

The Value of Families
Psalm 128

The Crisis We are Facing

and

God's Solution

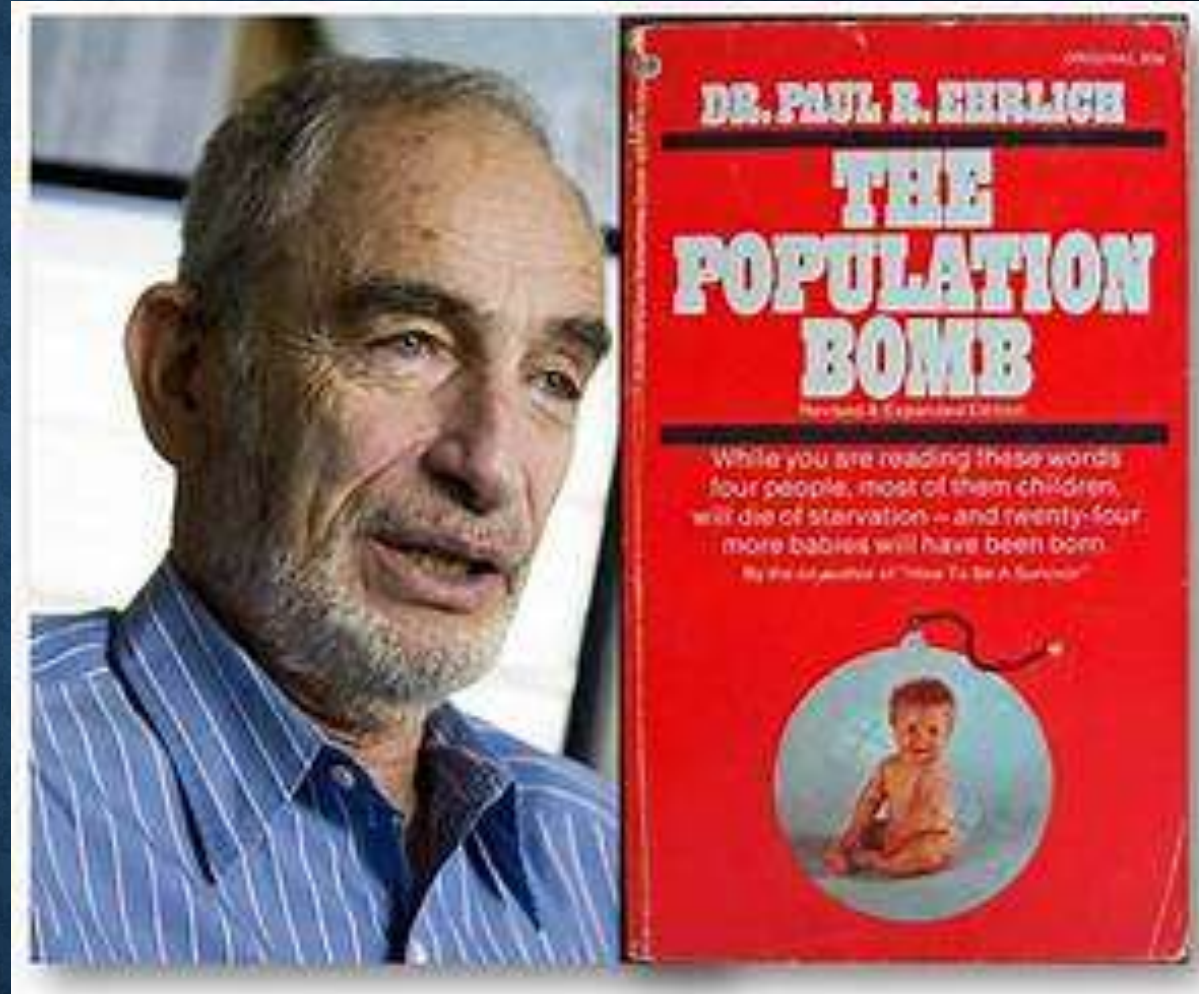
Psalm 127:3

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The
fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

The problem of Families in decline

Ever since Thomas Malthus made his prediction in 1798 people have believed there are too many people on the planet and we need to stop before we reach “Peak Humanity” in which we will all starve.

**The
“Population
Bomb” never
exploded!**



October 1, 2023

“A senior World Economic Forum scientist has called for an 86% reduction in the global population ...”

**Families are shrinking and that is a problem,
both spiritually and economically**

What will make you happy?

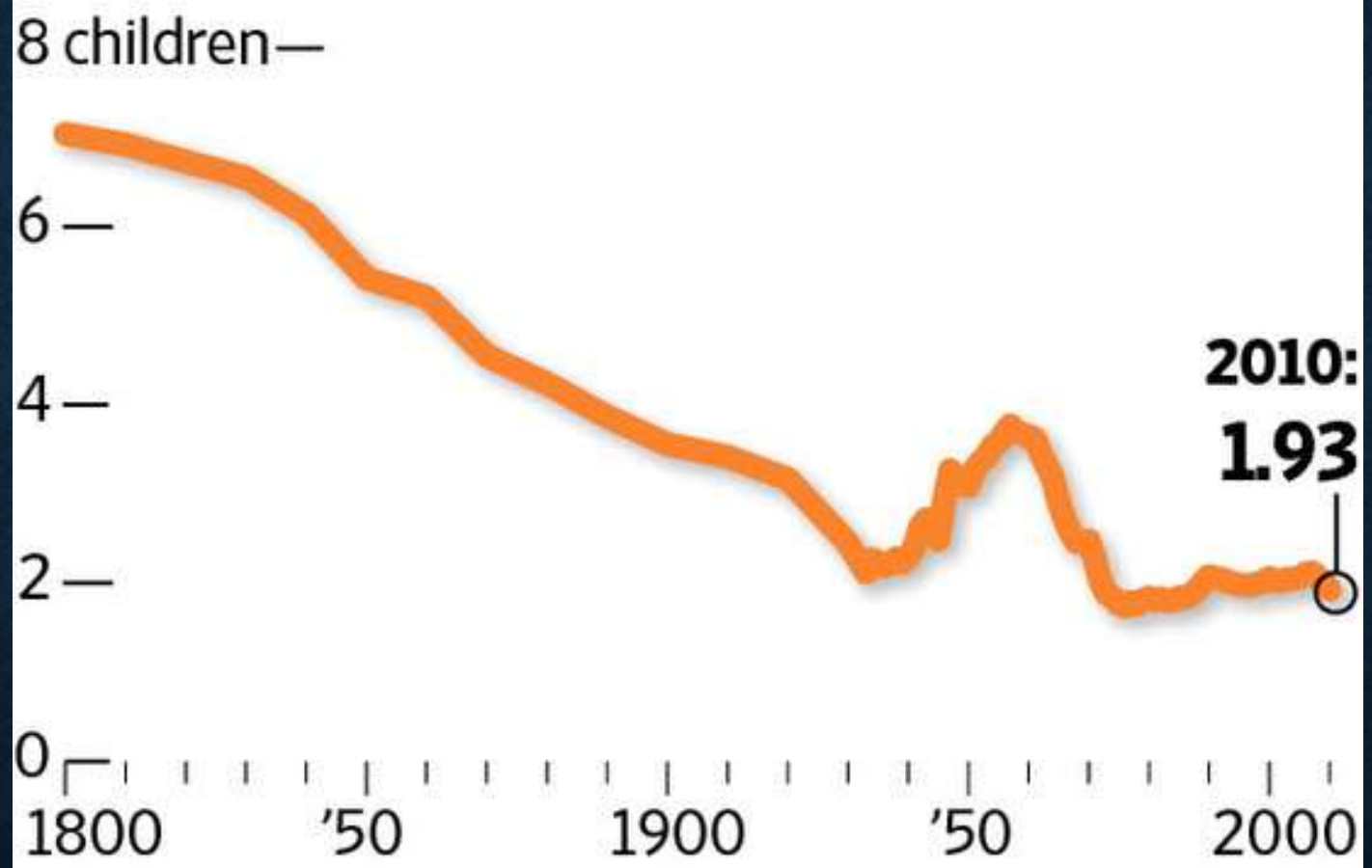
- 71% say having a good job or career is very important
- 61% say having close friends is very important
- 26% say having children is very important
- 42% say having children is NOT very important at all
- 35% say making lots of money is extremely important

Family Preferences

- In 1936 64% said they preferred a family of 3 or more
- In 1945 77% preferred 3 or more
- In 1967 70% preferred 3 or more
- In 1972 52% said 3 or more
- Today 29% have a preference of 3 or more children.
- In 1968 the Best Selling Book “The Population Bomb” was published.
- 12% prefer 4
- 2% prefer 5 or more

The single best indicator for national fertility rates happens to be the “*desired family size*” as reported by women” Nicholas Eberstadt.

Average number of children per woman in the U.S.



Sources: Michael R. Haines, Colgate University;
National Center for Health Statistics
The Wall Street Journal

The single biggest determination of how many children a woman would desire to have is ??????

Religious service attendance

- Those who do not attend, 1.6
- Those who attend occasionally, 2.1
- Those who attend weekly, 2.6

Current Causes some give for not wanting children.

- “the world is too sad a place”
- “climate change”
- Doomerism > the future doesn't look great
- A poor economy

Birth Rates

- The birth rate has fallen every year since 2008
- The birth rate is now 1.65 babies per woman
- Replacement levels are 2.1

Actual causes

- **The need for 2 income homes**
- **Feminism causes women to delay childbirth**
- **Tax code that punishes families and makes housing unaffordable**
- **Cities and places of business are no longer accommodating to children**

Public programs and incentives only have temporary impact on birth rates. When you offer financial incentives, initially more children are born, but then the rates dip below what they were before.

Nicholas Eberstadt.

The only real way to increase the number of babies born is to change the way people think. They must have hope for the future. Something must change their hearts.

Nicholas Eberstadt.

Israel is perhaps the only exception to dropping birth rates in the western world. They seem to have a cause, have hope for a better future and are therefore having more children.

Nicholas Eberstadt

How did we get here?

- Thomas Robert Malthus FRS was an English economist, cleric, and scholar influential in the fields of political economy and demography.
- He wrote his book, **An Essay on the Principle of Population** in 1798

One of the most powerful movements of the last half century directed its energies toward the avoidance of what it termed the “Population explosion”...

What happened was an elitist propaganda onslaught to convince the American people contrary to all available evidence and experience, that population growth is bad. This propaganda campaign was launched in the 1920's by Margaret Sanger, who initiated, organized and funded the First World Population Conference in Geneva...The United Nations then established a Population Commission in 1946, then John D Rockefeller organized the Population Council to study the problems presented by the increasing population of the World...The US government commissioned the Draper Commission to formulate a plan to deal with the problem of rapid population growth and help other nations to do the same...

Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon the Bushs all were involved the problem of over population.

Lessons from Japan

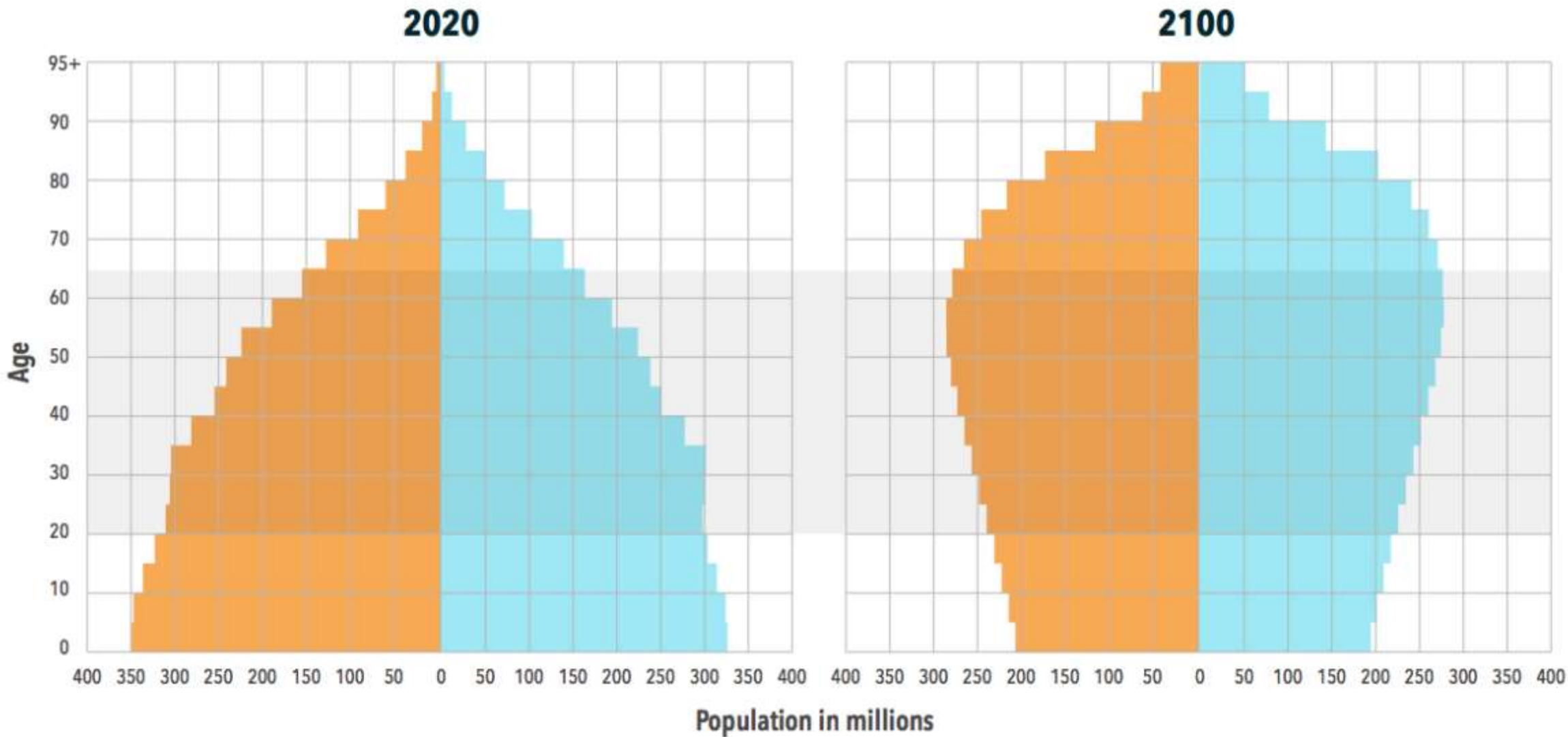
- By the 1980's people were warning that they were not having enough children.
- By the 1990's Japan entered into the "lost decade" of economic stagnation.
- That "lost decade" has turned into 3 decades.
- In the future Japan will lose half of its population.
- Many of the elderly have no friends and family to check up on them.
- Industries have started to go and find the elderly who have died alone and liquidate their homes and assets.

Researches are also baffled that the expected “baby boom” that should have come during the lockdowns, as families were at home for extended times, never materialized

**The true crisis is not too many children, but
too few**

Global population age structure, 2020 and 2100

Males Females Working-age population



The De-Population Bomb

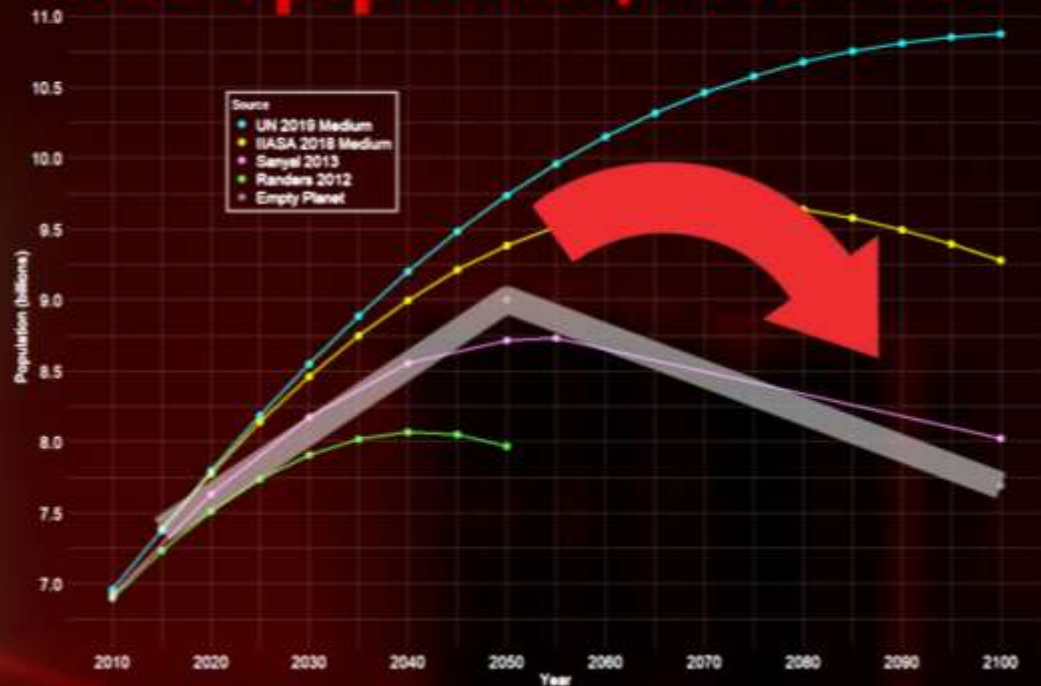
NICHOLAS EBERSTADT

UNCOMMON
KNOWLEDGE
WITH PETER ROBINSON





Global population, 2010-2100



**DEMOGRAPHERS
ARE CLUELESS**

But things are changing

- A growing number of people in America prefer families of three or more, hitting the highest level since 1971
- 45% now prefer larger families
- Preferences are up 50% from the 1980's
- Young people ages 18-29 are now more likely than any other group to prefer larger families

God's plan for families
Psalm 128

The Lord holds out families as a glorious blessing for those who walk with Him.

- Anyone may have children, only the saints will know God's blessing in them.
- Other than knowing God, personally, children should be the ultimate pursuit of a Believer.

It requires fathers who fear and walk with the LORD.

- He fears the LORD
- He walks with the LORD
- He is a “strong” man, v. 4
- He enjoys the blessings of God

It requires a wife and mother who has her central focus on giving and nurturing life.

- She is like a (grape) vine. She supports the life of the whole house.
- She is the foundation > very heart, inner most part.
- She is that gift from God to bless the husband and family.

It requires children who are rooted in the family but ultimately branch out on their own.

- They are like “olive plants” / trees
- There is a difference between vine and trees

**It then produces a society that is blessed
and enriched by your family.**

- The LORD blesses you, you bless the city, the city blesses you.
- The LORD blesses you, you bless the Kingdom plan of God.

13 college presidents

65 college professors

75 military officers

80 public servants

60 authors

60 doctors

30 judges

100 pastors

100 lawyers

3 u.s. senators

a vice president

JONATHAN
EDWARDS

LEAVE A LEGACY

MAX
JUKES

310 died as paupers

150 criminals

7 murderers

100+ drunks

190 prostitutes