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THE NEW TERRORISM: CYBERWARFARE

BY PERRY STONE

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ENTIRE WORLD IS NOW UNDER a new form of terrorism—cyberwarfare. This modern-day threat can shut down major companies, impacting local, state, national, and international business within an hour. The most recent example is when Russian hackers seized control of the computers that run the Colonial Pipeline, forcing the company to shut down their computer systems, affecting the delivery chain of gasoline throughout large sections of the Southeast and East Coast. This resulted in a run on gasoline, as panicked buyers lined up for miles and filled their tanks and every plastic gas container with fuel. In Cleveland, Tennessee, a majority of the local gas stations posted “out of gas” signs for days. The news reported that the company paid the hackers five million dollars. In affected areas, the unexpected crisis caused a spike in fuel prices.

Weeks later, one of the largest packing companies that provides all forms of meat for grocery stores and restaurants, saw their computer systems hacked. The group that was responsible demanded a ransom to be paid, before they would release the company from the cyberattack. The company was able to go offline, ordering their workers to cut and process meat the old-fashioned way. However, this slowed down production and delivery time to the marketplace. This hack resulted in a sudden spike in meat prices, which were already on the rise due to a drought in parts of the farm belt.

These recent events are of a serious and grave concern to state and federal government. Several government agencies, have watched hackers taking over entire computer systems, including at times systems used by the United States military. Three of the government's greatest concerns are dangerous groups disrupting nuclear power plants, shutting down the power grid itself, or impacting a major city or state's water supply, all which depend upon computer systems to perform necessary duties.

This situation is so serious that private hackers who are caught hacking into government systems are often hired to work as security analysts instead of being sentenced to prison. Many such hackers are closely monitored and responsible for protecting the US from national security threats to our cyber infrastructure.

I have been told the greatest concern is someone taking control over the United States power grid, shutting down the electricity in sections of the United States, and holding our power companies ransom for billions of dollars. *This would create an apocalyptic crisis.* Banks, gas stations, the power to light homes and businesses, and all modern conveniences (including your ability to charge phones and computers) would come to a complete halt. There would be panic buying, unrest in cities, leading to unspeakable acts of crime as frightened mobs raided stores. This is perhaps the

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most significant danger we face. While the military has our nuclear arsenal under their tight grip with numerous firewalls, what if a terrorist's group could access certain nuclear facilities?

On a personal level, individuals must protect their private information, including online banking, when using their phones and personal computers. Passwords should be changed often using words or letters that are not common. Small businesses should have firewalls built and an experienced and knowledgeable tech team assisting in protecting information. Business owners and individuals must stay alert to the numerous types of scams, including scammers who use your personal email addresses and Facebook information in an attempt to trick you into providing personal and private information. At times a scammer will call your number, claiming to be your bank or the IRS warning that you are in legal trouble, hoping to frighten you into revealing to them your social security number, bank PIN, or other information.

For years, one of the most widespread scams involved people receiving an

email from some alleged millionaire in Africa who wanted to leave you money. All you needed to do was send them your routing number from a bank, and they would gladly transfer millions to your account. People had their bank accounts emptied. According to an expose', there were banks in Nigeria assisting in this scam. Remember how the Iraqi Dinar was soon to reset after the Gulf War and could make you an instant millionaire? All you needed to do was send \$1,000.00 to a particular company who would mail you the hard, Iraqi currency in return. Ask yourself this: why would a group of “investors” sell people something for \$1,000 if it could make \$100,000? Always look at when an offer seems too good to be true. That dinar has been waiting for its moment for over 18 years!

Recently, a man from Maryland posed as Pam and sent emails in her name to our bookkeeper, asking her to send \$40,000 to pay off some bill the ministry allegedly owed. Due to our security measures, the fellow was exposed and the money was never transferred. Numerous times, the ministry has taken down someone posing as Perry Stone on Facebook, asking for some donation for a project that does not exist. According to the FBI, many scams originate out of Nigeria and in several Muslim countries. Anyone following our ministry knows that Voice of Evangelism only has one mailing address (P.O. Box 3595, Cleveland, Tennessee, 37320) and only one phone number, (423) 478-3456. All others posting with a different address or alleged phone number are fakers and should be reported to Andrea Anderson or Denver Morton at VOE.

Our ministry has built and is presently building structures to assist in various types of protection, including weather disasters. With the possibilities of major disruptions, be alert to cyber-attacks, and especially to new scams. Learn how to protect your information as much as possible. Cyberwarfare will be the next dangerous form of terrorism from this moment forward. 🌐