

Eye on the World

July 6, 2019

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of July 6, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



A Reuters article titled "Iran to Soon Exceed Enriched Uranium Limit Under Nuclear Pact: Fars News Agency" was posted at reuters.com on June 29, 2019. Following is the article.

Iran will soon exceed an enriched uranium limit under its nuclear deal, after remaining signatories to the pact fell short of Tehran's demands to be shielded from U.S. sanctions, the semi-official Fars news agency cited an "informed source" as saying.

Iran's envoy to a meeting of the remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear accord said on Friday that European countries had offered too little at last-ditch talks to persuade Tehran to back off from its plans to breach limits imposed by the deal.

"As the commission meeting in Vienna could not satisfy Iran's just demands . . . Iran is determined to cut its commitments to the deal and the 300 kg enriched uranium limit will be soon breached," the unnamed source said, according to Fars.



An article by Jon Gambrell and Nasser Karimi titled "Rouhani: Iran Will Enrich Uranium to 'Any Amount We Want' " was posted at apnews.com on July 3, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Iran's president warned that Tehran will increase its enrichment of uranium to "any amount that we want" beginning on Sunday, putting further pressure on European nations to save its faltering nuclear deal and offer a way around intense U.S. sanctions.

President Hassan Rouhani's threat, combined with Iran surpassing the stockpile limits of the 2015 atomic accord, could narrow the estimated one-year window it would need to produce enough material for a nuclear weapon, something Iran denies it wants but the deal sought to prevent.

But as tensions rise a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal, it looks unlikely that Europe can offer Iran a way to sell its oil on the global market despite U.S. sanctions.



A Reuters article by Babak Dehghanpisheh titled "Israel Will Be Destroyed in Half an Hour If America Attacks Iran: Senior Iranian MP" was posted at reuters.com on July 1, 2019. Following is the article.

Israel will be destroyed in half an hour if the United States attacks Iran, a senior Iranian parliamentarian said on Monday, according to the semi-official Mehr news agency.

Weeks of tensions culminated last month in U.S. President Donald Trump's last-minute decision to call off planned strikes on Iran after Tehran downed a U.S. drone. Washington also accused Iran of being behind attacks on ships in the Gulf, which Tehran denies.

"If the U.S. attacks us, only half an hour will remain of Israel's lifespan," Mojtaba Zolnour, the chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy commission said on Monday, according to Mehr.



An article by Ted Galen Carpenter titled "How Iran Would Battle the U.S. in a War (It Would Be Bloody)" was posted at nationalinterest.org on June 29, 2019. Following is the article.

Kenneth Adelman, a former assistant to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and a prominent figure in the U.S. foreign policy community, famously predicted in 2002 that a war to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would be a "cakewalk."

President Donald Trump apparently learned nothing from Adelman's hubris and rosy optimism. Although he aborted a planned airstrike on Iran at the last minute, Trump later warned Iranian leaders that the military option was

still very much on the table. He added that if the United States used force against Iran, Washington would not put boots on the ground but would wage the conflict entirely with America's vast air and naval power.

There was no doubt in his mind about the outcome. He asserted that such a war "wouldn't last very long," and that it would mean the "obliteration" of Iran.

But history is littered with examples of wars that political leaders and the general public erroneously believed would be quick and easy.

- When Abraham Lincoln opted to confront the secession of the Southern states with force, his initial troop request was merely for 90-day enlistments. People in Washington, DC, were so confident that the Union army would crush the upstart rebels at the impending battle of Manassas that hundreds drove out in carriages to view the likely battlefield. They treated it like a spectator event, in some cases complete with picnic baskets. Four years later, more than 500,000 American soldiers were dead.

- Leaders and populations in the major European capitals in 1914 exuded optimism that the new war would be over in a matter of months—with their side winning a glorious victory, of course. Once again, the situation did not turn out as planned. The projected quick and relatively bloodless conflict became a prolonged, horrific slaughter consuming millions of young lives, toppling established political systems in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, and ushering in the plagues of fascism and communism.

A common thread in the various blunders was the assumption that the initial phase of a conflict would be utterly decisive.

That was Adelman's error. Washington's military encounter with Saddam's forces was fairly close to being a cakewalk. The decrepit Iraqi army was no match for the U.S.-led invaders. When Saddam fell from power, President George W. Bush flew to a U.S. aircraft carrier that displayed a huge (later infamous) "Mission Accomplished" banner.

However, the initial military victory proved to be just the beginning of a giant headache for the United States. Within months, an insurgency arose against the U.S. occupation force, and political instability bordering on civil war plagued Iraq, paving the way for the rise of ISIS. At last count, more than 4,400 American troops have perished pursuing the Iraq mission, and the United States has spent well over a trillion dollars. Not exactly a cakewalk.

That is what makes President Trump's cavalier attitude about a war with Iran so worrisome. He implicitly assumes that the United States has control over the twin processes of retaliation and escalation. U.S. officials made that same faulty assumption in Iraq—and decades earlier in Vietnam. But even adversaries that are inferior in terms of conventional military capabilities may have numerous options to wage asymmetric warfare. And that strategy can become a war of attrition that inflicts serious damage on the militarily superior United States.

Iran may be especially effective if it adopts that course. Indeed, just in the narrow military sense, Iranian capabilities are far from trivial. Retired Admiral James Stavridis notes that Iran has “exceptionally strong asymmetric warfare capability” in several areas. “Cyber [attacks], swarm small-boat tactics, diesel submarines, special forces and surface-to-surface cruise missiles are all high-level assets,” Stavridis stated. “They are also very experienced at employing them in the demanding environment of the Middle East.”

Beyond utilizing its direct military capabilities, Tehran might well call upon its network of Shia political and military allies in the Middle East to create havoc for the United States. Iran maintains very close ties with Hezbollah in Lebanon and several Shia militias in Iraq.

The residual U.S. force deployed in the latter country could be especially vulnerable to harassment and lethal attacks. And one should not ignore or discount the potential role of the angry, oppressed Shia majority in Bahrain. If their seething discontent at the Sunni-controlled regime that Washington backs explodes into outright conflict, the Trump administration could find it increasingly difficult to continue basing the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

Going to war against Iran would be no minor matter, and President Trump is irresponsible to act in such a flippant manner. Attacking Iran could trigger a prolonged, costly nightmare in both treasure and blood. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), a Democratic presidential candidate, likely is prophetic that a war against Iran would make the Iraq War look like a cakewalk.

Tehran certainly has a multitude of ways to retaliate for U.S. aggression and to escalate the bilateral confrontation. U.S. leaders would be wise not to venture farther down that perilous path.



An article titled “Mexico Launches ‘Permanent Deployment’ [of Federal Forces] on Guatemala Border” was posted at afp.com on July 3, 2019. Following is the article.

The Mexican government on Wednesday began a “permanent deployment” of federal forces along the Suchiate River on the border with Guatemala to prevent the entry of migrants, a senior officer said.

General Vicente Antonio Hernandez told reporters that in addition to the Suchiate River deployment, members of the country’s National Guard were also deployed at 61 migrant crossings in the southern state of Chiapas.

The general added that since May, 20,400 migrants had been “rescued” from organized crime and 30 human traffickers arrested.

“We would be very irresponsible if we continue to let them go on,” he said, recalling the case of a Salvadoran migrant who drowned with his toddler daughter while trying to cross the Rio Grande to reach the United States.

Trump threatened in May to impose tariffs on all Mexican goods if the country did not do more to slow the flow of Central American migrants crossing the US-Mexican border.

After a week of tense negotiations, the two sides announced a deal on June 7 under which Mexico agreed to send thousands of National Guardsmen to secure its borders and expand its policy of taking back asylum-seekers while the US processes their claims.

The migration deal appears to be delivering Trump's desired result so far: the number of migrants taken into custody at the southern US border is expected to drop by 25 percent for June, the acting head of the Department of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, said Friday.

Trump tweeted his thanks to Mexico on Wednesday, saying that it is "doing a far better job than the Democrats on the Border."



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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- A Reuters article titled "Mexican President Announces Plan to Provide 40,000 Jobs to Migrants" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on June 28, 2019.
 - An article by Julia Love titled "Mexico President Wants to Disband Entire Army: 'We Are a Pacifist Country' " was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on July 2, 2019.
 - An article by Christopher Sherman titled "Mexican Police Revolt Against Plans to Join National Guard" was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on July 3, 2019.
 - An article by Caleb Parke titled "Israel Unveils Ancient Road 'Where Jesus Walked' to Temple" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on July 4, 2019.
 - A Reuters article by Roberta Rampton titled "Trump Says He Appreciates Saudi Purchase of U.S. Military Equipment" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on June 28, 2019.
 - An article by Liz McCormick titled "Saudi Buying of U.S. Treasuries Has Soared Since Trump Election" was posted at [bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com) on June 30, 2019.
 - An article by Aya Batrawy titled "Hip-Hop Star Nicki Minaj to Perform in [Ultraconservative] Saudi Arabia" was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on July 3, 2019.
 - A Reuters article titled "Netanyahu Says Trump Knew in Advance of Israel's Iran Archive Mission [in Tehran Last Year]" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on July 2, 2019.
 - An article by Bryan Bender titled "Pentagon Study: Russia Outgunning U.S. in Race for Global Influence" was posted at [politico.com](https://www.politico.com) on June 30, 2019.
 - An article by Mary Ilyushina titled "Russia Plans to Tow a Nuclear Power Station to the Arctic; Critics Dub It a 'Floating Chernobyl' " was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on June 30, 2019.

- An article by Valentian Pop and Brian Blackstone titled “IMF’s Christine Lagarde Wins EU Support to Lead European Central Bank [As Mario Draghi’s 8-Year Term Ends on Oct. 31]” was posted at wsj.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Sveinung Sleire titled “Almost Half of All Cars Sold in Norway in 2019 Are Electric Cars” was posted at bloomberg.com on July 1, 2019.
- An article by Josh Lederman and Hans Nichols titled “Trump Meets Kim Jong Un, Becomes First Sitting U.S. President to Step Into North Korea” was posted at nbcnews.com on June 29, 2019.
- An article by Bill Gertz titled “China Confirms Submarine-Launched Missile Test” was posted at freebeacon.com on June 28, 2019.
- An article titled “China Slams Trump’s ‘Gross Interference’ in Hong Kong” was posted at afp.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Jorg Luyken titled “Concern Over Angela Merkel’s Health As German Chancellor Seen Shaking for Second Time This Month” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on June 27, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled “Turkey’s Erdogan Says ‘Some People’ Paying ‘Serious Money’ to Bury Khashoggi Issue” was posted at reuters.com on June 30, 2019.
- An article by Faycal Benhassain titled “Italy Again at Odds With EU Partners Over Rescued Migrants” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 4, 2019.



An article titled “It’s Not Your Imagination: Americans Are Shooting Off More Fireworks Than Ever” was posted at oregonlive.com on July 4, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

In the eyes of many Americans, the Fourth of July is a day for parades, barbecues and, of course, fireworks.

The tradition got its start at the beginning of our nation’s history after the Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia to write and sign the Declaration of Independence.

A day after the Continental Congress adopted the declaration on July 4, 1776, John Adams—soon the second U.S. president—penned a letter to his wife Abigail, declaring that Independence Day “ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.”

One year later, Philadelphia celebrated the anniversary with fireworks—or “illuminations,” to Adams—plus a parade commemorating Independence Day.

So with that in mind, here are four fascinating sets of facts about fireworks.

- Firework use is growing

Americans shoot off almost 1 pound of fireworks each year for every adult.

And this figure has grown rapidly in recent years, from half a pound per adult in 2000. In 1976, the United States' bicentennial, the figure was just one-sixth of a pound annually.

A reason for the big increase is the steady reduction in state prohibitions against individuals using fireworks.

Today only Massachusetts completely prohibits individuals from owning and using any type of fireworks. The other states all allow usage in some form.

The most recent states to allow fireworks are New Jersey, Delaware and Iowa, whose new law legalizes fireworks around the 4th of July and New Year's Eve only.

Fireworks are also illegal in many urban areas, like New York City.

Because states are now permitting individuals to purchase and possess fireworks, there has been a large shift from professional to amateur use.

Back in 2000, roughly one-third of all fireworks were set off during professional displays, the kind that light the skies of cities around the world on holidays like New Year's Eve and national celebrations.

By 2017, professional displays made up less than 10 percent.

■ Fireworks prices have fallen

Just because more regular Americans have been shooting off fireworks doesn't mean prices have surged. The vast majority of the fireworks shot off in the United States are manufactured overseas, mainly in China.

Each shipment of fireworks brought into the U.S. includes a detailed invoice that shows the price the importer paid. These invoices show fireworks prices, after adjusting for inflation, are cheaper today than in the mid-1990s.

In 1996 it cost about \$1.37 in today's terms to import 1 pound of fireworks.

By 2017 the price had fallen to just \$1.13 a pound. That means pound-for-pound fireworks are less than half the price of the hot dogs many people are grilling this 4th.

■ Accidents and injuries

Fireworks are dangerous—hence the reason so many states had banned them previously.

And as we've exploded more bottle rockets, firecrackers and Roman candles, fireworks-related injuries have increased as well, though they are still far below the rates we saw back in the mid-1980s when cities and states began banning their usage.

Back in 1986, fireworks injured about 6.6 out of every 100,000 people. Since 1986, injuries have steadily fallen as government regulations made them safer. In 2008, the rate was down to 2.3 people.

But as states have relaxed restrictions, the injuries have started increasing again. The latest figures for 2017 show a rate of 4 people per 100,000.

In addition, there's also a big gender divide in who suffers the most injuries. Men experienced about 70 percent of fireworks-related injuries for the one-month period from June 18 to July 18, 2017.

Beyond such statistics, however low, every year there are horrible stories of both children and adults being maimed and killed. So it's always important to exercise caution when lighting what amounts to a low-yield missile.

■ Fireworks now must meet higher standards

One reason that injury rates have fallen in the first place is because of the federal government's Consumer Product Safety Commission.

This organization regulates fireworks under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. It banned the sale of the most dangerous fireworks, such as M-80s and cherry bombs, in the 1960s.

Today, it is working to lower injury rates again by requiring manufacturers to adhere to higher standards. For example, faulty fuses have caused many injuries, such as when some burned rapidly and ignite a rocket too quickly, preventing the holder from moving away in time. Other fuses actually take too long to ignite, leading people to investigate whether it needs to be relit just as the firework explodes in their face. So the commission now requires all fuses to ignite fireworks three to nine seconds after being lit.

The commission also now requires fireworks to have bases that are wider and support more weight so they do not tip over after being ignited. This prevents fireworks from firing off horizontally, becoming missiles that bounce along the ground and potentially hit spectators.

It also now bans hazardous materials like lead from the powder inside fireworks. This ensures people downwind from the explosions are not poisoned by breathing the smoke.



An article by Jonah Goldberg titled "Democrats' Leftward Turn Was a Reaction to Hillary Clinton" was posted at nationalreview.com on July 3, 2019. Following is the article.

The consensus view on the right is that Hillary Clinton was a primary reason for Donald Trump's success in 2016. But not all conservatives agree about why that was.

For devotees of the Trump-as-savior narrative, Clinton—and all the allegedly nefarious forces at her beck and call—was a uniquely formidable opponent. Defeating her required a different kind of Republican, one who'd be willing to fight as dirty and as tough as the Democrats.

■ This was a “Flight 93 election,” and Trump was the hero we needed to storm the cockpit.

■ Others on the right see it differently. It wasn’t so much that Trump was the one person who could beat Clinton, but that she was the one candidate he could beat.

In other words, it was only thanks to the fact that she was so unpopular that Trump had a chance. Trump-reluctant Republicans and independents could be persuaded that he was better than Clinton—when presented with a binary choice.

The latter seems vastly more plausible for the simple reason that Trump didn’t have to convince those voters that Clinton was unlikable and a little scary; he simply had to exploit their pre-existing opinion of her. Indeed, Trump’s continued obsession with bashing Clinton points to how central she is to his identity.

This has consequences for 2020 because the White House’s entire strategy boils down to making Trump’s opponent more unlikable than he is. If Trump wasn’t responsible for Hillary’s unfavorable numbers in the first place, it remains to be seen whether he can Hillaryize another Democrat.

It may not be all that hard, though, because the Democrats are doing everything they can to keep the Flight 93 panic alive on the right. They’re doing this by running so far to the left that many Trump-skeptical Republicans feel as if they have no choice but to vote for him again. (I hear this from my fellow conservatives every day.)

Democratic candidates have openly praised socialism, the Green New Deal, the abolition of private insurance, voting rights for incarcerated felons, federal funding of abortion late into pregnancy, confiscatory “wealth taxes,” and even the right to sex-change operations paid for by taxpayers.

And here is where I think Clinton’s true historical significance isn’t being recognized. Again, conservatives (including yours truly) invested a lot of time and energy in shaping public perceptions of Clinton.

But the blame—or credit—doesn’t just go to the right. Clinton herself did much to help the effort. She was never the natural politician her husband was. She lacked his gift for reading the electorate and speaking to voters’ concerns. She collected all of her husband’s baggage without any of her husband’s skill at deflecting criticism. She wasn’t very likable.

This was a huge advantage for Bernie Sanders in 2016. He came way closer to beating Clinton in the primaries than most people thought he would by tapping into the passion of the base and the frustrations of other Democrats who didn’t relish a Clinton dynasty and disliked both Hillary personally and the corrupt practices of the establishment she represented.

She ran on the implied claim that it was simply her “turn” to be president—a poisonous framing in a populist moment (just ask Jeb Bush). In retrospect, not being Hillary was almost as big a boon for Sanders as it was for Trump.

If the Clinton machine had not scared away more talented and resourceful politicians from running in 2016, it's possible that someone other than Sanders would have captured the passion of the party, just as Obama did when he toppled Hillary as the inevitable nominee in 2008.

But that didn't happen, and as a result, the Democratic party got the message that Sanders-style socialist populism was the key to success, just as the GOP has concluded that Trump-style nationalist populism is the future of the right.

Sanders' frustration at no longer being the undisputed voice of the base is palpable. "They said our ideas are crazy and wild and extreme," he recently complained. "And now it turns out all of the other candidates are saying what we said four years ago."

He's right.

Of course, there are larger historical forces at work here, but it sure looks like Hillary Clinton's candidacy was an inflection point, because it galvanized not only the GOP's turn toward nationalism but the Democrats' turn toward socialism.

She'll never be president, but she's made history nonetheless.



An article by Kristin Tate titled "Texas May Cost Trump 2020" was posted at thehill.com on July 4, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

There is a significant and growing probability that Texas will become the most consequential swing state in presidential and senatorial elections to come.

A campaign in the Lone Star State could cost President Trump the White House next year, even if Texas voters will ultimately choose him.

A powerful combination of demographic forces are propelling Texas from one of the reddest states in the union into a swing state. Democrats will likely make an outside play in Texas ahead of 2020, along with a full run for its projected 41 electoral votes. Texas also stands to gain three seats in Congress after the next census, making it a crucial state for both parties.

Texas demographics today are strikingly similar to those of California in 1990, before Democrats began their seven to nothing streak of Golden State victories in presidential races.

Like California in 1990, the Texas population currently hovers around 29 million and is changing rapidly in light of heavy immigration from Mexico.

The second generation children of Mexican immigrants have played a major role in keeping California out of Republican reach. This same transformation is taking root in Texas.

Immigration has already had a very tangible impact on Texas politics. While illegal immigrants cannot vote, their children born in the United States are

indeed citizens and make up a significant share of the new generation of voters in the southern state.

There are around 35 percent of Texans under the age of 18 who are the children of immigrants, a figure that has nearly doubled in the last 30 years. This carries weight.

Young Texas voters overwhelmingly turned out for Beto O'Rourke over incumbent Ted Cruz in the Senate race last year.

O'Rourke beat Cruz with 18 year olds to 24 year olds by a margin of 68 percent to 32 percent and with 25 year olds to 29 year olds by a margin of 73 percent to 26 percent.

O'Rourke also outperformed the traditional edge Democrats already have among Texas Latino voters by a wide margin of 64 percent to 35 percent.

With these second generation Mexican Americans strongly supporting Democrats at the polls, Texas changing to a purple state could not happen at a more inconvenient time for Trump.

His margin in the state in 2016 was the smallest for a Republican nominee since the poor showing of Bob Dole in Texas in 1996.

Considering the immense and enduring new wave of left leaning voters that O'Rourke attracted, there is a real chance that Texas will be close enough in 2020 that Republicans cannot take it for granted.

Over the next year, Trump and his surrogates will be forced to spend more time campaigning in Texas, which will diminish time spent on the ground in other crucial swing states.

Ultimately, this could be a death knell for the campaign.

A major reason Trump won in 2016 was due to his critical time investment in states like Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

He spent around 50 percent more time in these battleground states than Hillary Clinton did.

A diversion of time and money campaigning in Texas over the next 15 months could deal a fatal blow to high hopes for a second term.

Any diversion of the large but finite campaign resources to shore up a traditional red state like Texas will cut into the ability of Trump to win key swing states.

Moreover, Texas is not just any state. As the second largest in the nation, by both population and land area, it is an expensive state in which to run a full campaign. Just ask O'Rourke and Cruz. The two combined spent nearly \$125 million on their 2018 Senate campaigns, with O'Rourke outpacing Cruz by over 50 percent. Furthermore, outside donations and spending did not just impact the midterm Senate race, with donors also sending millions of dollars into suddenly competitive House races.

Republicans took note of the sheer volume of Texas votes that Democrats attracted in the last cycle. A Republican affiliated group, Engage Texas, is spending \$25 million to register and turn out red voters. Considering the Trump campaign spent \$325 million for 2016, the implications of such a drain of resources are clear well before the general election race begins.

In many ways, the resources used to keep Texas red next year are balanced by the fates in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. Several campaign stops or a late ad buy could mean the difference in the race. Trump could see his electoral chances go to hell, if Democrats spend more time and money in Texas.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Assault on Western Civilization" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 2, 2019. Following is the article.

Western civilization was founded on a set of philosophies that focus strongly on the sanctity of individuals and their power of logic and reason.

This belief led to a desire to trust things that could be proven to be true or legitimate, from government to science. Judeo-Christian morality has formed the basis of most Western notions of ethics and behavioral standards.

Thus, the attack on Western civilization must begin with the attack on the church and Christian values, and, just as important, the family unit must be undermined.

The reason why the church, Christian values and family are targets of the left is they want people's loyalty and allegiance to be to the state. The church, Christianity and the family stand in the way. Let's look at some of the left's agenda.

Joe Biden, criticizing sexual assault, said, "This is English jurisprudential culture, a white man's culture," adding, "It's got to change."

The Western world's culture isn't perfect but women fare better under it than any other culture. Just ask yourself: If you're a feminist, in which countries would you like to live?

Would it be Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries, China or countries on the African continent, north or south of the Sahara?

In those countries, women encounter all kinds of liberty restrictions plus in at least 30 countries on the African continent, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, female genital mutilation is practiced. You might ask Joe Biden what part of the "white man's culture" needs to be changed.

The greatest efforts to downplay the achievements of Western civilization start at our colleges and universities.

An American Council of Trustees and Alumni 2016 study reported that "the overwhelming majority of America's most prestigious institutions do not require even the students who major in history to take a single course on

United States history or government.” Because of this ignorance, our young people fall easy prey to charlatans, quacks and liars who wish to downgrade our founders and the American achievement.

In 2012, 2014 and 2015, an ACTA-commissioned survey of college graduates found that less than 20% could accurately identify the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation.

- Less than half could identify George Washington as the American general at Yorktown.
- One-third of college graduates were unaware that FDR introduced the New Deal.
- Over one-third of the college graduates surveyed could not place the American Civil War in its correct 20-year time frame.
- Nearly half of the college graduates could not identify correctly the term lengths of U.S. senators and representatives.

The left in our country often suggests that people who stand up for Western civilization are supporting a racial hierarchy.

The fact is that the history of the world is one of arbitrary tyrannical abuse and control. Poverty has been the standard fare for a vast majority of mankind.

America became the exception to what life was like. That exceptionalism inspired imitators, and our vision of freedom and liberty spread to what has become known as the Western world.

Many do not appreciate the fact that freedom and competition in both the marketplace and idea arena unleashed a level of entrepreneurship, risk-taking and creativity heretofore unknown to mankind. Look at the marketplace of ideas.

The Nobel Prize has been awarded to 860 people since its inception in 1901. The prizewinner distribution: Americans (375), United Kingdom (131) Germany (108), France (69) and Sweden (32); that’s 83% of Nobel Prizes won. The large majority of other Nobel winners are mostly westerners. I might add that Japan has 27 Nobel Prize winners, but their first winner was awarded in 1949, after WWII led Japan to become more westernized.

There’s a reason why the West leads the world in terms of scientific innovation, wealth and military might and it has little to do with genetics.

Instead, it’s the environment of freedom, both in the market for goods and in the idea marketplace. Rigorous competition brings out the best in mankind. Leftists and would-be tyrants find Western values offensive.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Jackass Ideas of the Jackass Party” was posted at patriotpost.us on June 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Of all the cockeyed notions promulgated by the Democrats, and there are scores of them, perhaps the most appalling is the one that calls for people who never owned slaves or mistreated blacks paying extortion to black people who not only never picked cotton but never knew anyone who had.

But Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee doesn't care about those inconvenient truths. She insists that we still have slavery in the U.S. and nothing will get rid of it except a redistribution of wealth. And where have I heard that before?

Naturally, Rep. Steve Cohen, a typical Jewish political hack, agrees with her. As do several of those contending for their party's brass ring, and the opportunity to lose to Donald Trump in 2020. Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Beto O'Rourke, Bernie Sanders, Julian Castro, Eric Swalwell and Peter Buttigieg, all prostrated themselves before his eminence, Al Sharpton, and swore to pass reparations legislation if they became president.

Kamala Harris has also come out in favor of reparations, even though, with an East Indian mother, she could only lay claim to half a share.

■ Biden flip-flop

Even Joe Biden, who had, along with his boss Barack Obama, opposed reparations in the past, can be counted on to change his position in the near-future, as he has on just about every other issue. It just goes to prove you can teach an old dog new tricks, even one that's 11-years-old. In dog years, that is.

■ Affirmative action

As I see it, we have already been paying reparations to black Americans for decades in the form of welfare and affirmative action. In addition, our courts have ruled that special congressional districts have to be carved out for them to ensure that the likes of Maxine Waters, James Clyburn, Sheila Jackson Lee, Elijah Cummings, Frederica Wilson, Hakeem Jeffries, Al Green, Hank Johnson and Ilhan Omar, can continue being elected, although no other group in the nation is granted that unique privilege.

■ Union soldiers seek reparations?

If I were a descendant of the 350,000 Union soldiers who lost their lives in a war which resulted in freeing millions of black slaves, I'd be sorely tempted to petition Congress, particularly the privileged members of the Black Caucus, for financial redress for their ultimate sacrifice.

But my parents and their parents were all back in Russia at the time dealing with the Czar and his Cossacks, who made America's slaveowners look like pussy cats.

If we live long enough, God willing, we might see the day when there will be a campaign to give reparations to Conservatives who are being libeled, slandered and censored these days by the liberal fascists who control the media and college campuses.

■ Criticizing Biden for saying nice things

Joe Biden made the mistake of saying a few nice things about former segregationist senators Eastland and Talmadge, saying that for all their obvious faults, they were willing to compromise so that the Senate could actually get something done, unlike the current crop. You would have thought he learned his lesson after the party faithful came after him with a lynch rope for referring to V.P. Pence as “a decent guy.”

■ Half-white Harris

Sen. Kamala Harris, who, like Barack Obama, likes to pretend she isn't half-white, was quick to attack her rival for the presidential nomination, saying: “If those guys [Eastland and Talmadge, both Democrats, by the way] were still in charge, I wouldn't be a member of the Senate today.”

Thus making the strongest case for segregation I have ever heard.

■ My fellow Jews

It isn't only America's black population who keep disappointing me. My fellow Jews do it on a regular basis. But at least they only do so in about 70% of the cases, not the 95% mark that blacks consistently achieve.

Most people want to fit in, even if fitting in with their social circle calls for adorning themselves with tattoos, nose rings and tongue studs. At the same time, people also want to feel special about themselves.

All of which helps to explain why so many Jewish college students join with the Arab and Muslim students to stage campus demonstrations against Israel, of all places.

It's not enough for these fools to display their opposition to the only democratic, productive and pro-American, nation in the Middle East. They also feel compelled to join forces with the very barbarians who would gladly initiate the next Holocaust.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Segregationist Ghosts” was posted at patriotpost.us on July 1, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

You would have thought that Southern segregationists were long gone, but thanks to Joe Biden, James Eastland and Herman Talmadge are very much in the news once again.

By this time, you would have thought that racial segregation would be a thing of the past, but, thanks to black students on college campuses who don't wish to live in the same dorms, take the same classes or share the same graduation exercises as everyone else, segregation is alive and well.

Blacks used to hate the notion of separate-but-equal, mainly because it wasn't equal. It was always they who had to sit in the balcony, in the back of the bus and

attend the worst schools. But now that the advantages in the form of Affirmative Action go to them, they don't seem to find the practice the least bit objectionable.

■ KKK was created by Democrats

I have to admit I was amused when MSNBC host Kasie Hunt assumed that Eastland, Talmadge, Orval Faubus, Albert Gore, Bull Connor and Strom Thurmond, were all Republicans. Thanks to having grown up on lies that concealed the fact that the KKK was created by the Democrats, that Jim Crow laws were passed and enforced by the Democrats, and that it was the Republicans who provided most of the votes required to pass the Civil Rights Act, how would she know otherwise? After all, she's only 34 years old.

■ Wallace and Byrd

The two segregationists I despised the most were George Wallace and Robert Byrd, who were turned into iconic figures because later in life, they allegedly saw the light. Bull hockey! The only thing that changed was that with the passage of the Civil Rights Act, southern blacks got to vote, and the bigots had to go crawling to them for votes if they ever hoped to be re-elected.

If they had been re-born prior to 1964, that would have been noteworthy. After that, it amounted to nothing more than political survival.

■ Putting soldiers on trial

I believe the military is sending the wrong message when they put soldiers and Navy Seals on trial for murdering terrorists in war zones. Killing the bastards is why they're over there and, if it's not, we should get the [heck] out of those [places].

It's not as if our Islamic enemies have even signed on to the Geneva Conventions. The oft-repeated cliché that "we're better than that," which should be retired along with "that's not who we are as a people," is sheer sophistry. Or undiluted pelosi, as I prefer to call it.

What matters is that our guys live and the other guys die. Anything else is the equivalent of our bringing a knife to a gunfight.

And it certainly doesn't help that this is the same system of military justice that decided to give deserter Bowe Bergdahl a pass.

■ In their air space

In a related matter, I didn't believe the Pentagon when the brass announced that the American drone shot down by the Iranians wasn't in their air space. Where else would it be? Clearly, it's in our best interest to keep an eye on their expanding nuclear program. I just wish we didn't feel the need to lie about it.

■ Kim Davis broke the law

Although I sympathized with Kim Davis back in 2015, when, as the county clerk of Rowan, Kentucky, she refused to grant a marriage license to a same-sex couple, I felt she had the right to resign, but didn't have the right to break the law.

■ Michael Kearns is obeying the law

But it's different with Michael Kearns, the county clerk of Erie, New York. He is refusing to abide by the governor's order to grant drivers licenses to illegal aliens or to register them to vote. Unlike Ms. Davis, he is obeying the law. It's Governor Cuomo and his trained seals in Albany who are breaking it.

■ Indict the governors, mayors and legislators

And it is high time that the Justice Department began indicting the governors, mayors and legislators, who are flouting the nation's immigration laws by declaring themselves sanctuary cities and states. These scofflaws should have to pay the same price as those who commit espionage, bank fraud and tax evasion, even if they hold elected office. Make that especially if they hold elected office.

■ Cell phones

Medical researchers have confirmed that horns have begun growing out of the skulls of teenagers who spend too much time on their cell phones. I have long suspected that Satan had played a major role in creating these devices, but I never expected to have my suspicions confirmed in such dramatic fashion.

■ Athletes, entertainers and politicians

Except for athletics and entertainment, I can't think of another career aside from politics in which truly ignorant people can reach the highest rung of success.

But it should come as no surprise. After all, how many intelligent people would even consider pursuing a life in politics after realizing they could end up spending more hours of their lives in the company of people like Nancy Pelosi, Jerry Nadler, Mazie Hirono, Maxine Waters, Steve Cohen, Susan Collins, Adam Schiff, Patty Murray, Elijah Cummings, A O-C, Lisa Murkowski, Rashida Tlaib and Eric Swalwell, than with their dogs?

Heck, just typing out those particular names was enough to give me a headache.

■ Poor Joe Biden

Speaking of ignorant people, things just keep getting worse for Joe Biden. First, the schmuck had to apologize for saying he thought Mike Pence was a decent guy. Next, he had to reverse himself on the Hyde Amendment. Then he had to apologize for saying he was able to get things done in the Senate even with old-time segregationists.

Finally, he took a good look in the mirror and realized that the hair plugs were falling out and that he was about to be as bald in his late 70s as he was in his early 40s.

Now he can't get to sleep at night because he's worried whether the white paint will soon begin peeling off his teeth.

At the rate things are going, by the time his campaign ends, Biden might go through the most horrifying transformation since Dorian Gray.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Deficit

- An article by Peter Hasson titled “Moderators Ask Zero Questions About National Debt in First Two Democratic Debates Combined” was posted at dailycaller.com on June 27, 2019.
- An article by Ilona Schumicky titled “Rep. Jim Banks [R-Ind.]: American Families Live Within Their Budgets Every Day— Governments Should, Too” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Frank Konkel titled “The Government’s Historic Spending Spree Continues” was posted at nextgov.com on July 3, 2019.

Finances

- An article by Stephen Cunningham and Jessica Summers titled “U.S. Oil Output Tops 12 Million Barrels a Day for First Time” was posted at bloomberg.com on June 29, 2019.
- An article by Jeff Cox titled “Strong Job Growth Is Back: Payrolls Jump in June Well Above Expectations” was posted at cnbc.com on July 5, 2019.
- An article by Fred Imbert titled “Stocks Rise to Close Out Dow’s Biggest June Gain Since 1938, S & P 500’s Best First Half in 2 Decades” was posted at cnbc.com on June 28, 2019.
- An article by Akane Otani titled “As Stocks Hover Near Records, Growth Worries Linger” was posted at wsj.com on June 30, 2019.
- An article by Michael Wursthorn and Lauren Almeida titled “Dow Industrials Close at Record High” was posted at wsj.com on July 3, 2019.

Tariffs

- An article by Nathan Bomey titled “Chinese Consumers Say They’ve Boycotted American Products Amid Trump Trade War” was posted at usato-day.com on June 28, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled “U.S. Trade Deficit Surges to Five-Month High As Imports Soar” was posted at reuters.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article by Paul Wiseman titled “US Trade Deficit Rises to 5-Month High of \$55.5 Billion in May” was posted at apnews.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “U.S. Merchandise Trade Deficit Hits 11-Year High Through May; \$137.1 Billion With China Alone” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 3, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Scottie Andrew and Saeed Ahmed titled “New York City Declares a Climate Emergency, the First US City With More Than a Million Residents to Do So” was posted at cnn.com on June 27, 2019.
- An article by Ken Meyer titled “Miley Cyrus Unleashes Expletive-Filled Climate Rant at Concert: ‘We Are the Last F***ing Hope on This Dying F***ing Planet’” was posted at mediaite.com on July 1, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Chris Dyer titled “Dalai Lama Warns That the Whole of Europe Could Become ‘Muslim or African’ If Migrants Are Not Returned to Their Home Countries” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 27, 2019.
- An article titled “Working Class Mexicans Don’t Want Central American Immigrants, Either” was posted at usatoday.com on June 30, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled “Obama’s DHS Chief [Jeh Johnson]: Democrats Are Pushing for Open Borders and That’s Unworkable” was posted at townhall.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled “CNN’s Fareed Zakaria: Guys, Trump Is Right About the Asylum Abuse Crisis [People Falsely Claiming Asylum] on the Southern Border” was posted at townhall.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article titled “Mexico Deports 33% More Migrants After Deal With US” was posted at afp.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Peter Orsi titled “Mexico Buses Home Dozens of Asylum Seekers Returned by US” was posted at apnews.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Tom McCarthy titled “Ocasio-Cortez Details ‘Horrorifying’ Conditions at Migrant Detention Facility” was posted at theguardian.com on July 1, 2019.
- An article by David Martosko titled “Raging AOC Claims Border Agents Make Detainees Drink From Toilets, Wage ‘Psychological Warfare’ on Women During Tour of Facility—Sparking a Furious Denial” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on July 2, 2019.
- An article titled “Hispanic Pastor [Reverend Samuel Rodriguez] Disputes Ocasio-Cortez’s Claims About Border Facilities” was posted at foxnewsvideos.com on July 2, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by John R. Lott, Jr. titled “When Television New Anchors Become Gun Control Activists” was posted at townhall.com on June 27, 2019.
- An article by John Rogers and John Locher titled “California Town [Needles, Calif.] Wants to Be a Sanctuary—For Gun Owners” was posted at apnews.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article titled “77 Arrested by Chicago Police in Pre-4th of July Holiday Gun and Drug Take Down; Mayor Lori Lightfoot to Unveil Safety Plan” was posted at wlschicago.com on July 3, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Susan Jones titled “Record 157,005,000 Employed; 19th Record of Trump Era” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 5, 2019.

■ An article by Margaret Talev titled “Trump and GOP Report \$105 Million Haul in Second Quarter” was posted at bloomberg.com on July 2, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Gideon Resnick titled “Bernie Sanders [\$18 Million Fundraising] Falls Short of Mayor Pete Buttigieg’s Second Quarter Fundraising Haul [\$24.8 Million]” was posted at thedailybeast.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article by Ben Feuerherd titled “Trump Slams Dems for Backing Health Care for Undocumented Immigrants” was posted at nypost.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled “All Democratic Presidential Candidates Say They Would Give Health Insurance to Illegal Aliens” was posted at cnsnews.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Betsy McCaughery titled “Dems Want to Insure Illegals, Don’t Care About Vets and Middle Class” was posted at townhall.com on July 3, 2019.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled “Sen. Bernie Sanders Admits He Will Raise Taxes on Middle Class to Pay for Universal Health Care” was posted at cnsnews.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Scott Wartman titled “Bernie Sanders Calls Trump ‘A Racist and a Bigot’ Day After Democratic Debate” was posted at usatoday.com on June 29, 2019.

■ An article by Tal Axelrod titled “Swalwell Urges Biden to ‘Pass the Torch’ to Younger Generation” was posted at thehill.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Christian Vasquez titled “Biden Rejects ‘Old Guy’ Label at Bay Area Fundraiser” was posted at politico.com on June 29, 2019.

■ An article titled “Pete Buttigieg Battles Low Support From Black Voters, Takes Case to Rainbow Push Convention” was posted at wlschicago.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled “Buttigieg Calls for Marshall Plan to Invest in Future of Black America” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article by Lananh Nguyen and Tyler Pager titled “Elizabeth Warren Starts Winning Begrudging Respect on Wall Street” was posted at bloomberg.com on July 3, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Matthew Lavietes titled “Tensions Between Trans Women and Gay Men Boil Over at Stonewall Anniversary” was posted at reuters.com on June 30, 2019.

■ An article titled "Charlottesville Drops Thomas Jefferson's Birthday As Holiday" was posted at apnews.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article by Samantha Maldonado titled "San Francisco to Paint Over Historic George Washington Mural" was posted at apnews.com on July 4, 2019.

Kamala Harris

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled "Sen. Kamala Harris to Candidates: 'America Does Not Want to Witness a Food Fight' " was posted at cnsnews.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Julian Shen-Berro titled "Kamala Harris Shuts Down Generational Argument at Democratic Debate [With Her Food Fight Comment]" was posted at huffpost.com on June 27, 2019.

■ An article by Francesca Chambers titled "'That Little Girl Was Me': Kamala Harris Tears Into Joe Biden on Praising Segregationists and Opposing Busing, Telling How She Was Bused to Integrate a School—Leaving Democrat Front-runner Stammering and Saying 'I'm Out of Time' " was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 28, 2019.

■ An article by Maureen Dowd titled "Kamala Shotguns Joe Sixpack" was posted at nytimes.com on June 29, 2019.

■ An article by Brian Schwartz titled "Joe Biden Loses Support of Top Campaign Fund-raiser [Lawyer Tom McInerney] in Bay Area After Comments on Segregationists and Hyde Amendment" was posted at cnbc.com on June 28, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Chris Kalm titled "Biden's Support From Black Voters Cut in Half After Debate: Poll" was posted at reuters.com on July 3, 2019.

■ An article titled "[Kamala] Harris Surges to Third Place in National Poll Among Dems After Debate" was posted at yahoo.com on June 30, 2019.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled "Biden: 30-60 Seconds on a Debate Exchange 'Can't Do Justice to a Lifetime Committed to Civil Rights' " was posted at cnsnews.com on June 28, 2019.

■ An article by Natasha Korecki and Carla Marinucci titled "'Her Ambition Got It Wrong About Joe': Harris Faces Debate Backlash" was posted at politico.com on June 30, 2019.

■ An article by Aaron Kail titled "After Debate Debacle With Kamala Harris, Joe Biden Must Prove He Can Do Better [at Debate] in Detroit" was posted at usatoday.com on July 1, 2019.

■ An article by Adam Edelman titled "Biden, Harris in Virtual Tie After Dramatic Shift in Black Support, Poll Shows" was posted at nbcnews.com on July 2, 2019.

■ An article by Jon Ward titled "As Kamala Harris Surges, a Question Looms: What to Do About Iowa? [Continue Focusing on South Carolina or Now Give More Attention to Iowa?]" was posted at yahoo.com on July 3, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article titled "O'Rourke Visits Mexico, Meets Turned-Away US Asylum-Seekers" was posted at apnews.com on June 30, 2019.
- An article by Will Weissert and Ryan J. Foley titled "Rich Father-In-Law [William Sanders, Successful Businessman in Chicago Before Returning to El Paso] Has Helped, Complicated O'Rourke's Career" was posted at apnews.com on July 5, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Shawn Langlois titled "Former Fox News Reporter [Carl Cameron] Leaves Network Over 'Partisan Misinformation' " was posted at marketwatch.com on June 26, 2019.
- An article titled "The Vindicator, Youngtown's Daily Newspaper, Will Close After 150 Years" was posted at cleveland.com on June 28, 2019.
- An article by Brad Wilmoth titled "MSNBC's Joy Reid Blames 'Draconian' Trump Policies for Immigrants Drowning" was posted at newsbusters.org on June 30, 2019.
- An article by MRC Latino staff titled "In NYTimes, Jorge Ramos Writes Resistance to Immigration Is Futile" was posted at newsbusters.org on June 30, 2019.
- An article titled "US Media Sector Braces for Brutal Year for Jobs" was posted at afp.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article by John Nolte titled "CNN Death Spiral Continues With Double Digit Q2 Ratings Collapse" was posted at Breitbart.com on July 3, 2019.
- An article by Brian Doherty titled "*Mad* Magazine Is Dead" was posted at reason.com on July 4, 2019.
- An article by Paul Joseph Watson titled "Media Predictions of 'Tiny Crowd' for Trump July 4 Speech Proven Spectacularly Wrong" was posted at summit.news on July 5, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Drew Costley titled "A Seismograph in Pennsylvania Picked Up 6.4-Magnitude Earthquake in SoCal" was posted at sfgate.com on July 4, 2019.
- An article by Richard Wolf titled "Supreme Court in Transition: Conservatives Ascendant, But Roberts, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh Prove Unpredictable" was posted at usatoday.com on June 28, 2019.
- An article by Ellen Milligan titled "Face-Reading AI Will Tell Police When Suspects Are Hiding Truth" was posted at bloomberg.com on June 29, 2019.
- An article by Max Londberg and Kevin Grasha titled "Woman Who Tripped on Collapsed 'Wet Floor' Sign at Jack Casino [in September 2016] Awarded \$3 Million by Jury" was posted at cincinnati.com on June 29, 2019.

- A Reuters article by Tyler Choi titled "American Caravan Arrives in Canadian 'Birthplace of Insulin' for Cheaper Medicine" was posted at reuters.com on June 29, 2019.
- An article by Marc J. Spears titled "[Darren] Collison Retires From NBA [And a \$10 Million Annual Salary] at 31 to Focus on [Jehovah's Witnesses] Faith" was posted at espn.com on June 29, 2019.
- An article by Noah Feit titled "Drugs Planted at Rest Area for Prison Litter Crew to Deliver to Inmates, SC Cops Say" was posted at newsobserver.com on July 1, 2019.
- An article by Blake Alsup titled "Florida Wildlife Services Wants Iguanas Dead, Urges Residents to Kill Them 'Whenever Possible' " was posted at nydailynews.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Jack Flemming titled "David Geffen Drops \$30 Million on An Empty Acre in Prime Beverly Hills" was posted at latimes.com on July 2, 2019.
- An article by Katy Moeller titled "PETA Finds Name of Rural Road in Idaho [Chicken Dinner Road in Caldwell City] Distasteful, Asks for Chicago" was posted at idahostatesman.com on July 3, 2019.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."