

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 29

JANUARY 2017

NUMBER 10

## Donald Trump to Become 45th President

Will President Trump get America back on the right track? Or will the U.S. continue to falter?

By Gregory Dullum

On Jan. 20, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 45th president of the United States. Will he be able to slow the rapid decline that the U.S. experienced under his predecessor? Or will the U.S. continue to spiral downward into an immoral abyss, bringing upon itself national captivity as punishment from God?

### A New Direction

Trump seems prepared to take the U.S. in a new, better direction. Being a successful businessman instead of a career politician, he has filled his cabinet and other governmental posts with some of the best conservative minds available, instead of political cronies, which *bodes well* for this nation. Perhaps our plunge into weakness toward national destruction will be slowed for a time.

Trump ran on a slogan of “Make America Great Again.” That can ONLY happen if the American people return to God and live according to his laws. Then our nation will be blessed (Deut. 28:1-14). If we keep turning our back on God, He will turn his back on us and we will be cursed (vv. 15-68).

The new president is not Jesus Christ! He *cannot* save this nation from doom *if our people continue to sin*. And it seems likely that our sins will continue to grow.

### Conservative Choices Help

It is true that Trump is not a true “conservative,” and that fact has given political conservatives some angst—a few refused to support his candidacy during the election. However, Trump’s administration will be far more conservative than that of Hillary Clinton’s had she won. She had promised to continue to take America down the Socialist path to national destruction that Barack Obama



photo courtesy of [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

Donald Trump will be inaugurated as 45th president of the U.S. on Jan. 20.

had set our nation upon.

We can expect to see the U.S. economy jump into a growth cycle after eight years of sluggishness under Obama. Changes have already started occurring. Since Trump’s election, the stock market has soared to new heights and some companies have announced they will keep jobs in the U.S. instead of sending them overseas.

Tax cuts and deregulation will allow businesses to grow and get revenue streams flowing with cash once again. The U.S. will be able to become more energy independent as restraints are removed from our oil and coal industries.

Our nation will become more secure as our borders are closed to terrorists wanting to infiltrate us, and our military is built up to discourage nations from attacking us.

Our individual freedoms may be restored to some degree as Constitutional justices are appointed to the Supreme Court, and the government gets out of the healthcare, auto manufacturing and banking businesses, turning them back over to the private

sector where they belong.

Our national debt will need to be slashed. That may be accomplished by a combination of economic growth and spending cuts. If something is not done soon, our national debt could crush us economically.

### A Time of Peace and Safety?

Trump’s election seems to indicate a reprieve for the U.S.—a little more time before total disaster strikes. If indeed we experience a time of “peace and safety” we must beware—the end could be nearer than we expect. The end will come at a time when we think not (Mat. 24:44). Most people will be caught unaware, like an animal in a snare (Luke 21:35).

Just because conditions may improve under Trump, it does not mean the END is getting *farther away*. Each day we are closer to Christ’s return than the day before! The apostle Paul tells us, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. ... Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thes. 5:2-4, 6).

We must use what time we have wisely (Eph. 5:16), preparing ourselves for the kingdom and supporting the Church of God in its efforts to preach both the WARNING message of impending doom *unless this nation repents* and the GOSPEL MESSAGE OF HOPE in the *coming kingdom of God*.

Jesus Christ Himself began his ministry with these same two messages: “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’ ” (Mat. 4:17). His message is even more true TODAY!

# Who Are the German People?

God will punish the German (Assyrian) people briefly and then reward them greatly!

By Gregory Dullum  
Part 4

Germany (modern Assyria) will very likely be the leading nation in the union of 10 kings who will rule in Europe as Christ returns. Last month, we mentioned that this union, the seventh revival of the Holy Roman Empire (which is called “the beast” and the “king of the North,”) will be defeated by Christ when He returns.

Let’s examine in more detail how the end-time German army will be defeated.

## German Army Defeated

In Revelation 17, it is prophesied, “And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (vv. 12-14).

Two chapters later, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy described as Christ returns to battle the armies of the beast and the kings from the East: “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh” (Rev. 19:19-21).

This great FINAL BATTLE at Jerusalem between the *fleshly* army of men and the *spirit* army of Christ is further detailed by the prophet Zechariah:

“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem ....

“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two ....

“And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people

who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths” (Zech. 14:1-2, 3-4, 12).

The physical army of the beast—that *terrifying* army of Assyrians who so easily captured the ancient Israelites in 723 B.C., and will capture modern Israelites in the last days before Christ returns—will be NO MATCH for the power of God’s *army of spirit beings!* Their flesh will dissolve away! The end-time Assyrian army will be annihilated (if they don’t surrender to Christ)!

This final battle will take place *outside of Jerusalem*. Meanwhile, what will happen *back in Europe?* Will the union of 10 kings assemble another army to send to Jerusalem as Europe did during the Crusades? Will the government surrender to Christ?

## German Government Crushed

The prophet Daniel saw the demise of this 10-king union. He described their fall to Nebuchadnezzar, who saw these kings symbolically as 10 toes on a statue of a man made from four different metals.

“And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; *it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms*, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it *broke in pieces* the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this” (Dan. 2:42-45, emphasis added).

The German-led 10-king union will be CRUSHED by Jesus Christ! He will destroy both the German *army* and the German *political leadership*. What about THE REST of the German people? They will NOT go unpunished! They will be holding Israelites captive at that time!

## German People Punished

“Therefore it shall come to pass, when the

LORD has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, ‘I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.’ ...

“Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will send leanness among his fat ones; and under his glory He will kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. ... And they shall be as when a sick man wastes away” (Isa. 10:12, 16, 18).

God used Assyria to punish ancient Israel for its sins, and He will most likely use Assyria again at the end time to punish the end-time Israelites! It is *God who gives the victory* but the Assyrian king, in his arrogance, *takes the credit*. God will punish this arrogant attitude by sending leanness upon the German people. The German people also will be punished for their mistreatment of the end-time Israelites they hold captive!

During their captivity, it appears that many Israelites will die at the hands of the Assyrians! It could be that death camps will be used again in the future, just as they were in World War II!

Isaiah’s prophecy describes Israel’s greatly diminished numbers: “And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, will never again depend on him who defeated them [the Assyrians], but will depend upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of

## The SABBATH SCOOP

228 O’Connell Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-3332

### Editor

Gregory Dullum

### Circulation Managers:

Craig Evans • Raleigh Collins

Gregory Dullum

© Copyright Gregory Dullum 2016

PRINT CIRCULATION: 76 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE  
<http://sabbathcoop.myfreesites.net>

The Sabbath Scoop is an independent publication. Opinions expressed are those of the editor (based upon more than 50 years attending the Church of God and four years of Ambassador College plus additional personal Bible study), not of any church or organization. Donations to cover costs of paper, toner, postage and Web site are gratefully accepted. You may e-mail the editor at: [cbjprodept@socket.net](mailto:cbjprodept@socket.net). Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotes are from the New King James Version, ©1983, Thomas Nelson Publishers.



photo by Gregory Dullum

A major highway will connect Assyria, Israel and Egypt in the Millennium.

the sea, yet a remnant of them will return; the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the LORD GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.

“Therefore says the LORD GOD of hosts. ‘O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt. For yet a little while and the indignation will cease, as will My anger in their destruction’ ” (vv. 20-25).

This will not be the end of the Assyrian (German) people! They will not be completely wiped out as a punishment from God. After a short period of punishment, his anger will cease.

### Captives Rescued from Assyria

One of the first things Christ will do after conquering the army of the beast near Jerusalem is to go to Europe and free the end-time Israelite prisoners held captive

by the end-time Assyrians (and other nations)!

“It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea” (Isa. 11:11).

Where will the captives go? They will travel a highway from Assyria to Jerusalem, the capital and the seat of Christ’s world government: “There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt” (v. 16).

Note that these captives were *about to perish in the land of Assyria*: “So it shall be in that day that the great trumpet will be blown; and they will come who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and they shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem” (Isa. 27:13).

What will be the attitude of these freed captives? There will be great relief at being saved from death and tremendous joy at being freed! “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isa. 35:10).

It seems that Jesus Christ Himself will lead the captives from Assyria to Jerusalem (Isa. 49:10). He will make sure they are well fed and are given plenty of water on the way (vv. 9-10). They will be comforted by Him (v. 13).

### Assyrians in the Millennium

What about the Assyrians in the Millennium? Will they be mistreated or pun-

ished as enemies? No, not at all. God has no animosity toward the German people! He used them to punish Israel, but He won’t hold that against them! In fact, God will honor them by calling them the *work of his hands* (Isa. 19:25).

The Assyrians will hold a place of PROMINENCE in the Millennium! They, the Egyptians and the Israelites will form a special triumvirate of nations that receive special attention and blessings from God! A major highway will link all three together:

“In that day there shall be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance’ ” (Isa. 19:23-25).

The German people—modern-day Assyrians—will go to Jerusalem to worship Christ and keep the Feast of Tabernacles! “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came up against Jerusalem [And Germany will be one of those!] shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16).

They, along with all other nations, will look to Jerusalem for leadership. They will keep, not just the Feast of Tabernacles, but all of God’s Feasts and all of God’s laws, which are based upon love. Their warlike nature will be changed to peaceful, and they’ll turn their weapons of war into implements of agriculture:

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isa. 2:2-4).

The warlike heart of the German people *will be changed*. They will be one of three leading nations that will show the rest of the world how to live God’s way! The future of the German people is very bright indeed!

## Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. What was the plague that finally made Pharaoh let the Israelites go?
2. Out of what did God make Eve?
3. Which of David’s sons was killed when his hair became tangled in a tree?
4. How many baskets of fragments were picked up after Jesus fed the 5,000?
5. In what language, primarily, was the Old Testament written?

(Answers on page 5)

# What Are Grandparents' Duties?

Does the Bible list any duties or give any instructions to grandparents?

By Gregory Dullum

Many are the instructions from God to PARENTS! He expects PARENTS to teach *their children* about Him and his ways. Here are just three examples:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:5-7).

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

In addition to teaching their children about God, parents are to provide for their physical needs (1 Tim. 5:8).

What about GRANDPARENTS? Does God give any such instructions to them?

I have been a grandfather for almost seven years. I have four grandchildren, and I have learned that being a grandparent is *more fun* than being a parent! You have *children to enjoy*, but it's NOT a 24/7 job. At the end of the day, the grandkids go home with their parents.

When a diaper needs changing, it's so much nicer to say, “Mom, we need a butt-change here,” instead of having to change it myself. As grandparents, we have the JOYS of being a parent without all of the HEADACHES. Sometimes I think it would have been nice to have skipped being parents and go straight to being grandparents!

There are advantages to being grandparents, but are there *any* RESPONSIBILITIES? Are there *any* DUTIES? What does the Bible tell us that grandparents should do? The Bible has *very little* to say about being grandparents. But it does list TWO DUTIES that we have.

## Financial

The first duty of a grandparent is a financial one:

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children” (Prov. 13:22).

A GOOD grandfather leaves an inheritance, not just to his children, but to his GRANDCHILDREN as well. The amount of



NAPS photo

Grandparenting can be fun for both the grandparents and the grandchildren. Does the Bible give grandparents any duties or responsibilities toward their grandchildren?

the inheritance will depend upon how much we have been blessed financially in this life.

As we prepare to leave this world, we should prepare to leave an inheritance of *some kind* to our GRANDCHILDREN.

## Spiritual

We who are grandparents have raised our children. If we were in the church, we raised our children in the church. We have already read God's instructions to parents in Deut. 6:5-7. If we had the opportunity to do this, we did it *to the best of our ability*.

Many of our children have not stayed in the church as they grew into adults. Is that our fault? All we can do is teach our children by our words and by our example. We CANNOT *open the minds of our children* to accept their calling. Jesus said, “No man can come to Me unless the Father, who sent Me, draws him” (John 6:44). For most of us, *God has not drawn our children to Him at this time*. But rest

assured, God is not done with our children yet. He has plans for them!

According to Deut. 6:5-7, parents have a duty to teach God's ways to their children. Do grandparents have a similar duty—even if the parents are not in the church?

Moses told the ancient Israelites to obey the laws which came from God. “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you . . .”

“Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is near to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has statutes and righteous judgments as are in all the law

which I set before you this day?

“Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren” (Deut. 4:1, 6-9).

Just as we have a duty to teach God’s ways to our children, we have a DUTY to *teach our grandchildren*. Our children may not follow God at this time, but who is to say that our grandchildren won’t respond differently?

We, as grandparents, really can have an influence on our grandchildren—for good, or for evil!

## Evil Grandparents

After the northern 10 tribes of Israel were taken captive by the Assyrians, the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath and Sephavaim, and placed them in Samaria (2 Kings 17:24). This is the origin of the “Samaritans” who were hated by the Jews in the New Testament (John 4:9). Why were they hated? Because they claimed to be Israelites but worshiped incorrectly. Notice how their worship originated:

“And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them. So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, ‘The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the land’ ” (2 Kings 17:25-26).

A priest was sent to live with these pagans and teach them God’s laws. The people mixed the priestly teachings with their pagan religions, much like professing Christians do today when they observe pagan holidays like Christmas and Easter but call them Christian! “So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children’s children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day” (v. 41).

Grandchildren were influenced by the improper worship of their grandparents!

## A Good Grandparent

In the New Testament, we read of an example of a good grandparent. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also” (2 Tim. 1:5). Grandmother Lois started it all! Timothy became a minister in the first-century church because

of what he learned from his mother *and his grandmother*.

Teaching God’s way to our grandchildren is *easier* and *more productive* if their parents (our children) are in the church too—for then we’re all teaching the same thing! However, if our children fail to teach our grandchildren the truth, we are not excused from our duty! According to Deut. 4:22, we are still responsible to teach our grandchildren God’s ways.

## No Grandchildren of Our Own?

What if we don’t have any children or grandchildren of our own? We still have a responsibility to *set the right example* by our way of living, and to *teach younger people* in the church. In a way, we “adopt” the young people as our children or grandchildren.

Paul wrote to Titus, “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women, likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they may admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed” (Titus 2:1-5).

We cannot open the minds of our grandchildren—real or adopted—so that they will love God and follow his ways. God must do that. However, we do have an obligation to teach them with our words and with our examples.

Paul gave instructions to married couples in which one mate was an unbeliever. I think this principle can be applied to our unbelieving children as well as to unbelieving mates. Notice what he wrote:

“If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband, otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ... For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save

## GRANDPARENTS’ DUTIES

Continued on Page 6

## Know Your Bible Answers

1) Death of the firstborn. 2) Adam’s rib. 3) Absalom. 4) 12. 5) Hebrew.

## Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

It’s believed that the tradition of using a baby to signify the new year started in Greece around 600 B.C. Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year’s resolutions, which dates back to the early Babylonians.

## Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

*Life Is a Gift* by Tony Bennett, HarperLuxe, 2012, pp. 75-76.

## Treat With Respect

“Respect plays a big role for me in life. Respect for oneself and for others eliminates hate, and encourages love in those around us. I’m a firm believer in ‘do unto others.’ ... Serving the community and giving back are what America is all about.

... “In a way, I consider myself a public servant; I feel I have a responsibility to do my job with quality, and trust that listeners know what they like, and what they don’t. If I were to walk out on stage thinking I’m superior to the people in the seats, I would lose them right then and there. They can sense your attitude. ... Once you respect them, they’ll immediately respect you. But if you disrespect them, they’ll do the same.”

Mat. 7:12, Rom. 12:3, Philip. 2:3-4

## Quotable Quotes

“Life teaches us to be less harsh with ourselves and with others.”

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

## Memory Scripture

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

—Mat. 7:12

## Grandparents' Duties

Continued from Page 5

your wife?" (1 Cor. 7:12-14, 16).

How do we know, if we keep setting the proper example, that someday, our children may come back to church? How do we know, if we teach our grandchildren God's way, and we continue to live the proper example, that someday, our grandchildren may respond to God's calling, and come to church on their own?

Neither of our two grown daughters come to church at this time. But there are occasions when we have taken our grandchildren to church and they liked it! At their young ages, they liked going to church with Grampa and Grandma.

On this past Thanksgiving weekend, we visited our daughter in Kansas City. Our 3-year-old granddaughter, Cathy, was *thrilled* to go to church with us! Her 1-year-old sister was not as familiar with church, but she wants to do everything her big sister does!

While my wife and I fellowshipped with a couple who served as door greeters in the Overland, Park, Kansas, church, our two granddaughters, in their pretty dresses and hairdos, stood quietly beside us, shaking hands with strangers as they entered the meeting hall. We didn't tell them to shake hands—they just followed our example.

During services, Cathy sat quietly with a notebook on her lap (part of the time), following her Grampa's example. If her sister started to get noisy, Cathy put a finger to her lips and said "Shush!"

There were no other children attending that day and snacks after services were not as extensive as the snacks we serve at our home church in Cape Girardeau. So My wife and I were surprised as we were getting in the car after church when Cathy said, without any prompting from us, "That was a nice church!"

### Conclusion

We have no control over the response our children or grandchildren have to God's calling. But we do have a duty and responsibility as parents and grandparents (of real or adopted children and grandchildren), to live the proper example and to teach the youngsters God's way.

We also have a financial responsibility to leave an inheritance to our grandchildren.

It's nice to receive a few dollars unexpectedly as an inheritance! Imagine how much nicer to leave behind *our instruction* and *our example* that shows our grandchildren *the way to inherit eternal life*. That is the GREATEST inheritance we can leave to our grandchildren!



## Philippines Makes Deal With China

"For years, the United States and its allies have struggled to contain China's ambitions in the South China Sea, even as China steadily seeded the waters with artificial islands and military installations.

"Now, by cutting its own deal with China, the Philippines has suddenly changed the calculus, persuading the Chinese to let its fishermen operate aboard a disputed shoal but setting a worrying precedent for the United States and its hopes of using regional alliances to preserve its place as the dominant power in the Pacific.

"What had been a fairly united front against China's expanding maritime claims, stretching from Japan to Malaysia, now has a gap in the southeast corner where the Philippines lies, and could soon have another at the southwestern end, where Malaysia is making noises about shifting its alliances" ("Philippines' Deal With China Pokes a Hole in U.S. Strategy" by Jane Perlez, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Nov. 2, 2016, p. 1).

We are seeing the U.S. lose its influence in the world because of its sins against God. Israel was prophesied to possess the gates of its enemies (Gen. 24:60) and many of the sea gates around the world were once in the possession of Great Britain and the U.S. Those sea gates have been taken away by God as He breaks the pride of our power (Lev. 26:19). It appears that the U.S. may lose the sea gate of the Philippines if it shifts its allegiance to China.

Meanwhile, China may grow in influence and become one of the end time "kings from the east" who will attack Europe near Jerusalem just before Christ returns (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 9:13-16, 16:12-16).

## Magnitude 6.5 Quake Strikes Indonesia

"Thousands of people in the Indonesian province of Aceh took refuge for the night in mosques and temporary shel-

ters after an earthquake Wednesday [Dec. 7] killed nearly 100 people and destroyed dozens of buildings. ...

"Killer quakes occur regularly in the region ...

"Maj. gen. Tatang Sulaiman, chief of the army in Aceh province, said at least 97 died in the magnitude-6.5 quake that hit before dawn Wednesday, and four people had been pulled from the rubble alive" ("People take refuge in mosques after quake kills nearly 100" by Heri Juanda, Niniek Karmini and Stephen Wright, Associated Press, *Southeast Missourian*, Dec. 8, 2016, p. 9A).

"Earthquakes in various places" is one of the signs we are nearing Christ's return (Mat. 24:3, 7).

## E.U. Quarreling

"A giant glowing orb is about to become the new home of the European Union.

"Nestled inside of a bold and decidedly quirky new building, the orb will be visible from the street during the day and after dark ...

"Finishing touches are being applied to the orb—on close inspection it's really more of a vase—just as hopes of European unity have faded precipitously.

"Britain voted in June to leave the bloc, and the willingness of the other 27 member states to play by rules decided in Brussels is being tested in ways scarcely imaginable when the project was given the go-ahead a dozen years ago. ...

"National leaders have failed repeatedly to reach consensus over how to manage the debt crisis in Greece that nearly sank the euro several years ago. They still are quarreling over how to handle a mass influx of migrants from the Middle East and Africa" ("As Hopes for European Unity Dim, New E.U. Headquarters Are Glowing" by James Kanter, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Dec. 27, 2016, pp. 1-2).

If the coming 10-king union in Europe is formed from the E.U., the 27 remaining members must shrink to 10. Bible prophecy speaks of 10 kings, not 27.

Those 10 kings (represented by toes made of iron and clay on a statue of a man in a vision) will not adhere to one another (Dan. 2:43). Europe's quarreling seems to fit that bill!