in the article, he stated: “I think the internal drive to make something of yourself is disappearing in Britain…We can’t be great again. That’s how people feel.”

Another employed young man who is bucking the trend also said of his generation: “Other generations were living in good times, and we expected to take a ride on that...We saw bad times coming and did nothing. Our future is in our hands. You have to fight for it, just as our parents fought to make their own beds. We are not doing for our children any favours…”

Clearly agitated, her mother repeats the command. “Sweetie, put that back. You can’t have that.”

The little girl looks her square in the eye and says, “No!” again, this time much louder.

Flustered, the now red-faced mother commands her, this time raising her voice. The little girl raises hers in response.

After several requests followed each time by a firm “No!” the exasperated mother forcibly wrenches the item out of her daughter’s hand and puts it back on the shelf.

Instantly, the girl lets out a wail that reverberates across the supermarket. Several heads turn to see what is wrong. Embarrassed, the mother hushes her daughter, but the little girl proceeds to flop down in the middle of the aisle, unwilling to move from the floor.

After several unsuccessful attempts to pick her up, her mother desperately promises to give her the item, but only if she is “a good girl.” Her mother then takes the item and places it in the supermarket cart. Satisfied, the little girl stops wailing. She has won the battle of wills.

This scenario plays out regularly in European stores, malls and other public places in which parents are continuously tested by uncontrollable children. Complicating matters are strict governmental regulations on childrearing.

Parents, however, are not guiltless. On average, British families spend a whopping $16,000 on toys for each of their children before they turn age 19. Even those barely past toddler stage have the latest smartphones, technological gadgets, and designer clothes.

Due to the continuous acquisition of material goods without being taught to work for them, children often automatically expect to receive what they have not earned.

The general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers warned that children are being turned into spoiled “little Buddhas.” She told The Telegraph, “It seems to be that far too many children are waited on at home hand and foot. They don’t do the washing up, they don’t do the Hoovering [vacuuming], they don’t make their own beds. We are not doing our children any favours…”

She warned that youth “without boundaries at home resent boundaries at school.”

According to a survey conducted by Cambridge University and commissioned by the National Union of Teachers, overindulgent parents who cannot say no to their children are making them prone to rebellion and bad behavior.

Additionally, the British prime minister’s adviser on childhood stated that parents are insulating their children, leaving them unable to cope with living on their own when they grow up.

In short, permissive parenting has produced a young narcissistic generation accustomed to being taken care of—an entitled generation.
Today’s agriculture is in deep trouble. It faces a crisis that even now affects the cost and quality of the food eaten in every corner of the world.

Famine and disease have become a reality for the poor, “have not” areas of the world. But few are aware that an agricultural crisis of equal—and greater—magnitude looms on the horizon for the third of the world we call the “have” nations.

The United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, South Africa, and the other “have” regions have been dazzled by the storybook pronouncements of “scientific agriculture.” We who live in such areas have become accustomed to talk of “burdensome surpluses,” and, while others were going hungry, came to believe we were immune to a food crisis.

More than 40 years ago, this organization’s predecessor published a booklet with a similar title to this one predicting that the growing crisis in agriculture then, if not seriously addressed on a large scale, could and would begin to adversely affect more affluent countries. At the time, we stated, “In the very near future, the growing crisis in agriculture could easily cause YOU to be numbered among the seriously sick and diseased—or among those hapless millions who go to bed at night with empty, aching stomachs.”

True to what we said, this is coming to pass with increasing numbers
of people now suffering illness as a result. Also, disease and death rates in livestock, poultry and crop industries are increasing, with many elements of production becoming critical. A genuine crisis has developed in agriculture worldwide, including in the United States. World food shortage is no longer a prophecy but a reality, and one that will greatly worsen unless wholesale changes occur in our approach and attitude toward agriculture and its approach to food production.

And this does not even take into account the shocking fact that arable land is disappearing by millions of acres per year!

**Diminishing Land Resources**

The United States is an alarming example of vanishing rural land. According to American Farmland Trust, more than one acre of farmland was lost per minute, with more than four million acres of agricultural land—an area the size of Massachusetts—disappearing from 2002 to 2007 as a result of homes and urban sprawl. During a 25-year period, the population grew 30 percent while land converted for urban use increased 57 percent. And this is only in the United States!

According to The World Factbook, “The planet’s population continues to explode: from 1 billion in 1820, to 2 billion in 1930, 3 billion in 1960, 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, 6 billion in 1999.” In October 2011, the world’s population passed the seven billion mark! At last calculation, the world’s arable land is a little over 10 percent.

While cultivable land areas are “shrinking,” BBC reported that the United Nations expects that at present, “Food production will have to increase by 70% over the next 40 years to feed the world’s growing population…”

Even simply maintaining current food production is unpromising. The world depends heavily on United States exports, along with products from Eastern European countries and those situated on the Black Sea. IRIN, the United Nations news service, reported that in the beginning of 2012, the U.S. “planted more than 39 million hectares of maize [corn], 5 percent more than in 2011, making it the highest acreage under maize in the last 75 years.”

It also stated that the “third largest soybean crop ever was put in.”

But this made no difference as “record high temperatures and poor rainfall—less than 50 percent of normal precipitation in the corn-belt, a group of Midwestern US states where maize is traditionally grown—wilted most of the standing maize. In the past few weeks [of June], just when the plants needed moisture in the crucial pollination phase, there was little or none. ‘Irrigating this scale of farms is out of question—we would need to empty an ocean,’ said [Abdolreza] Abbassian [secretary of the Intergovernmental Group on Grains for the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization].

“The USDA announced [in July 2012] that only 48 percent of crops were in a ‘good to excellent’ condition, down from 72 percent at the beginning of June. This is the worst good to excellent rating since 1988, said the department, when 23 percent of crops were given a good to excellent rating...The projections for soybeans have also been reduced by eight percent—the lowest level since 2003” (ibid.).

As a result, The Associated Press reported that “a number of farmers in the hardest hit areas of the Midwest have cut down their crops just midway through the growing season.”

On top of this, Reuters showed that grain exports for 2012 from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan “could be at least 35 million tonnes less than in 2011,” and in 2012 Morocco’s “cereals crop fell from 8.4 million tonnes in 2011 to 5.1 million tonnes.”

For the first time ever, there is no new, rich agricultural land that man can use. The deforestation of the Amazon Basin and rainforest areas of many other countries of the world continues, but good crop production on these soils is usually short-lived, followed by a reduction of rain.

According to the film “Food or Famine,” in 1850, Earth’s land area, if equally distributed, was about 33 acres per person; in 1900, it was 24 acres; by 1950, it had dropped to 15 acres; in 1974, it was 10 acres. Given today’s most recent statistics, it is NOW only five acres.

But that is not all! Of these five acres, approximately one and a half are desert—and too dry for production. Another one acre represents the arctic and polar regions—meaning it is too cold. Yet another acre is jungle and tropical forest, which is too wet for production. The additional one acre is mountainous—too high and steep. This leaves only a half-acre of land per person suitable for cultivation. And—you guessed it—half of this remaining half acre has already been depleted by previous generations—wasted by erosion because of improper tillage, monoculture and other poor management practices.

What about the remaining one-fourth of an acre?

**Seven Inches from Starvation!**

No matter who you are or where you live, you must eat food to continue your physical existence.

Ultimately ALL your food comes directly or indirectly from the soil and, more specifically, from the top few inches known as topsoil.

Author Karl B. Mickey wrote in Man and the Soil that this life-sustaining topsoil “lies in a thin layer of an
average depth of seven or eight inches over the face of the land.” In some few areas, it may be as deep as two feet or more, but in many others it is considerably less than seven inches.

“If that layer of topsoil could be represented on a 24-inch globe it would be as a thin film three-millionths of one inch thick,” Mr. Mickey wrote. “That thin film is all that stands between man and extinction.”

This thin layer of earth sustains ALL PLANT, ANIMAL AND HUMAN LIFE upon it!

Previous civilizations have already destroyed much of the topsoil, and today we are depleting what remains more rapidly than at any other time in history.

Record of History

The story of mankind’s interaction with the land is long, complicated and brimming with lessons—most instructive in what not to do.

In the journal BioScience, Dr. Lamont C. Cole compared the leading aforetime civilizations to their modern counterparts.

“The valley of the Nile was [a great] cradle of civilization. Every year, the river overflowed its banks at a predictable time, bringing water to the land and depositing a layer of silt rich in mineral nutrients for plants.

“Crops could be grown for 7 months each year. Extensive irrigation systems were established before 2000 BC. This land was the granary of the Roman Empire, and this type of agriculture flourished for another 2,000 years.

“But the population has continued to grow and economic considerations have diverted land from growing food to growing cash crops such as cotton.”

In 1902, in an effort to promote year-round irrigation, the Aswan Low Dam was constructed in the southern part of the country. But it proved to have an inadequate reservoir area. After almost overflowing in 1946, the Aswan High Dam was constructed in 1970 to further contain the water.

While the dam has irrigated hundreds of thousands of acres, the soil has been deteriorating through salinization, a process that increases soil’s salt content. In addition, the productivity of its riverside lands has decreased—proving to be a disaster for Egypt. Any plusses accorded the dam have been far outweighed by the creation of serious problems. Aside from salinization, “population growth has virtually destroyed any possibility that...agricultural land can significantly raise the average level of nutrition.”

The Sahara Desert was once forested and inhabited. “The glories of ancient Mali and Ghana in west Africa were legends in medieval Europe. Ancient Greece had forested hills, ample water, and productive soils” (ibid.).

Today, less than 10 percent of land in modern Iraq—site of the Tigris and Euphrates valleys—is cultivated. Dr. Cole wrote, “The landscape is dotted with mounds representing forgotten towns, the ancient irrigation works are filled with silt, the end product of soil erosion [the oldest and biggest polluter in history], and the ancient seaport of Ur is now 150 miles from the sea with its old buildings buried under [several] feet of silt...Similar conditions prevail in Iran which was once the seat of the...Persian Empire...” (emphasis added).

Yet the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates had at one time supported some of the greatest civilizations. With a complex irrigation system built using its flood plain, these rivers produced the fertile soil that nourished the Sumerian and Babylonian empires.

“Herodotus tells us that this country was one of the greatest for the production of grain, yielding returns as high as two hundred fold or even three hundred fold in exceptional years,” Milton Whitney wrote in Soil and Civilization.

Citing Conquest of the Land Through Seven Thousand Years, Dr. Cole stated in BioScience that “old Roman roads [in Lebanon] which have prevented erosion of the soil beneath them now stand several feet above the rock desert. But in a churchyard that had been protected from goats for 300 years, the cedars were found [in] about 1940 to be flourishing as in ancient times.”

Farther east, a similar pattern is seen. China was one of the first to build an agricultural structure conducive to supporting a society. However, as with other ancient civilizations, population growth led to terrible abuse of the land. Today, the nation endures recurring, catastrophic floods due to silt-clogged rivers, some colored yellow by eroded soil.

In addition, the ancient irrigation systems of India and China “stand abandoned and filled with silt. When the British assumed the rule of India two centuries ago, the population was about 60 million. Today it is about [1.2 billion] and most of its land problems have been created in the past century through deforestation and plowing and the resulting erosion and siltation, all stemming from efforts to support this fantastic population growth” (ibid.).

Speaking of Central and South America, Dr. Cole said, “Archaeologists have long wondered how the Mayas managed to support what was obviously a high civilization on the now unproductive soils of Guatemala and Yucatan. Evidently, they exploited their land as intensively as possible until both its fertility and their civilization collapsed. In parts of Mexico the water table has fallen so
When the BRICS—the emerging nations coalition of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—decided to make their own version of the International Monetary Fund or World Bank in early 2013, many saw it as a brazen affront to the West.

“Reactions from around the world, whether welcoming or critical of the step, all pointed in the same direction: here is further proof of the West’s decline in the world,” the European center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace stated. “The new bank, observers said, would be the embodiment—and enabling instrument—of an alternative model of global governance.”

Continuing, the institution stated, “For some in the West, the announce-ment by the BRICS was nothing short of a declaration of war.”

Among the major players in the West, the U.S. has been running on the fumes of its tremendous 20th-century growth while recording dismal economic growth numbers. Europe is also struggling and continues to marinate in its failures. At first glance, the continent can seem reminiscent of Babylon...
The biblical book of Daniel records the story: The empire had some years before reached its peak of military might and financial prosperity under Nebuchadnezzar II. To emphasize the extent of this economic greatness, the Bible from then on connects Nebuchadnezzar’s governance to global trade, gourmet foods, and top-shelf luxury.

After the king’s death, however, the city-state of Babylon suffered years of misguided leadership and financial imprudence. During a wild citywide party in the empire’s capital, a supernatural finger began to write on a wall in the palace of the drunken ruler Belshazzar. The meaning of the ominous “handwriting on the wall” was that Babylon would fall to the rising empire of the Medes and Persians. That night, Belshazzar was slain by invading armies and the city overrun.

But is this a true parallel?

Both America and Europe are grappling with severe problems at home, leaving emerging nations confidently surging forward. Chinese President Xi Jinping stated: “The potential of Bric development is infinite…The real potential of Brics co-operation is yet to be realised” (BBC).

The economic clout of China, Russia and India alone is formidable, with a combined 2012 gross domestic product of about $19.66 trillion. By comparison, the United States was $15.66 trillion and Europe was $16.22 trillion.

In 1998, China had the seventh largest GDP of $979 billion. Today it is number two ($12.38 trillion) and quickly moving to overtake the United States. A struggling post-Soviet Russia was in 16th place in 1998. By 2012, however, it shot to seventh place. It now boasts a GDP of $2.05 trillion.

Yet there are many more emerging nations than just the BRICS. The Inter Press Service reported: “This dramatic change in global dynamics…goes well beyond the BRICS. More than forty developing countries are estimated to have made unusually rapid human development strides in recent decades…Together, they represent most of the world’s population and a growing proportion of its trade and economic output.”

With glaring weak spots in the United States and Europe’s financial defenses, these emerging nations seem to have picked a strategic time to act. This raises the question: Is the handwriting on the wall for the West?

**Stumbling Bloc**

The answer to the West’s fall and the BRICS’ rise is not so simple. Progress on its proposed bank has nearly halted. Terms used include those such as “in principle” members agree that such a financial institution is “feasible,” but that “more talks” are needed. This is similar language to when the idea was first proposed in 2012.

A Project Syndicate article “BRICS Without Mortar” highlighted issues facing the coalition: “Indeed, while the BRICS may be helpful in coordinating certain diplomatic tactics, the term lumps together highly disparate countries. Not only is South Africa miniscule compared to the others, but China’s economy is larger than those of all of the other members combined. Likewise, India, Brazil, and South Africa are democracies, and occasionally meet in an alternative forum that they call ‘IBSA.’ And, while the large autocracies, Russia and China, find it diplomatically advantageous to tweak the Americans, both have different but crucial relationships with the United States. And both have worked to thwart efforts by India, Brazil, and South Africa to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.”

The publication Foreign Policy noted, “…the BRICS are not a cohesive geographic, economic, or political bloc. They compete more than they cooperate, and they often seek the same open seat at the table. What they have in common, however, is that they are a new generation of economic powers that can no longer be ignored or overlooked. The American Century is over and these countries are a key part of a new multipolar world…”

These nations certainly cannot be ignored, but they have many problems to overcome to truly rival the West.

**Disunity:** “The Brics’ slow march toward establishing their own bank illustrates their struggle to move past populist rhetoric to true cooperation between powerful and sometimes adversarial nations. Each is eager to reap the benefits of a larger trade group—and all are fearful of being flooded with products from the others, particularly China,” The Wall Street Journal reported.

**Corruption:** “If state capitalism is the BRICS’ greatest strength, and corruption their greatest weakness, then the lesson may be that healthy government-led economies require healthy governments,” Business Insider stated last year.

Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index 2012 showed this crippling reality in emerging economies. Brazil ranked 69th, with lower rankings being the least corrupt and higher ones more corrupt. India was 94th. The group’s biggest nations, China and Russia, were 80th and 133rd, respectively. By comparison, 15 of the top 20 least corrupt nations were from Europe and North America.

**Aging workforce:** “The number of people older than 65 in Brazil, Russia, India and China will rise 46 percent to 295 million by 2020 and to 412 million by 2030, according to United Nations projections,” Bloomberg reported. “The pool of 15 to 24-year-olds, the mainstay for factories…that drove China’s boom for three decades, will fall by 61 million by 2030, about the population of Italy.”

**Growing demands:** “Economic aspirations in Brasilia, Moscow, New Delhi and Beijing are inextricably linked to the strength of their national energy sectors,” The Indian Express stated. “As the economies of the BRIC nations continue to grow, their energy demand will rise sharply. According to data from the US government’s Energy Information Administration, by 2025 the BRICs, led by China, will account for nearly 38 per cent of global primary energy demand, up from 27 per cent in 2005. Some of its members will manage surging energy demand better than the others.”
These roadblocks stand in the way of continued explosive advancement.

**Hunger for Luxury**

Rising nations, including the BRICS, generally need one thing to grow faster: more consumption. Yet, by pushing their citizens to become greater consumers, they necessarily raise their standard of living and therefore stand to lose the competitive edge they gain through inexpensive labor. This could mean that their growth grinds to a halt.

Despite this threat, consumerism in emerging nations has begun. The United Arab Emirates-based newspaper *The National* highlighted this growing trend. “Emerging-market consumers already consume about 40 per cent of luxury goods and that figure is likely to rise sharply,” Laurent Belloni, co-manager of Pictet Premium Brands mutual fund, told the newspaper.

The article continued, “The balance of buying power has shifted. Japan once accounted for 40 per cent of luxury goods sales. Now it buys just 15 per cent. Russia and India should steadily boost demand for luxury products. ‘By the end of the next decade, 60 per cent of luxury sales should come from emerging markets,’ Mr Belloni says.”

Already, half of Europe’s luxury-item sales are made to Chinese tourists.

Brazil is similar, as *Forbes* reported: “Apart from the fact that Brazil’s luxury market is five times smaller than China’s, accounting for just $7.59 billion annually in luxury goods revenues, twice as much as it was in 2006 but only 1% of the global market, its rate growth is 22% a year, far outpacing several more established markets and even its own general retail sales, which rose an estimated 11% in 2010.”

“Fashion powerhouses like Tiffany’s and Gucci count Brazil among their top performing markets worldwide, and the country’s booming economy, although it may be slowing down in coming years, will remain promising enough to continue fueling domestic demand and attracting international brands. The growing ‘Brazilian bourgeoisie’ is expected to drive luxury goods sales in the next decade, with Brazil likely to represent 6% of the global market—or $63.5 billion—by 2025, according to a report by investment bank Goldman Sachs.”

Then there are those who crave sweets in India. According to CNN, “India is the fastest-growing market for chocolate in the world right now, according to [market research firm Mintel Group]. Sales there have doubled to $857 million in 2011, up from $418 million three years ago…”

This thirst for more is trickling down to budding middle classes in these nations. For the first time, citizens are buying electronics, medicine and smartphones. Imagine the potential market for a simple item like a blender if China’s 1.3 billion people begin to consume en masse.

Notice a trend here. All of the luxury brands mentioned are from the West. The same applies to less expensive commodities. To continue prolific growth, emerging nations must rely on the established companies of Europe and the United States.

But there is even more needed from the West, especially for autocratic China and Russia. One reason a BRICS bank is almost certainly doomed to fail is that it would require member nations to be more transparent, which is unlikely for the heavy governmental hands of Beijing or Moscow.

To truly compete on the world stage, the BRICS and other emerging nations need to adopt—or trade with nations that have—Western-style financial governance. These systems have proven that they foster innovation and help name-brand businesses flourish.

For the time being, the “Belshazzar” of the West need not worry about the BRICS coming in to capture its “Babylon.” Instead, the two sides desperately need one another.

**Reform Required**

Summarizing the struggles of emerging nations, *The Telegraph* stated that BRICS meetings contain “very little sense of common purpose and identity. Indeed, they make the European Union look like a paragon of calm and harmony. By day, they talk grandly of multilateral action to tip the playing field in favour of poorer nations, while by night they scheme shamelessly against each other, often in conjunction with their supposed economic oppressors in the West. There is virtually nothing that unites them other than resentment and suspicion of Western monopoly, some of it justified, some of it not.”

The writer concludes, “The US’s ‘exorbitant privilege’—dollar hegemony—is surely reaching the end of its natural life, yet the future cannot lie with two separate systems, one Western and one Eastern. A global economy requires global governance and global institutions. The solution lies in reform of the existing system, not the establishment of a rival one.”

In short, the emerging world—actually, the entire world—is looking for Babylon-style prosperity. It seeks a tried-and-true existing system that has been successfully employed throughout history. During Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Babylon controlled the trade routes from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean. His renovation of the capital city is still fabled today, most famously in tales of the Hanging Gardens—one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

*Ancient History Encyclopedia* stated, “Nebuchadnezzar II created a city which was not only wondrous to behold but also a center for the arts and intellectual pursuits…schools and temples were plentiful and literacy, mathematics and craftsmanship flourished…”

Think. The West needs consumers in emerging nations to pull it from its economic slump. The BRICS need the innovative products and brands of the West.

China is a perfect example of this. Over the past few years, the nation has constructed cities to supercharge economic growth. These state-of-the-art metropolises—built at a rate of 12 to 24 per year—contain housing, amphitheaters, parks, roads and infrastructure. They even have malls with storefronts painted with Starbucks, Gucci and Nike logos. Yet there is a problem: most of these cities are empty.
A 60 Minutes special described this as “non-existent supply for non-existent demand.” This massive building boom has caused a tremendous housing bubble that may soon burst.

China wants these ghost cities filled, yet does not have the economic infrastructure to do so. While other emerging nations may not have empty towns, they do have similar problems regarding the need to quickly increase consumerism.

**A Tree Hewn Down**

Details of King Nebuchadnezzar’s life bring clarity to the system for which the world yearns. Mentioned previously, much of his life story can be found in the biblical book of Daniel.

One of the king’s dreams would forever change his legacy. He saw a gigantic tree that “was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: the leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it” (Dan. 4:11-12).

The king watched in his dream as the tree was hewn down to a stump and banded with “iron and brass” (vs. 13-15). In verse 16, he heard, “Let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a beast’s heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.”

After waking up, Nebuchadnezzar called the “magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers” to interpret the dream—but they could not.

The king’s reaction is like many today. The Real Truth Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack wrote about this mindset in the booklet Bible Authority...Can It Be Proven?: “Everyone wants to know what the future holds. In ever-increasing numbers, people are seeking psychics, ‘channelers,’ tarot card and palm readers, fortunetellers, crystal ball gazers and every other medium to tell them what is going to happen. And they pay for this ‘service.’ Yet, few go to the one infallible source, which foretells all the important events that will soon come upon the entire world.

“Few understand that nearly one-third of the Bible is prophecy—that it is a history book written in advance of the history that it records.” (Read the rest of the booklet at rcg.org/bacibp for definitive proof of the Bible’s validity and read the Personal “You Can Prove the Bible’s Authority!” contained in this month’s issue.)

Nebuchadnezzar desperately wanted to know what his dream portended for the future. Yet he did not get an answer until he called on his servant Daniel who relied on God to show him. When the dream was interpreted, it was revealed that the tree represented the king. He was told that if he did not humble himself, he would be abased—brought low—for seven years (4:19-26).

Sure enough, the king did not change his ways and suffered for seven years.

A critical aspect of Bible prophecy is the principle of duality, which means that many foretold events may have smaller fulfillments before a final major fulfillment in the future.

Duality applies to this dream. Bible prophecy shows that the stump, which also represents a prosperous Babylon-style system, would be bound by “iron and brass” for 2,520 years.

A biblical “time” is defined in Revelation 12—verses 6 and 14—as a prophetic day. Numbers 14:34 shows that each prophetic day equals one calendar year. In the Bible, years are based on a 360-day calendar. Put together, “seven times” equals 2,520 literal years.

**Global Market Regrows**

Over 30 years ago, the brass and iron banding was finally removed from the stump of Nebuchadnezzar’s system. This means it has been growing for decades and will soon be ready to provide abundant prosperity for much of Earth.

Yet where is this system today? The empire of ancient Babylon passed the baton to ancient Rome and then also to Europe. Both Rome and Europe have deep historical roots in Babylon-style governance.

Note that as other nations rise to prominence, the Bible shows that U.S. decline will continue and Asia and Europe will surpass it as world powers for a time. (Read David C. Pack’s comprehensive book America and Britain in Prophecy at rcg.org/abip to learn the stunning details.)

In Revelation, the Bible details the European-led global marketplace. Revelation 18:16 describes a “great city”—referred to as “Babylon” in verse 2—“that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls…”

The rest of chapter 18 describes this system and reveals that European supply will be met by hearty demand in what are now emerging nations.

Verse 3 states, “…the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies”—meaning the entire world will benefit from this economic powerhouse.

But verses 12-13 record more: “The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots…”

Under the coming system, nations of the earth will live “deliciously” (vs. 7), which is better translated “luxuriously.”

While these verses could easily describe the time of Nebuchadnezzar, it is a picture of what will come to the world in the next few years.

Yet you do not need to merely wonder if these things are true—you can know for certain!

Read David C. Pack’s book The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out at rcg.org/ibgpu to learn—by extensive historical fact and biblical proof—the events that will take place in coming years.
On this weekly program, David C. Pack analyzes world news and explains Bible prophecy—removing all mystery from current events and detailing biblical truths. Answering life’s greatest questions straight from the Bible, he explains how overwhelming global problems will finally be solved. Tune in to *The World to Come with David C. Pack* to learn the plain truth answers addressing the *causes* behind the destructive *effects* reflected in today’s headlines, and to hear the good news of the only real solution—now just over the horizon!

### INTERNATIONAL STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):

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<td>Sunday, 13:00 SAT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thaicom 5: The Word Network</td>
<td>Satellite Free-to-Air</td>
<td>Thursday, 10:30 SAT</td>
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<table>
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<th>UNITED KINGDOM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sky: The Word Network</td>
<td>Channel 590</td>
<td>Thursday, 8:30 a.m. GMT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sky UK: Gospel Channel</td>
<td>Channel 588</td>
<td>Monday, 10:30 a.m. GMT</td>
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</table>

** Indicates this station may pre-empt *The World to Come* with local broadcasting.

Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, GTV = Grace TV, ION = ION Television, JOY = Joytv11, WORD = The Word Network
NORTH AMERICAN STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):

**ALABAMA**

- Birmingham — ION-WPXR, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Decatur — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Dothan — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Florence — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Huntsville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Mobile — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Montgomery — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Selma — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

**ARKANSAS**

- El Dorado — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Fayetteville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Fort Smith — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

**CALIFORNIA**

- Bakersfield — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- Chico — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- El Centro — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- Eureka — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
- Livermore — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
- Modesto — ION-KSPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- Monday — ION-KPSX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- San Jose — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- San Luis Obispo — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
- Santa Barbara — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
- Stockton — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

**COLORADO**

- Colorado Springs — ION-Cable, Sunday, 4:30 a.m. MT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:00 a.m. MT
- Denver — ION-KPIC, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:00 a.m. MT
- Grand Junction — ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. MT

U.S. STATIONS – CABLE AND ANTENNA (Check local listings for channels):

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

- Charleston — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Columbia — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Goose Creek — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

**OHIO**

- Columbus — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Hilliard — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Powell — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

**OMAHA**

- Omaha — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Lincoln — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Grand Island — ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

NORTH AMERICAN STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):

- **ALABAMA**
  - Birmingham — ION-WPXR, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
    - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Decatur — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Dothan — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Florence — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Huntsville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Mobile — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Montgomery — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Selma — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

- **ARKANSAS**
  - El Dorado — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
    - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
- Fayetteville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
- Fort Smith — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

- **CALIFORNIA**
  - Bakersfield — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
    - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT
- Chico — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
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- Santa Barbara — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
- Stockton — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

- **COLORADO**
  - Colorado Springs — ION-Cable, Sunday, 4:30 a.m. MT
    - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:00 a.m. MT
- Denver — ION-KPIC, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
  - WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:00 a.m. MT
- Grand Junction — ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. MT

Television logos and names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time, Day</th>
<th>Channel Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asheville</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Durham</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Wilmington</td>
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<td>Winston Salem</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>Thursday, 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Fargo</td>
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<td>Valley City</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>WORD-Cable, Thursday 3:30 a.m. CT</th>
<th>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</th>
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<td>Sweetwater</td>
<td>CW-KTXS-DT2**</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 3:30 a.m. ET</td>
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<td>Temple</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Tyler</td>
<td>CW-KYTX-DT2**</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 2:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>CW-KWVB, Sunday 6:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Waco</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>CW-KAUZ-DT2**</td>
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<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>ION-FOX, Sunday 6:30 a.m. ET</td>
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<td>UTAH</td>
<td>Salt Lake City — ION-KUPX, Sunday 5:30 a.m. MT</td>
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<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 1:30 a.m. MT</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>Kennewick — ION-Cable, Sunday 6:30 a.m. PT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 3:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 12:30 a.m. PT</td>
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<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Burlington — ION-Cable, Sunday 6:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 3:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 12:30 a.m. PT</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Bristol — ION-Cable, Sunday 6:30 a.m. ET</td>
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<td>ION-KGPX, Sunday 6:30 a.m. PT</td>
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<td>Appleton — ION-Cable, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>ION-WPXE, Sunday 5:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>Superior</td>
<td>CW-KDLH-DT2**, Sunday 6:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<td>WYOMING</td>
<td>Casper — CW-KWVF/KFNB-DT2**, Sunday 6:30 a.m. MT</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 7:30 a.m. MT</td>
<td>ION-Cable, Sunday 7:30 a.m. MT</td>
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<td>IOWA</td>
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<td>WORD-Cable, Thursday 1:30 a.m. MT</td>
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** Indicates this station may pre-empt The World to Come with local broadcasting.
and order seen no matter how far one looks out into space. Evolutionist and professor of biology Dr. Edwin Conklin stated, “...the probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the Unabridged Dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop” (The Death of Evolution: Restoring Faith and Wonder in a World of Doubt). And the author only speaks to the likelihood of any life at all, not just the most highly complex forms such as large animals or human beings—let alone all kinds of life.

**Life Requires a Lifegiver**

Finally, what about the very presence of life? Where did it come from? How did it get here? The Bible states that God created all life during the first six days of the creation week of Genesis 1. Is this true, or did life come into existence by itself?

The great pattern of all life is that it can only come from other pre-existing life. This is called the law of biogenesis. And every first-year biology student knows it. When examining tiny organisms, such as protozoa or bacteria, it can be demonstrated that life only comes from life. There are many kinds of life, but each continues to reproduce the same kind over and over. This is indisputable.

Life can never come from inanimate (nonliving) objects. Evolutionists theorize that inanimate objects, under certain unknown circumstances in the “misty past,” as they put it, somehow spontaneously gave birth to a primitive life form or forms. This presents enormous problems for anyone familiar with the nature and complexity of simple cells.

Biologists understand that all cells can only come from pre-existing cells. Here is why. Cells, even in their simplest and most rudimentary forms, are extremely complex. Consider: “The simplest organism capable of independent life, the prokaryote bacterial cell, is a masterpiece of miniaturized complexity which makes a spaceship seem rather low-tech” (Darwin on Trial).

Skeptics ignore the truth that it is impossible to have life without a lifegiver. Only God has life inherent in Himself. After all, this is what makes Him God. No one created God.

Our brochure Evolution – Facts, Fallacies and Implications available at rcg.org/effai covers much more, and thoroughly disproves this theory. The evidence presented is plain, emphatic and irrefutable—and establishes beyond question the biblical account!

Whether evolution occurred is inseparable from God’s existence. My booklet Does God Exist? (available at rcg.org/dge) establishes the absolute existence of God. Many proofs show the Creation account is the only plausible explanation for the origin of life. You will see why the God of the Bible twice states, “The fool has said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 14:1; 53:1). That some whom God
calls “fools” might ignore, reject or seek to discredit the facts is irrelevant. This material is for those who want the truth, not those who reject plain facts!

I disproved evolution over 45 years ago and had no choice but to act on this knowledge. No one can prove for you the utter falsehood of evolution or the truth of God’s existence. You must do this for yourself.

**Principle of Cause and Effect**

Another proof of Bible authority is the principle of cause and effect. Most live their lives completely unaware of why things either “go right” or “go wrong.” They seem unable to comprehend that what they do, or do not do, has a direct effect on their lives. Most do not know that for every cause there is an effect, and for every effect there is a cause. Scientists understand this principle in physics, but mankind does not apply it spiritually.

Consider how cause and effect works in life. If you routinely eat too much, you will get sick, or overweight—or both! No mystery. If you drink too much alcohol, you become intoxicated. This could lead to a hangover, being arrested, or even a car accident that could result in injury or death. If you break laws, you could go to jail. This will affect your family, employment opportunities, and your entire future.

The Bible is also a book about cause and effect—containing hundreds of different laws, each carrying the power of cause and effect for those who keep or break them. Whether one knows every law in the Bible has no bearing on whether breaking them brings punishment. Just as speeding can result in a ticket—whether or not the driver knew the speed limit—those who break God’s laws reap penalties—whether or not they know they are violating specific laws!

Look at the world around you. It is filled with confusion, poverty, disease, ignorance, war, chaos and unhappiness. _Why?_ What is the reason mankind cannot solve its problems? Why do problems only increase and grow worse? Because the laws of God are being routinely broken by Earth’s more than seven billion inhabitants.

The One who inspired the Bible states that His great Law, the Ten Commandments, is “holy, just, good and spiritual” (Rom. 7:12, 14). Again, think cause and effect. When God’s laws are obeyed, they bring blessings, benefits and good things into the lives of those who obey them. For instance, God promises to heal those who keep His laws and exercise faith in His power to heal (Ex. 15:26; Jms. 5:14-15). He promises to greatly bless all who obey His Sabbath (Isa. 58:13-14; Mark 2:27-28). He promises good health to those who obey His many health principles. Each promise involves employing a right cause (obedience) to achieve a right effect. In each case, God describes a cause and effect relationship that proves the inspiration behind His instructions. But it will only work for those willing to take Him at His Word! So tragically, man has rejected the Book that reveals to him the cause of all his problems.

A specific example of cause and effect is God’s personal challenge concerning the law of tithing. With finances on the minds of millions, the following promise becomes another way to prove the Bible’s authority. The next verses set the stage for a verbal exchange between God and His people: “I am the LORD, [God says] I change not…Even from the days of your fathers you are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, says the LORD…” (Mal. 3:6-7). The exchange shifts to a rhetorical question from the people to God: “You said, Wherein shall we return?” God answers with His own question: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me.” Now another rhetorical question from the people: “You say, Where have we robbed You?”

God’s answer? “IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS” (vs. 7-8). When people do not pay God His tithes—and give Him His offerings—He considers them to be robbing Him.

The context continues with God’s offer to anyone who takes Him at His word: “Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith…if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Mal. 3:10). This promise is firm! Pay God His tithes and He will bless you beyond what you can receive! Will you believe such promises? More important, will you act on them?

It Can Be Proven

While skeptics reject this knowledge—to their own hurt, thinking they can defy the law of cause and effect—the one who believes the Author of the Bible will find many more proofs that God’s Word is not a book of mere human ideas.

Also read the booklet _How We Got the Bible_ at rcg.org/hwgb. Many merely assume the Bible is the correctly assembled Word of God. Others pooh-pooh it, not realizing the canonization of the books has a divinely inspired history that can be traced—unlike other supposed inspired books associated with different forms of professing Christianity. This booklet removes all doubt about how God assembled His Word so one can be confident in its authenticity—and it becomes another great proof of both the existence of God and that the Bible is His Word.

Almost none have comprehended what we have covered. And no single article can more than scratch the surface of this subject. Read my booklet _Bible Authority...Can It Be Proven?_ at rcg.org/bacibp. The churches of the world do not teach this knowledge, or certainly not properly. In fact, the majority who have, through the ages, thought themselves Christians have understood virtually none of this knowledge. But now you do!

The Bible is a book backed by God. You can prove its authority. You need no longer merely accept its divine authority on faith. If you diligently study the literature offered, you will have **absolute proof** this Book truly IS the Word of God!
Prevailing Mindset

An overall sense of entitlement is reinforced by the general pattern of European society in which citizens are given generous benefits, both by governments and businesses. Pensions are so high that workers in countries such as Greece and Italy can retire in their 50s. Vacations are long, with a study by the international human resource firm Mercer Consulting showing that the average minimum vacation and public holiday allotment is 34 days. Depending on the country, it can range anywhere from 28 to 39 days. Healthcare is free and many jobs have been virtually guaranteed because of the difficulty in firing employees. This has been virtually guaranteed because of the difficulty in firing employees. This then drives the overall sense of entitlement many Europeans feel. That is why, when there is any threat to government programs, protests erupt.

The news is often filled with stories about teachers on strike—postal workers off the job—railway staff deliberately moving slowly—farmers spilling produce in the streets—workers blockading factories—and government employees not showing up for work. Many of these incidents then result in clashes between police and protesting employees.

In 2010, when the French government announced it would raise the retirement age from 60 to 62, violent protests erupted across the country. The new government has now promised to return the retirement age to 60.

Two years later, the Portuguese government backed down from its proposed increase in social security tax. In 2013, the Bulgarian government resigned amid protests about austerity measures.

The entitlement cycle continues with each government cave-in. It is very similar to a parent giving in to a child who is throwing a temper tantrum in a supermarket!

This entrenched sense of entitlement forces governments to deliver what citizens demand. This has been the pattern of history. European governments are regularly voted in and out of power depending on whether a politician has delivered the goods. This in turn engenders constant turnover.

Italy is one example. Since World War II, it has experienced over 50 different governments.

There have been many changes in other countries as well. During the French Revolution, when the citizens tired of the king, they rose up, overthrew him, and established a democracy. In England, the monarch was reduced to a figurehead and Parliament was established.

Another European pattern seen throughout history has been the rise of a strongman in times of crisis. Spanish dictator Francisco Franco began to lead after a devastating civil war (1936-1939) and ruled with an iron fist until 1973. Another dictator, Antonio de Oliveira Salazar governed Portugal for decades until 1970. A brutal civil war in Greece after World War II resulted in military rule until 1974. Tito ruled Yugoslavia for decades until his death, Ceausescu slaughtered thousands in Romania, then there was the tyrant Hoxha in Albania, and of course the more well-known Stalin in Russia, Mussolini in Italy, and Hitler in Germany.

Modern European history is rife with dictators coming to power in times of despair. In fact, many European nations only became democracies in the second half of the 20th century.

New Leader?

With the current economic crisis showing no signs of abating, governments and businesses continue to cut jobs and benefits. Europeans see no light at the end of the tunnel. No high-level jobs in sight. They are frustrated, exasperated and disillusioned. Not knowing where to turn, they want change. They want jobs, they want benefits, and they want a leader who will make it happen. They want someone in power who will take care of them.

Europe has repeatedly given power to one man. History is replete with pan-European rulers such as Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, and Charles von Habsburg who ruled with iron fists—yet delivered periods of abundance.

Everything is in place for a new charismatic leader to electrify Europe—and deliver the lifestyles EU youth desire.

The forces are in motion. The stage is set. Keep watching as history repeats itself! □
that towns originally located to take advantage of superior springs now must carry in water from distant sites.”

Aerial reconnaissance “has revealed ancient ridged fields on flood plains, the remnants of ‘a specialized system of agriculture that physically reshaped large parts of the South American continent’” (ibid.).

According to Dr. Cole, today we call these areas of the world underdeveloped. Yet we ought to call them overdeveloped!

**Lesson of Rome**

A closer look at Rome is worthwhile as the empire’s territory is considered a classic case study in manmade erosion.

From Rome’s Golden Age to the Western empire’s collapse, all soils in the farmed areas (with the possible exception of Egypt) had been deprived of the nutrients necessary for the production of healthy crops.

“In England evidences of Roman cultivation have been found five feet below the present surface,” Mr. Mickey wrote in *Man and the Soil*. “Largely as a result of Roman exploitation, there are [almost] no forests on the Mediterranean coast from Spain to Palestine. Typical of this region is the North Dalmatian coast...[where the] hills of this region once were magnificently clothed with primeval forests. The Romans and the Illyrians, the earliest inhabitants, began the destruction of the forests. The first Slav settlers were prodigal, too. The denudation of the hills was completed by the Venetians, from about 1400 to 1700, who cut the trees for timber for their ships and piles for their palaces. The Yugoslav government was unable to reforest the hills because the young trees not uprooted by the savage north winds of winter were eaten by the goats of the peasants” (ibid.).

Many of these regions saw greatly reduced populations before the empire’s fall in AD 476, chiefly due to the deficient soils that could no longer sustain the region’s inhabitants.

Until modern times, Rome represented perhaps the worst example of long-term, widespread agricultural mismanagement. As a consequence, “the results of [Rome’s] avarice are visible yet today, in the eroded hills of Greece and the Mediterranean coast, in the sands of north Africa and western Asia.”

Yet in the 1940s, some soils in Italy had “completely recovered and...were producing more than they ever did.” Also, *some* soils in Western Europe and England had been “farmed for centuries not only without injury but...with yields steadily increasing for the past [217] years” (*Man and the Soil*).

**WHY?** How did this recovery come about? And why is it that some soils of Western Europe and England did not suffer erosion comparable to that of so many other areas?

**“Golden Age”**

Following Rome’s self-destruction, Europe’s inability to keep fertile soil in the Middle Ages continually pushed them to the brink of starvation.

During the 18th century, central Europe’s soils showed severe deterioration. In his 1947 book *Food or Famine: the Challenge of Erosion*, Ward Shepard wrote, “Since the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the world has had a larger food supply than it ever had before. The nineteenth century was the golden age of abundance. Except for this relatively brief period, though, food has been man’s chief preoccupation through his long, precarious history and prehistory.”

But this age of abundance is rapidly drawing to a close. In 2010, almost one in seven people in the world—925 million—were underfed and undernourished, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. And the first six months of 2012 showed that an additional 50 million worldwide are without food.

In the 19th century, two notable factors helped make Europe’s food supply plentiful—parallel revolutions in industry and agriculture.

This was mostly due to the new conservation efforts put forth that transformed crop growth. The most significant practices are still in use today, such as contour farming and the process of rotating crops with bare fallow.

In addition to these, Mr. Shepard wrote in *Food or Famine*, the institution of effective crop rotations also helped accelerate the improvement in agriculture, along with the shift “from a soil-depleting grain economy to a soil-building livestock economy.

“The agricultural revolution not only greatly increased Europe’s food production, but gave an unparalleled stability to her soils by devoting a high proportion of them to permanent improved pasturage. This inherent stability and balance have been maintained despite two world wars and the immense growth of [the] European population.”

This was aided by the fact that central European soil is not as easily erodible as others. Also, rainfall there “is regular, frequent, and gentle, as contrasted with the heavier and more irregular rains that prevail in most parts of the United States” and the rest of the agricultural world (*Man and the Soil*).

But there is also a most important fact that must be considered: “soil stability in Europe was purchased at the expense of the ruthless exploitation of the soils in the new continents” (*Food or Famine*, emphasis added).
The book states that the dramatic agricultural revolution that fed the European “masses fathered by the machine age” was important. But even more so was “the European colonization of the rich new fertile lands—the Americas, Africa, and Australia—and the opening up of the black lands of Russia, coincidently with perfecting machine exploitation of the soil and rail and ocean transport of food crops to the ends of the earth.

“With machine tillage and rapid transport, the vast new lands became the granary of the world. Their produce could be quickly moved to feed the swiftly growing industrial populations of the capitalist countries or to alleviate famine in India or China.”

The soils and resources of the new frontiers—especially in North America—seemed inexhaustible. But not for long!

**Last Frontier**

The New World was shamefully exploited and abused. By 1685, streams were muddy with silt and floods increased due to deforestation. But the destruction of field and forest continued unabated.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson—among a host of other early American leaders—were alarmed by what they saw taking place around them. They crusaded against destructive farming practices in word and deed, but to no avail, according to Mr. Mickey. The rape of the New World continued—and accelerated. When one tract of land wore out, undeveloped land was always available a little to the west.

“Every social and economic force seemed to encourage the spread of American agriculture. The invention of McCormick’s reaper, in 1831, and the other inventions of farm machinery that followed it made possible the cultivation of more and more acres...When the iron plow proved inefficient in the sticky prairie soil, the self-scouring steel plow appeared in 1837 to accelerate the westward march of agriculture” (Man and the Soil).

Throughout millennia, when man has worn out land in one area, he has moved to another. The close of the 19th century saw farming territory expanded to Oklahoma, marking the last free land area that could be occupied. After that, there was no rich, new agricultural land to which he could go.

The last significant U.S. frontier had been reached!

**Decades of Destruction**

The consequences of misuse of the land became more fully apparent around 1914, at the beginning of the first world war.

“During World War I, 50 million acres of agricultural lands in Europe, exclusive of Russia, went out of cultivation. Consequently, 40 million acres of grass lands in the United States were thrown into cultivation for the first time. This land—most of it in the area of western Texas and Oklahoma, extending into bordering parts of Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska—never was fitted for intensive cultivation.”

“In the madness of the ‘wheat rush’ these lands were ripped open by the plow and wheat was cultivated on them by a process which is better described as ‘mining’ than agriculture.”

“On many of these huge farms there were no human inhabitants. Men came in the fall or the spring, plowed and seeded the soil, and went away. They returned in the summer, gathered the crop and went away again. After the harvest, the bare soil lay unprotected in that arid, windswept region, while the fierce sun baked it and robbed it of moisture and fertility” (Man and the Soil).

The original condition of the soil was so rich that the effects of poor husbandry took a number of years to become apparent. Then, over the 20-year span of 1914 to 1934, erosion took a greater amount of soil than in any previous period, which created an environment ripe for the coming great dust storms.

In portions of the U.S. Plains states, as well as Arizona and California, there are now deserts where approximately 90 to 140 years ago lush grasses reached up to horses’ bellies or higher and bumper wheat crops were a yearly occurrence.

**America Not Alone**

Much of the world followed the U.S. in these short-sighted practices. In the 19th century, economic expansion, with attendant soil mismanagement, took place around the globe. The population explosion pushed for more intensive farming practices that would rob the planet of its capability to support its occupants.

Africa ranks equally or perhaps even ahead of North America in the extent and severity of depletion.

Data has shown that most nations in Central and South America suffer these problems to some extent, Mr. Shepard wrote in Food or Famine. In many areas, such as the wheatlands of Chile and the vast plains of the Argentine Pampas, they are severe. Overgrazing and tilling up grasslands to cultivate wheat have taken a heavy toll in destroying the choicest agricultural lands on the continent. The Amazon Basin and other tropical areas—though of less value agriculturally—also reveal excessive erosion.

The story of topsoil depletion in the Australian wheatlands and grazing lands on the border of the central desert sounds like a replay of what happened in the American West of the
1930s. Deforestation of mountains has also led to flooding and siltation issues (ibid.).

And the same picture emerged in New Zealand, where acres of forest converted into pastureland were overgrazed. Many steep slopes that should have been left to permanent forest were cleared to accommodate more sheep and cattle.

Yet it is not just the aforementioned countries that are devastating their soil. Erosion swept with unexpected force through the population-strained country of India as well as the wheatlands of Russia and grasslands of Eurasia.

“Looking at the world’s soils and natural resources in the large, they are in general and with few exceptions characterized by similar degenerative processes, which may be classified as follows:

“1) In humid regions, water erosion is destroying sloping lands by virtue of poor methods of tillage and by overgrazing of pastures.

“2) The cultivable grass-lands—the prairie soils of the Americas, Australia, Africa, and Russia—are being depleted by one-crop farming, notably wheat, and by wind and water erosion.

“3) Semi-arid grass-lands in the Americas, Eurasia, Africa, and Australia have been severely devegetated by overgrazing, with intense wind and water erosion that in many regions is producing, or threatening to produce, true desert conditions.

“4) The bulk of the world’s forests are being destructively exploited, not over 12 or 15 percent of the total forest area being under scientific management.

“5) In all these countries, poor tillage, overgrazing, and deforestation are wasting vast quantities of surface water by permitting it to rush into stream channels and out to sea instead of being absorbed into the soil by well-kept vegetative cover. This wastage causes desiccation of the land, the disruption of rivers and valleys, and an increasing menace to immense potential sources of hydroelectric energy” (Food or Famine).

Earth’s total forest and grassland cover has already been depleted well below the safety margin for maintaining a healthy climate.

**Assessing the Erosion Problem**

“Erosion has modified the surface of the earth more than the combined activities of all the earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes and tidal waves since the beginning of history, yet its processes are so gradual that we...have been prone to ignore it,” Austin Burges wrote in *Soil Erosion Control*.

And ignore it most have!

In 1935, the United States Congress began to take notice. It established the Soil Conservation Service to address the widening scope of manmade erosion. The seriousness of the situation was driven home by a series of “calamities in the form of searing droughts, stupendous floods, and continent-darkening dust storms that impressed on men’s minds, to the four corners of the earth, the fury of the swiftly spreading revolt of nature against man’s crude efforts of mastery” (Food or Famine).

What did the Soil Conservation Service find when they made their first survey? They discovered that manmade erosion was “in progress on more than half our land surface—on more than a billion acres of the less than two billion acres in the continental United States.

“They found that already over 100 million acres of our best crop-land had been irretrievably ruined for further cultivation” (ibid.).

In addition, Mr. Shepard wrote: “An even more destructive and critically dangerous erosion has swept over the western grass-lands of the Great Plains and intermountain plateaus after fifty or seventy-five years of overgrazing by livestock and futile and mistaken efforts to subdue these lands to the plow...Nowhere in America and almost nowhere in the world is the stupendous breakdown of great land masses and river systems more advanced, and in few parts of the world has man been more decisively defeated by nature than in the grass-lands.

“On our third great category of land—forest-land—America has met the same decisive defeat at the hands of nature.”

Despite conservation efforts over the past 75 years, government estimates from the Soil Conservation Service, which became the Natural
Resources Conservation Service in 1994, indicate that nearly two-thirds of the 1.35 billion acres of privately owned rural land in the U.S. (about three-fifths of the total land area) need additional conservation treatment!

**Estimated Annual Loss**

In his book *Soil Erosion Control*, Mr. Burges recorded that erosion by wind and water in the 1940s annually removed “21 times as much fertility from the fields of the United States as do the crops harvested from them.”

In accordance with the same calculations, Mr. Mickey wrote in *Man and the Soil*, “This loss in plant nutrients… represents 60 times the quantity used each year in commercial fertilizer.”

*Food or Famine* also stated, “From our farms and grass-lands alone, man-made erosion [was] moving over three billion tons of soil every year down into our rivers and reservoirs and out to sea” (emphasis added).

To put this into perspective, Mr. Burges described that hauling this vast amount of earth “would require a train of freight cars long enough to encircle the globe at the equator 37 times!” (emphasis added).

That is a loss of about one-half ton of topsoil for every man, woman and child on Earth.

This is the same topsoil that holds the vital nutrients needed to produce the sustenance we depend on and serves as a thin line that separates man and famine.

“On the basis of 1,000 tons of topsoil to cover one acre seven inches deep, that meant the equivalent…of 7,000 one-hundred-acre farms” was lost in the U.S. to water erosion down the Mississippi River every year (*Man and the Soil*). That equates to about two million tons per day!

“All of the rivers of the earth probably [carried] to the sea about forty times as much sediment as that carried by the Mississippi,” *The Illustrated Library of the Natural Sciences* stated.

Recent years have seen little improvement with estimates from 2007 showing that 87 percent of cropland continues to “erode excessively”—meaning that soil erosion rates are beyond the maximum annual “loss that will permit crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely on a given soil” (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Former USDA International Agricultural Analyst Lester Brown wrote in his book *World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse*, “As long as soil erosion on cropland does not exceed new soil formation, all is well.”

In the past two centuries, however, erosion has far exceeded the natural rate of replacement.

Dr. Brown stated, “Today, roughly a third of the world’s cropland is losing topsoil at an excessive rate, thereby reducing the land’s inherent productivity. An analysis of several studies on soil erosion’s effect on U.S. crop yields concluded that for each inch of topsoil lost, wheat and corn yields declined by close to 6 percent” (emphasis added).

Following a series of high-intensity deluges in 2011, Richard Cruse, an agronomy professor at Iowa State University, told *The New York Times*, “In a variety of locations, we’re losing topsoil considerably faster—10 to as much as 50 times faster—than it’s forming.”

But what has been the source of such dramatic losses?

“In some situations, the threat to topsoil comes primarily from overplowing, as in the U.S. Dust Bowl, but in other situations, such as in northern China, the cause is primarily overgrazing. In either case, permanent vegetation is destroyed and soils become vulnerable to both wind and water ero-
sion... Giant dust bowls are historically new, confined to the last century or so. During the late nineteenth century, millions of Americans pushed westward, homesteading on the Great Plains, plowing vast areas of grassland to produce wheat. Much of this land—highly erodible when plowed—should have remained in grass. Exacerbated by a prolonged drought, this overexpansion culminated in the 1930s Dust Bowl...” (World on the Edge, emphasis added).

What wind erosion can do was demonstrated by an unprecedented dust storm, or “duster,” on May 11, 1934. Mr. Mickey recorded that it “carried away an estimated 300 million tons of the topsoil of western Kansas and Oklahoma and the bordering parts of Texas, Colorado, and Nebraska” (emphasis added). On the same basis as mentioned above, this one duster, “meant the equivalent of 3,000 one-hundred-acre farms taken out of crop production” (Man and the Soil).

But the lessons from the Dust Bowl have not been fully learned. Soaring corn and soybean prices in 2011 drove farmers to once again till more land for crops—from steep hillsides to grassy pastures. “There’s a lot of land being converted into row crop in this area that never has been farmed before,” said [a farmer in western Iowa], explaining that the bulldozed land was too steep and costly to farm to be profitable in years of ordinary prices. “It brings more highly erodible land into production because they’re out to make more money on every acre’” (The New York Times). Such shortsighted practices mine cash for the moment instead of building renewable assets for the next year—and generations to come!

Yet even after cultivating more land, crop yields still fell short of those recorded in 2010.

Then in 2012, after a planting season surpassing that of the past 75 years, Bloomberg reported that record drought struck the U.S. and drove 29 states into natural-disaster status. The corn market forecasted a loss of 60 million metric tons, which skyrocketed prices up 55 percent within five weeks!

In an effort to aid livestock producers, protected land was opened in July.

“Additional acres in the Conservation Reserve Program will be made available to farmers and ranchers for haying or grazing, as the most widespread drought in seven decades has substantially reduced forage for livestock, the USDA said.

“The lands made available are classified as ‘abnormally dry’ and do not include sensitive lands such as wetlands and rare habitats,” Agence France-Presse reported.

The combination of overplowing, overgrazing, deluges and droughts leaves the land even more susceptible to erosion than in previous years. One wonders how much longer it will be until history repeats itself.

All these figures, of course, must be taken only as estimates. Erosion takes away the prime materials of the soil. Therefore, some experts believe the loss “is far greater than is apparent from a mere consideration of its actual weight or total quantity” (Conservation of the Soil, emphasis added).

Loss of Water

The effects of man’s mismanagement of the land continue to spread like ripples in a pond. As rainwater carries away vital nutrients contained within the soil, the surface water it drains into becomes unusable due to sheer mass of debris. So man has been sowing the seeds of his own destruction by fouling the two primary sources of nourishment: the soil and the water upon which all life depends.

Evidence of this manifests itself in our rivers and streams. During the 1970s, the USDA reported more than 8,000 of the 12,711 small watersheds identified in the U.S. mainland—or 65 percent—as having conservation problems needing solutions. Today, all watersheds are in need of treatment, with only those of “high need” up for consideration, according to the USDA.

Yet “engineers, still bemused by the fallacy that man can conquer nature, dream of restoring our broken-down river systems by the simple expedient of erecting gigantic flood-detention and silt-detention dams. This is a naive oversimplification of the problem.”

“For the engineers ignore the most significant aspect of their problem, namely, that nature herself, violently reconstructing entire watersheds in an effort to cope with the surplus runoff, has carved over 200 million gullies in the United States,” Mr. Shepard wrote in Food or Famine (emphasis added). Testifying to the unconquerable force of nature, “an estimated 2000 irrigation dams in the United States are now useless impoundments of silt, sand, and gravel” (BioScience).

Improper use of land has not only affected surface water quality, but it has also spread into the seas where our rivers lead, as reported by The New York Times: “Fertilizer runoff is responsible for a vast ‘dead zone,’ an oxygen-depleted region where little or no sea life can exist, in the Gulf of Mexico.”

Whether simply overlooked or willingly ignored, proper soil fertility management and land use has been proven to vastly reduce both water loss and erosion. Unless there is a return to these true values, these losses will lead to catastrophe!

Be sure to read the next issue for the continuation of the book. To read it online, visit reg.org/mwcia.
Conflict continues to escalate between the Nigerian military and extremist Islamist group Boko Haram. The sect’s ongoing attacks at public places range from violence at schools, churches and banks to its 2011 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Abuja.

In a recent incident, “Brigadier General Austin Edokpaye said the extremists used heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the assault, which began after soldiers surrounded a mosque they believed housed members of Boko Haram,” The Associated Press reported.

“Edokpaye said extremists used civilians as human shields during the fighting—implying that soldiers opened fire in neighbourhoods where they knew civilians lived.”

Bodies of victims were unrecognizable as they were retrieved from burned villages and towns. “The Red Cross says it is unclear whether the victims were soldiers, civilians or mainly Muslim north of the country. The violence grew following a 2009 riot by Boko Haram in Maiduguri that resulted in a police and military crackdown that left 700 dead.”

Boko Haram, which means “Western education is a sin” or “Westernization is sacrilege,” is fighting to replace Nigeria’s current form of government with Shariah law.

According to Voice of America, “Human Rights Watch says Boko Haram-related violence has killed an estimated 3,000 people since 2009, a toll that includes killings by security forces.”

Children’s behavior in classrooms throughout the United Kingdom has significantly degenerated in the last five years, according to a poll by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL).

“A teacher at a secondary school in Dudley said: ‘I’ve been sworn at, argued with, shouted at, had books thrown at me, threatened with physical abuse and had things stolen and broken,’” an ATL press release stated.

Another teacher told researchers about a five-year-old whose conduct “ranges from being very caring and wanting a lot of attention to swearing at staff, punching, kicking, hitting staff and other children, smashing up furniture and equipment.”

In another account, a male teacher stated, “I was cyberbullied—pupils created a pornographic Photoshop image of me.”

Of 844 ATL-member teachers, heads of school, and other support staff surveyed throughout the UK, “62% said there are more children with emotional, behavioural and mental health problems than two years ago, and 56% said there are more than five years ago.”

Almost 80 percent of those involved in the study blamed “lack of boundaries at home” as the principal reason for the spike. Other common reasons include “emotional problems (68%), wanting attention from other students (64%), a lack of positive role models at home (61%) and family breakdowns (61%).”
The number of women considered obese throughout Australia has increased by 30 percent over the last decade, according to a study. Researchers at Deakin University in Australia also found that morbid obesity (the highest on the scale) increased by 68 percent during the same time period.

Obesity has become so prevalent that many now have a distorted view of what a healthy person should look like. “I think that people are not really aware of what normal weight is any more,” Heather Yeatman, the president of the Public Health Association of Australia, said in The Sydney Morning Herald. “If you have got 60-plus per cent of people overweight or obese that has become normal viewing these days, not only for children but for parents as well.”

Once considered only a problem in Western nations, obesity has become a global health issue. It is estimated that 500 million adults worldwide are obese and 1.5 billion are overweight or obese, the Harvard School of Public Health reported.

“It has been suggested that this current generation of children is likely to be outlived by its parents. We are seeing increasing levels of obesity amongst children and teenagers which is not only blighting their lives but can even reduce their life expectancy levels,” medic8.com stated.

That’s a fairly high mortality rate, Michael O’Leary, the WHO’s China representative, told reporters...Less severe cases may have escaped detection, he said. ‘What we don’t know is the size of the iceberg under this tip,’” Bloomberg reported.

A troubling question for many is whether the current bird flu strain has mutated to the point that it can be transmitted through human-to-human contact. Australian Broadcasting Company reported that “the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention says 40 per cent of patients with H7N9 had not come into contact with poultry, raising questions about how people are becoming infected. It also emerged that the virus had spread among family members in Shanghai, raising fears that it was passing between humans.”

The New York Times stated that “health experts consider the new outbreak potentially worrisome. The disease can cause great harm. Three of the earliest victims suffered severe pneumonia, respiratory failure, septic shock, brain damage, kidney failure and other major complications.”

Similarly, Bloomberg reported, “A new flu strain against which nobody has natural immunity could touch off a pandemic if it’s capable of spreading easily and efficiently among people, such as what happened in 2009, after a novel strain of swine flu, called H1N1, emerged in Mexico.”
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