

Future NEWS

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"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

"Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth; and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." *Education*, 179–180.

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Future for America seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now.

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

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Future News

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Mission Statement

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now *present truth*. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the **prophetic word** includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the **medical missionary work**. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, **country living** becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute **truth-filled literature**, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a **printing operation** with their own resources.

Ministry Update

The past two months we have spoken in California, Missouri, and Arkansas. The slow down in speaking requests came at just the right time for us to continue to organize our new country home and the *Future for America* office. If you have tried to call and have been reaching the answering machine—it is no doubt because Kathy and I have been spending a great deal of time preparing our garden. The Lord has been really good to us.

As the year 2000 approaches the prospects for end-time catastrophes and crisis' only deepens. Time is running out of the hourglass, and the world knows it not. Our prayer is that we may enter into the experience of victorious living to such an extent that we would rather die than sin, in order that we may be among those who very shortly receive the seal of God. Our prayer is that you, dear reader, will do likewise. What a tragedy if we know all the prophecies, but fail to put on the robe of Christ's' righteousness.

We are expecting a chaotic year ahead. Our opportunities to travel and share God's prophetic truths is no doubt slipping away:

"The time has come when every advantage to be gained for the furtherance of the work should be recognized, for we need all the strength we can obtain. Christ is soon coming, and Satan knows that his time is short. As we draw near to the close of time the cities will become more and more corrupt, and more and more objectionable as places for establishing centers of our work. The dangers of travel will increase, confusion and drunkenness will abound. If there can be found places in retired mountain regions where it would be difficult for the evils of the cities to enter, let our people secure such places for our sanitariums and advanced schools. The two institutions may be far enough apart so that there need be no confusion." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 10, 260.

We appreciate the support we have received this last year, which enabled to travel and share the prophecies. We solicit your continued support as the invitations continue to arrive.

We are in the process of reprinting two of our books and one magazine, and chose to not print the November newsletter to conserve some funds to reprint these publications. We intend to print

some new tracts and booklets on the prophecies in the near future. Several presentations are currently in the first stage of production.

We spent almost ten thousand dollars last year handing out free literature at large gatherings; such as Promise Keepers, Billy Graham crusades, and other similar events. God's word will not return unto him void. Each month we send out free literature to 32 foreign countries. This includes not only our tapes and newsletters, either in Spanish or English, but also many other Spirit of Prophecy books and tracts. It is your ongoing support, which has allowed us to accomplish this work.

We took part in an evangelistic series in the Philippines this year where over 200 people were baptized into God's remnant church. Once again—thank you for the support.

Brothers and Sister be faithful, Jesus is coming soon. All the signs testify to this. Don't allow the false prosperity, which is taking place in this country to delude your senses to the fact that the Roman church is almost ready to strike. The message, which Adventism was raised up to proclaim, is soon to swell to the loud cry. If we persevere we have the opportunity to be among those who participate in this work. What a privilege. What an awesome responsibility. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as this new year begins.

"The old year, with its burden of record, is fast passing away. The new year, with all its possibilities, will soon be ushered in. What advancement have we made in the knowledge of Christ during the past year? Are we prepared to show, more decidedly than ever before, that we are on the Lord's side? At this time, when the nations of the world are wavering between infidelity and idolatry, are we prepared to stand as faithful ambassadors for Christ? Shall we not, at the beginning of this new year, give ourselves and all we have to God? Shall we not listen to His voice, which calls us to a renewed contest, to a more thoro consecration of ourselves and our intrusted capabilities to His service?" *The Signs of the Times*, January 2, 1901.


Your Letters

 Dear *Future for America*,

Thank you for your letter, the newsletter, your prayers, and the cassette tape. They have been an encouragement to me during my illness and I appreciate them.

I am still under a doctor's care for my heart problem, and since I am 83 years old he doesn't give me much hope for improvement. I'm sure the Lord will work it out for the best and that's the way I want it.


God bless all of you at *Future for America*. You are in my prayers every day. Your Sister in Christ, MB

 To Whom It May Concern,

Please continue to keep me on your mailing list to receive the magazine *Future News*. I like it and it has been very informative. I appreciate the information about the Pope and Sunday laws. I am telling my friends about the magazine.


Thank you for the audiotapes you have been sending me. They are very inspiring. I really appreciate them. Enclosed is a small contribution. I am senior citizen and am on a very tight budget. Will continue to send contributions as I can.

Thank you for all you have done for me. May the Lord bless you, BLG—WI

 God Bless each one of you in your work for Him. I appreciate so much the tapes and articles you send to us. Again, God bless. Love & Prayers, R&EE—WA

 Dear *Future for America*,


Thank you very much for tapes and letters you sent. I very much appreciate them. I try to share them with others. I would like the new video series, *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*. I will keep you in my prayers. God bless you, RP—AK

 Dear Friends,

Thank you for the gifts you have sent me. I am 90 years old, legally blind, hear pretty good!!! Am interested in the Sunday law news. Appreciate information on that. Love you, IBM

 Dear Sir,

We were pleased to receive your timely message. We think it is a wonderful thing you are doing and pray you may continue doing the service of the Lord. We thank you for the love with which you were kind enough to send us literature, but we are both on welfare and disabled. We are not able to send you any money, but all we can do is pray for you and that you receive great success in your endeavor. Yours in the Lord, J&CY—AR

 Please keep us on your mailing list, your message sounds right for the times. Sorry the check isn't larger.

Thanks for your tapes and papers. God Bless you all. I had surgery on shoulder and can hardly write. I share your material. JK

 Dear Fellow Workers,

I don't know who turned in my name to your ministry, but I am happy to find out about your work and praise God for another group effort being raised up in His behalf. (It would be nice to know if anyone knows you in this area.)

Enclosed is a small token of appreciation for the work you are doing . . .

So much to do—so little strength as a church. But God is faithful and will do exceedingly abundantly, above all we can think! Maranatha. Fondest Regards, RZ

Who Then Can Be Saved? Part Two

By Pat Rampy

All Christians are, in a sense, ‘junior behavioral scientists’ in that we are constantly seeking to present the truths of God and His Word in such a way as to have the greatest influence upon the minds of others, so as to lead them into the path leading to eternal life. As we consider the characteristics of each of the twelve tribes, it is likely that we may find our own selves portrayed therein. This can be valuable knowledge to us now in this preparation time, for as we become more able to clearly identify our strengths and weaknesses we will be more able to discern the devil approaching us through those weak points and guard them. We will also be able to emphasize our strong points most aggressively and efficiently for the glory of the Lord. There is very great personal satisfaction and joy in the knowledge that we are being useful to our Lord, in a concrete way.

As it turns out, the very names of the twelve tribes say something about the character of those people and of the God they serve. Scripture also often indicates that these character traits manifest themselves differently depending on one’s converted or unconverted condition.

Most of what is commonly known among laymen these days about personality and temperament comes from the writings of Medieval Greek and Latin physiologists. They believed that the conditions of the body and mind, described as sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric (or bilious), and melancholic, were produced by an excess of one of the four corresponding bodily humors; blood, phlegm, bile, and lymph. These body fluids were formerly considered responsible for one’s health and disposition. Surely you have heard of someone being described as being in good or bad humor lately, and we say that a witty or cheerful person is humorous. An excess of blood (Latin-‘sangre’) made sanguines red-faced and jolly (notwithstanding the possible effects of indulgence in alcohol). An excess of phlegm certainly must have been the reason phlegmatics were so slow, and in the King James Version in Daniel 8:7 the he-goat “was moved with choler (anger) against” the ram. Evidently he had an excess of bile, or was “bilious.” And of course, melancholics had an excess of clear lymph fluid, which caused them to shed so many tears all the time. Whether they were happy or sad, they were always crying.

As of late, some would-be Christian (even Seventh-day Adventists) behavioral therapists have tacked some new names onto these old medieval theories. Instead of being characterized as sanguine, one might be described as a “spring”, or “bright colors” person, or as an “otter” personality. Instead of phlegmatic, you might be a “summer”, or “soft colors” person, or a “Golden Retriever” personality. Rather than choleric, you would be characterized as an “autumn”, or “earth colors” person, or as a “lion” personality,

and instead of a melancholy attitude, one is described as (of course) a “winter” person (naturally, its the only other season left), or “contrast colors” person, or as a “beaver” personality. (Personally, I have to strain to make that last connection!)

It seems that the intent of these modern-day teachers is at least to inspire us to celebrate our own individuality instead of feeling sorry for our shortcomings, while avoiding conflict with those of other emotional make-ups. This is a worthy motive, but the more useful of these teachers will point out that Jesus manifested all of the four temperaments in an appropriate manner, at the appropriate times. This shows a higher conception of our purpose and responsibility to reflect the image of Jesus fully during our time on this earth, but these conceptions, as useful as they may be, still fall far short of the breadth of diversity that God has ordained should exist among humankind.

“We are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men,” 1 Corinthians 4:9.

It takes more than only four temperaments, or personalities, among humans, to reveal the true and complete character of God to the universe. To worldly observers, and those who are under their limiting influence, it appears that their four types of temperament, are sufficient to explain all the ins-and-outs of human nature and behavior, and an attempt to use a more complex line of reasoning to stratify and classify behavior might seem redundant and pedantic, and involve a considerable amount of overlapping behavioral characteristics.

However, God sees not as man sees, and upon investigation of the Eternal Word, man can be enabled to understand God’s perspective on mankind and begin to think His thoughts after Him. It may be quite surprising to discover that the characters of the twelve tribes really don’t overlap very much at all!

It is the earnest hope of this writer that the simple analysis presented here will aid many of God’s people to accurately identify the gifts, or “tools for ministry” that God has given them so that they will be able to feel confident and assured in the possession of precious and valuable talents which they may use to trade with for the Master’s glory. Consider how these various characters, personalities, or temperaments might manifest themselves in your local church congregation.

Reuben: “See, a son”. Should have been a manly example of self-control and leadership. When unconverted, Reubenites are wishy-washy, lacking in firmness and resolution and easily influenced to act contrary to their own conscience. Often make promises that aren’t carried out. Takes the path of least resistance. Indecisive, lukewarm, and complacent. But on the positive side: is kindly, accommodating,

and has many good intentions. Tends to soften whoever they contact with, like water usually does, which could be good or bad depending on circumstances. These people need the external pressure of a serious crisis to lead them to examine themselves, and clearly understand their sinful self-complacency and weakness. If they turn to God in their distress, He will give them a new character; firm resolution and strength of decision, especially to be able to refuse temptations to evil that they used to fall for so easily. They are “watery” until a “fire” is turned on under them, which converts them into powerful “steam engines” for doing good. Sister White uses more negative terms to describe this tribe than any other, but when (or if) the turnaround occurs, it is also the most dramatic of any other tribe. Judges 5:16 describes such an incident.

Simeon: “hearing”. When unconverted, Simeonites have strong passions and are fearless, but also are sensual and self-indulgent. The greatest single identifying characteristic of this tribe seems to be their great physical energy, which could be bad or good, once again, depending on circumstances. Though the name means “hearing” they seem to have a hard time listening to anybody. Have you ever met someone like that? Whatever it is, they want to do it now, immediately-if-not-sooner! These “irresistible force” people, though unstoppable, however, can be rather easily “deflected” or “steered.” But if not governed in some way, they can get into big trouble! Jacob’s son was guilty of mass-murder at Shechem, and the tribe was guilty of lust and sensuality at Baal-Peor. Jacob’s “blessing” of the tribe in Genesis 49 was certainly nothing to covet after, and Moses in Deuteronomy 33 omitted mention of them at all. The blessing was given to one of Joseph’s sons instead. With all this negative against them one wonders how any of them could ever be accepted in through the gates of the Holy City of God. Nothing positive is said about the tribe as such in all of Scripture. This problem of the Simeonite’s getting into the Kingdom was a real “stumper” until it was discovered that the Greek term for “hearing” is pronounced “Simon” or “Simeon” (Acts 15:14, KJV). Perhaps the connection between the impetuous, self-assertive Simon Peter and the tribe of Simeon can be seen. He was quick with both his mouth and his sword before he was converted. But after his conversion experience, Peter was able to control his strong passions and be humble, and was called to strengthen his brethren and feed the lambs. Proper feeding strengthens the young. In the Apocrypha, Judith, a Simeonite, fearlessly delivered Israel. The aged Simeon in the temple fearlessly interrupted the “astonished” priest (The Desire of Ages, 55) to prophesy concerning Christ, mentioning a sword, and humbly accepted God’s will for his own death, as did Peter himself many years later.

Levi: “joining”. When joined with Simeon, Levi manifested evil cruelty and a callous disregard for life while thinking it was his duty. (Judges 19). But when the tribe saw their duty to join with Moses on God’s side they did some good (Exodus 32), not being afraid to do callusing and unpleasant work if it was a duty for God. As teachers, the Levites

were to join Israel to their God. Their duty was to assist the priests and act as missionary-teachers. Barnabas, a Levite, (Acts 4:36), sold his earthly property to become a missionary. His sense of duty made him stand firm in a crisis situation (against the apostle Paul) about teaching young John Mark how to be a missionary. As Levite leaders, Moses was God’s firm administrator faithful to his duty (Hebrews 3:5), and Aaron, after failing to understand one duty, later firmly restrained his grief at the loss of his two sons in order to help teach God’s lesson to Israel. Miriam was also a teacher-leader in singing God’s praises. Faithfulness to perceived duty seems to be a hallmark here. (How necessary for our young people to be taught about faithfulness to duty for God now!)

Judah: “Praise.” This son of Jacob, and his tribe in general valued honesty, fidelity, strict integrity, righteousness, and loyalty to God. In the home life he could be counted on and trusted in with confidence during times of perplexity. God dealt with unrighteousness in two of Judah’s sons with severity, and when outwitted by his daughter-in-law, Tamar, he noted the superior quality of her righteousness (Genesis 38:26). Interestingly, this story of Judah’s lapse is placed in the midst of the story of Joseph, just before he successfully resists Potiphar’s wife. A strong rebuke to Judah. Judites known for their righteousness are Caleb, David and other faithful kings, Daniel and his three friends, and of course, Jesus “the lion of the tribe of Judah.” The term, “Jew”, came into use during the period of the captivity in Babylon as a shortened form of “Judah”, meaning the southern kingdom of the divided Israel as a whole.

Naphtali: “wrestling”. Jacob’s blessing of this tribe compared them to a loosed female deer (Genesis 49:21). These people seem to be continually wrestling between self-preservation and self-sacrifice, reflecting the contention and competition between the two motives. These ones are naturally somewhat timid, nervous, sensitive, retiring, fearful and wary of danger (which is not all bad). But on the positive side, the Naphtalite’s wary nature helps them to discern spirits readily (1 Corinthians 12:10). They are generous, able to give a “goodly word,” to be a comforter, a counselor, and a loyal friend and helper. Their carefree, happy-go-lucky, sometimes even comical attitude lightens the burdens of those of whom they associate with, but they don’t usually bear heavy responsibilities well themselves. No one would attempt to strap a donkey’s burden on a deer! However, they are willing to do dirty work if duty (especially to God) requires it, and to be persevering, determined, and self-sacrificing. Moses, in Deuteronomy 33, observed that these seek for, and are content with, favor and approval from God (and man) rather than fame (Judges 4:9), or riches (Judges 5:19). They also love nature and nature’s God, and love music and the praises of God. Barak, the only prominent leader of this tribe, seemed to be a rather dependent sort himself, not being too proud to let a woman lead, recognizing and honoring Deborah’s office as God’s chosen spokeswoman (a position quite similar to that of Sister White today).

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T I M E L I N E S

In The Stream Of Time Near The End Of The Line.

"The wide diversity of belief in the Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that no effort to secure a forced uniformity can ever be made. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed—however important they might be from a Bible standpoint—must necessarily be waived." *The Great Controversy*, 444.

CHURCHES END SALVATION DISPUTE

AUGSBURG, Germany (AP)—Putting aside five centuries of differences in theology, Roman Catholic and Lutheran church leaders embraced at a service Sunday where they signed a declaration ending a dispute over salvation that sparked the Protestant Reformation and led to the Thirty Years War.

The 700 guests at Augsburg's Lutheran Church of St. Anna's and more than 2,000 observers in a tent nearby watched, applauded and hugged each other as officials from the two bodies stated that both churches believe the salvation of individual Christians is "justified" by God's love alone, not by human efforts.

From the Vatican, Pope John Paul II welcomed the signing as a "milestone along a difficult path full of joy, union, and communion among Christians."

During the Augsburg service, Bishop Christian Krause, president of the Lutheran World Federation, also spoke of the agreement's importance. "For the first time in centuries we are walking on common ground together," Krause said. Martin Luther set in motion the Protestant Reformation on the same date 482 years ago, when he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, protesting the practice of selling indulgences to help believers gain forgiveness for their sins.

The dispute centered on the question of how to get to heaven. Catholics believe that people's actions can make a difference, while Lutherans believe salvation is based on faith alone. After 30 years of consultation among theologians, the two sides announced in June that they would sign the agreement to unite their beliefs on justification.

The agreement doesn't mean any immediate institutional change for the two churches. And as participants noted Sunday, there are still fundamental areas where the two sides disagree, such as over the Eucharist and the interpretation of the bread and wine used in Holy Communion. But leaders hailed the progress that had been made as a sign of hope. The prayer service and signing ceremony Sunday included representatives of two dozen countries. There were cardinals with purple-sashed black robes; Lutheran pastors

with ruffled collars and women in the traditional clothing of their homes in Nigeria, Norway and India.

After prayers and songs of repentance at Augsburg's Baroque Roman Catholic cathedral, participants in the service sang hymns during a half-mile procession to St. Anna's. Along the way they passed near the spot where Protestant theologians in 1530 read aloud the document that serves as the basis of their church.

Local residents and others who could not get into the church sang and joined in prayers from a tent set up in front of City Hall, watching the ceremony on a large video screen. The service was held in English and German, with prayers also offered in Finnish, Portuguese, Italian and French, and a Bible reading in Hausa, a language spoken in Nigeria.

Inside the church and in the tent, observers broke into applause as the Rev. Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, and Bishop Walter Kasper, secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, hugged each other tightly after signing the declaration. The clapping intensified as a half-dozen other religious leaders added their signatures.

"That moment, when they hugged, I was close to tears," said Gisela Rambach, 44, a housewife who watched the proceedings from the tent with her husband and two children. Rambach, a Catholic, is married to a Protestant.

The Rev. Joseph Donnelly, chaplain at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, also was among those watching the service from the tent. "It was really incredible, the joy in everyone around us," he said.

"To hear us saying our Baptismal vows together, and then to see the last signature—it's done."

POPE & OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS DENOUNCE EXTREMISM

(AP)— With Pope John Paul II presiding next to the Dalai Lama, representatives of 20 of the world's faiths closed a millennium-ending gathering Thursday with a forceful denunciation of religious extremism. Assembled in St. Peter's Square, the 200 clergy and lay people appealed to world leaders to refuse to allow religion to be used to incite hatred and violence. Any use of religion to support violence is an abuse of religion, John Paul said in his final message to the four-day council, speaking to a crowd of red and orange robed Asian monks, Catholic priests in black cassocks, Muslim women in head scarves and Africans and American Indians in the traditional clothing of their own countries.

John Paul summoned representatives of the world's religions to the Vatican for one last try during this millennium of cooperation to solve common problems of the world's people. The council is opposed by traditionalists in many religions, made uneasy at seeing their faith put on an equal footing with others.



ISTOOK'S AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION REINTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Representative Ernest Istook reintroduced a constitutional amendment to effectively erase church-state separation from the United States Constitution at a November rally at the Bible Way Church near the Capitol in Washington, DC, sponsored by Religious Right figure William Murray.

The effort comes 16 months after the House of Representatives rejected an identical effort to add Istook's measure to the Constitution. Though the vote was 224–206 in favor of the proposal, that tally fell far short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment.

The text of the Istook scheme, which is identical to his previous effort, reads, "To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: Neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, prescribe school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

Constitutional experts believe the amendment would lead to mandatory prayer in public schools, provide support for private religious schools and allow display of religious symbols at government buildings. House Majority Leader Dick Armey predicted that the amendment will meet with success this time. The amendment's number is H.J. Resolution 66. Church & State, October, 1999.

"If the leading men in our conferences do not now accept the message sent them by God, and fall into line for action, the churches will suffer great loss. When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict. But too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: 'Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm.' The very hesitancy and uncertainty on his part is crying: 'Peace and safety.' Do not get excited. Be not alarmed. There is a great deal more made of this religious amendment question than is demanded. This agitation will all die down.' Thus he virtually denies the message sent from God, and the warning which was designed to stir the churches fails to do its work. The trumpet of the watchman gives no certain sound, and the people do not prepare for the battle. Let the watchman beware lest, through his hesitancy and delay, souls shall be left to perish, and their blood shall be required at his hand." *Testimonies*, volume 5, 715–716.



ARMEY CALLS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey, at a Christian Coalition "Road to Victory" meeting held October 1 in Washington DC, called for, among other things, school vouchers, defunding the National Endowment for the Arts, and a constitutional amendment to guarantee "our right to practice our faith." *Church & State*, November, 1999.



COURT BLOCKS \$55-MILLION BOND ISSUE FOR PAT ROBERTSON'S REGENT UNIVERSITY

Regent University is a religious school where one variant of Christianity fills the atmosphere. As such, government help to the university would violate the separation of church and state.

Richmond, Virginia, Circuit Judge Randall G. Johnson stated in his ruling, "The real question in this case is whether Regent is pervasively sectarian and whether its primary purpose is religious training, and I find that it is with regard to both of those."

With that ruling July 30, the judge held that Regent is not eligible for a \$55 million bond issue through the Virginia College Building Authority.

The decision was a major defeat for TV preacher Pat Robertson, Regent's founder and current chancellor. But it was a major victory for Virginia taxpayers and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, which fought the bond issue in court. *Church & State*, September, 1999.



RIGHT-WING SENATORS SEEK INVESTIGATION OF AMERICANS UNITED FOR OPPOSING CHURCH-BASED POLITICKING

On July 2, six United States senators contacted Attorney General Janet Reno, seeking a criminal investigation of American United for allegedly trying to "intimidate" religious voters from going to the polls.

The correspondence, sent on Jessie Helms' Senate letterhead, suggests that Americans United, through the group's educational efforts, may have "attempted to disenfranchise religious voters by intimidating people of faith into not participating in the political process."

The senators pointed to 18 USC Section 594, a civil rights statute that penalizes anyone who attempts to "intimidate, threaten or coerce . . . any person for the purpose of interfering with the right to vote." Penalties for this offense can include fines and jail time.

On July 19 AU's executive director, Barry W. Lynn, demanded a prompt apology and retraction from the senators, saying, "the senators' accusation is a bald-faced lie." Lynn noted that neither Helms, nor any of the other five senators, who requested the criminal investigation, ever contacted American United for information about the group's activities. In fact, even after writing Reno, the senators never bothered to notify AU of their action.

While the criminal accusation was alarming for Americans United, the apparent source of the provocation was equally troubling.

In Lynn's letter to the senators, a copy of which was forwarded to the attention of the attorney general, AU's executive director explained his disgust for what he believes is an example of Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson pulling the senators' strings.

"As disappointing as it was to uncover the senators' request to the attorney general," Lynn wrote, "it is perhaps just as troubling to recognize that a television preacher can wield such enormous and disproportionate influence over members of Congress."

Asked by the *Daily Tax Report* whether Robertson and the Coalition urged the senators to seek an investigation, Coalition spokesman Christopher Freund said, "We're not answering that right now." *Church & State*, September, 1999.

AMERICANS UNITED CHALLENGES VOUCHER PLAN IN FEDERAL COURT

Vouchers were authorized in Ohio under the Ohio Pilot Project Scholarship Program, which the legislature passed in 1995.

Americans United and other organizations filed suit against it in state court, and on May 27, the voucher measure was struck down on a technicality by the Ohio Supreme Court. However, the Court said vouchers do not violate church-state separation.

In the wake of the ruling, Ohio lawmakers quickly passed new legislation reapproving the voucher plan, which was signed into law by Gov. Bob Taft.

Americans United and allies filed a new lawsuit on July 20, in federal court. *Church & State*, September, 1999.

On August 24, US District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. analyzed the Ohio program and found that it raises serious church-state concerns, and issued an order blocking continued operation of the plan, but he later stayed it for one semester when voucher parents complained that the ruling, which came just days before school started, left them too little time to make other arrangements. Oliver also ruled that no new students could enter the program. *Church & State*, October, 1999.

BUSH PROMISES \$8 BILLION IN AID TO CHURCHES

Republican presidential contender George W. Bush promised in a July 22 speech in Indianapolis that the federal government should "rally the armies of compassion in our communities" and provide tax incentives and federal funds to houses of worship to spur their social service work. He promised to spend \$8 billion during his first year in office on tax incentives for charitable donations and to support charities and religious groups. *Church & State*, September, 1999.

"When the leading churches of the United States, . . . shall influence the state . . . to sustain their insti-

tutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result." *The Great Controversy*, 445.

BUSH PROPOSES CUTTING AID TO FAILING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While delivering a "back-to-school" address before a group of Hispanic business leaders in Los Angeles September 2, Bush proposed cutting federal aid to "failing" public schools and using the funds to pay for vouchers at religious and other private schools. "Federal money will no longer flow to failure," Bush said.

During the speech, Bush also proposed turning Head Start classes over to churches and other private groups if the students participating in the program at public schools don't show academic improvement. (Head Start is a federal program that began in 1965. It is designed to prepare disadvantaged children for school.) *Church & State*, October, 1999.

VOUCHER STUDENTS SHOW NO ACADEMIC GAINS

John F. Witte, director of the Robert M. La Follette Institute of political science at the University of Wisconsin, was the state's official evaluator of the voucher program from 1990 through 1995. He reported his findings in the October issue of *Phi Delta Kappa* magazine.

Witte wrote that parents with children in the program reported a high degree of satisfaction with the private schools. He also noted that several private schools in the city were saved from financial insolvency by voucher students.

But Witte reported that predictions by voucher boosters that students in the program would do better than their counterparts in the public schools had not come to pass.

Witte debunked a study released by scholars Jay Greene, Paul Peterson, and Jiangtao Du that claims to have found Milwaukee students far outperforming public school students. *Church & State*, October, 1999.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR WHITMAN AIDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman has announced a \$250,000 low-interest loan to bail out a Roman Catholic school that was set to close due to financial difficulties.

St. Mary Hall-Doane Academy announced July 27 it was unable to pay its bills and would not open for the 1999-2000 school year after 162 years of operation. Three days later, Whitman rushed in with the funds the school needed to open for another year.

The governor received assistance in the project from State Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington) and Burlington County Freeholder Philip Haines, who offered the loan from funds originally earmarked for "state economic development." *Church & State*, September, 1999.

SCHOOL VOUCHER ISSUE ERUPTS IN CONGRESS

September 20, House Majority Leader Dick Armey held a press conference to announce his "Safe and Sound Schools" amendment to the "Dollars to the Classroom Act" (H.R. 2), which will renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the major federal aid-to-education program. Since 1965, ESEA funds (Title I) have provided services such as remedial education for disadvantaged students. Armey's proposed amendment would have created a national voucher program costing \$500 million over five years.

Fortunately, the proposal was defeated the next day 257-166 with fifty-two Republicans joining the Democratic opposition. Two days later the House Budget Committee hosted a hearing on vouchers featuring Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who received a hero's welcome from voucher boosters because of his success in pushing through the first-ever statewide voucher program. The committee also heard from Wal-Mart heir John Walton, an avid voucher supporter and co-chairman of the Children's Scholarship Fund, and Sen. George Voinovich, who helped enact Cleveland's voucher program when he was governor of Ohio.

The same day Armey tried to attach his scheme to the "Dollars to the Classroom Act," Representative Tom Petri offered an amendment that would allow students to use Title I funds for tuition at religious and other private schools. Petri's effort met a similar fate to Armey's, being defeated 271-155.

Shortly before Petri announced his support for allowing Title I funds to be used at private schools, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination, set forth his education agenda, with this proposal near the top of his list.

In a September 2 campaign speech, Bush promised tuition vouchers for students in Title I schools that fail to improve after a three-year period.

In another presidential campaign, Sen. John McCain has not only endorsed the voucher concept, but has also introduced a bill in the Senate that is one of the most ambitious and expensive voucher proposals in recent memory. McCain's program would allocate \$5.4 billion in federal funds for a three-year voucher "experiment."

McCain's first attempt to advance his plan failed 86-14 when he introduced the measure as an amendment during the Senate debate over Congress' tax cut package.

Undeterred, McCain has also introduced his voucher plan as a free-standing bill, S.667. *Church & State*, November, 1999.

SUPREME COURT DUCKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL VOUCHER CASES

Indicating an unwillingness to make sweeping changes in current law, the Supreme Court refused October 12 to hear four important church-state cases.

The justices left standing a federal appeals court ruling and a Maine Supreme Court decision barring the use of tax

money to pay for tuition at religious schools. The cases (Bagley vs. Raymond School Department and Strout vs. Albanese) had been closely watched by both voucher opponents and proponents. *Church & State*, November, 1999.

THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT: DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Religious Right groups have significant power in US politics, says scholar William Martin, a Rice University sociologist and author, not because most Americans agree with them, but because voter turnout in presidential and congressional elections hovers at around 50 percent and is even lower in state and local races.

"The religious-political movement accounts for only about 17 percent of the American electorate," Martin said, "but because most Americans don't go to the polls, Religious Right activists play a large role in political life." *Church & State*, November, 1999.

ROME PRESSURES THE SUPREME COURT

A Roman Catholic bishop has urged six members of the US Supreme Court and top government officials to allow greater cooperation between church and state.

Speaking at the annual "Red Mass" at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC, October 3, Bishop Raymond Boland of Kansas City, said, "Is it possible to hope that, as we enter a new millennium, church and state in our land, and even the international world, may subscribe to a synthesis of basic principles which guarantee freedom for all while equally protecting the rights of believers and unbelievers?"

Continued Boland, "Do secular symbols enjoy more protection than religious symbols?" Then he asserted, "The First Amendment was adopted by Congress as protection for religion not protection from religion."

Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn criticized his sermon as an obvious attempt to apply pressure to the court.

"The judges are lured in, and then they are lobbied on the church's view of the Constitution," Lynn told USA Today. "It's a blatant effort to influence the Court."

Washington's Red Mass occurs every year the Sunday before the Supreme Court reconvenes on the first Monday in October. The worship service is named for the red vestments traditionally worn by the officiating clergy. *Church & State*, November, 1999.

"The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side." *The Great Controversy*, 565-566.

HOUSE PASSES 10 COMMANDMENT/ CHARITABLE CHOICE PROPOSALS

June 17; Congress passed the Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act of 1999 (H.R. 1501) with four riders sure to cause future Constitutional litigation.

A measure promoting display of the Ten Commandments in public schools and other public buildings, sponsored by Representative Robert Aderholt was approved 248-180.

A measure encouraging religious memorials and services at public schools where students or others have been slain, sponsored by Representative Tom Tancredo passed 300-127.

A measure discouraging lawsuits that challenge Church-state violations at public schools, sponsored by Representative Jim DeMint passed 238-189.

A "charitable choice" proposal granting tax dollars to churches to run social service programs for juveniles, sponsored by Representatives Mark Souder and Phil English passed 346-83.

During arguments for the bill (which lasted until the early morning hours), Majority Whip Tom DeLay, a widely recognized Religious Right point-man in Congress, blamed the Columbine shootings on the absence of school-sponsored prayer, the "culture of abortion", the teaching of evolution and the "liberal relativism that has hollowed out the souls of too many in our society."

Campaigning in Virginia, GOP front-runner Texas Gov. George W. Bush said he has no problems with posting the Ten Commandments in schools and government buildings. (Republican hopefuls Steve Forbes and Gary Bauer have also endorsed the idea.) *Church & State*, July/August, 1999.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SURAT, October 25—All Christians should be driven out of the country unless missionaries stopped converting people forthwith, the Bajrang Dal has demanded today.

Addressing a gathering at the Collectorate compound here, All-India Bajrang Dal convenor Surendra Jain said, "Conversion is illegal. The Bajrang Dal will have to launch another 'Bharat Chhodo andolan' to ensure that all Christians are driven out of this country."

Jain is leading the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal 'Dharmajagan Rally', which reached here on Monday morning. The rallyists submitted a memorandum to District Collector Sangeeta Singh, accusing Christian missionaries of indulging in anti-social and anti-national activities.

It also listed three demands: a complete ban on conversions; a halt on foreign funds for conversions and an immediate check on negative portrayal of Hindu deities and customs.

UNITED NATIONS

Associated Press—A 6,000-strong UN peacekeeping force will be sent to Sierra Leone to help implement a peace accord that ended the West African country's savage civil war, according to the final draft of a UN Security Council resolution circulated Monday. The council is expected to approve the resolution Friday, authorizing the peacekeepers to es-

tablish a presence at key locations across the country to help disarm and demobilize the combatants.

Editor's note: And the ever-widening spread of global military cooperation continues, until eventually it becomes—global military occupation.

UFCW LABOR UNION BACKS GORE

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The board of the United Food and Commercial Workers voted unanimously today to put its 1.4 million members behind Vice President Al Gore in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. The endorsement came at the urging of John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO labor federation, who met privately with the UFCW board today to press Gore's case.

Presidents of the AFL-CIO's biggest unions, including the UFCW, will vote to recommend the federation's overall endorsement, which in turn will be decided by all 68-member unions.

Editor's note: As monopolies grow, labor unions will need to grow in order to maintain the balance of power. Read what Ellen G. White wrote about the labor unions and the time of trouble in *Selected Messages*, book 2, 141-143.

Economics has never been a science, and it is even less so now than a few years ago. The rising importance of global trade and finance, interacting with national economies, has created new forces that constantly change and are only dimly understood. No one is "in charge" of the world economy, and the people trying to contain its present distress have had to improvise. It would be reassuring and dramatic to declare that they had succeeded. But the duller truth is that we don't know—and neither do they. *Newsweek*, May 3, 1999.

CASTLES IN THE SKY: WASHINGTON'S BUDGET FANTASY

"To judge by the rush to spend the surplus, you'd think today's projections were set in stone. But they're not. The Congressional Budget Office reports that its projections of the federal budget balance made five years in advance have, on average, been off by 13 percent of projected outlays. With this margin of error, the surplus of \$239 billion it now projects for the year 2004 could just as easily be a deficit of \$14 billion. And beyond five years, warns CBO, the projections become even more uncertain." *California Concord Coalition* newsletter, Spring 1999.

RUSSIA TO PROBE LAUNDERING SUSPECTS

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's tax chief pledged to investigate banks and companies suspected of massive money-laundering through the Bank of New York, saying his ministry is looking for suspicious transactions. But Alexander Pochinok said the probe is complicated by loopholes. "A large number of financial operations helping minimize taxes is allowed by law," he said. A US indictment alleges \$7 billion from Russia was illegally funneled through accounts at the Bank of New York.

"Those who hold the reins of government are . . . struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis" *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.



CHURCHES IN GERMANY OPPOSE SUNDAY BUSINESS

BERLIN, (ZENIT)—"They are dancing with the golden calf," was Manfred Kock's cryptic comment on events last Sunday in three German cities, namely Halle, Dessau, and Berlin. Kock is president of the Council of German Lutheran Churches. The offending cities had open stores; large fully stocked supermarkets as though it was normal weekday.

In Berlin, even the regulations set down for the event were ignored. Kaufhof, a department store located in the famous Alexanderplatz, did not limit itself to selling tourist items, a concession made to it by the local administration, but, instead, put its whole line of products on sale. Kaufhof announced it would repeat its action this weekend, despite a threat of fines, given the great results of its sales. Over 8,000 clients in just five hours provided record income.

Sunday Consumerism

Churches in Germany are concerned; they fear that this move will spread throughout Germany, doing away in one fell swoop with what remains of Sunday's sacred character. Up until now they had been successful in stemming the tide of Sunday consumerism (with the exception of Sundays preceding Christmas), but now they seem to have lost the fight.

"What has happened is a blatant act against the holy day, which is a precious good of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The interruption of work on Sunday is healthy. Now there might well be harm done to the consolidated rhythm of work and rest," Kock explained.

CATHOLIC POSITION

The German Catholic Bishops' Conference also expressed its opposition. "The observance of Sunday, which is anchored in the Constitution, has been avoided by tricks. But the Church rejects all work on Sunday, unless it is indispensable for the common good. It is not possible that economic interests should dictate the rhythm of life," Rudolf Hammerschmidt, Conference spokesman, said.

Bishop Josef Homeyer, president of the Social Affairs Commission of the German Episcopal Conference, said: "The alternation of work and rest is not only a religious interest. Sunday belongs to humanity's heritage; it has fundamental anthropological and social significance. A seven-day work week does not consider the vital rhythm of man."

Bishop Franz Kamphaus of Limburg said that "there is much more than the religious aspect at stake here: married couples and families need time to spend together."

Labor Unions' Opposition

The Churches are not alone in their opposition. Labor unions see it as favoring the interest of consumers to the

detriment of workers. Labor Union leader Holger Wenzel said: "For us Sunday continues to be taboo; we will fight tooth and nail to defend it."

Politicians Favor Sunday Trading

The fight will not be easy. Representatives of the political world, beginning with the Social Democrats, who are in power, favor a modification of the norms that regulate time schedules of stores' business hours—approved in 1956 in virtue of the constitutional norm that guarantees Sunday rest. In 1996, important modifications were already made, allowing longer business hours from Monday to Saturday. At present, many Laender (the German federal regions) are demanding an final liberalization, to the point that Social Democrat Peter Fischer, the Economy Minister of Lower Saxony, announced: "Beginning at the end of the year, the Sunday prohibition will be lifted. Each businessman has the right to do what he wants."

Symbol of De-Christianization

The success of the stores in these three cities is placing politicians under enormous pressure. This is equally manifested in surveys published by the RTL private television network: two thirds of the German public favors Sunday business.

The phenomenon has an obvious symbolic character, emphasized by Munich's prestigious "Suddeutsche Zeitung," which commented: "When the law was promulgated in 1956, Church attendance on Sunday was perhaps a custom. Today this is no longer the case." Thus, the opening of stores on Sundays becomes the symbol of the progress of secularization in a country like Germany.

Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire. And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. Isaiah 29:6, 30:30.



COMING SOLAR STORMS WILL CAUSE DISRUPTIONS

(Wired News)—The world's power grids and satellites could experience major disruptions over the next three years due to intense solar activity, scientists said Wednesday. The United States is particularly vulnerable to cyclical periods of solar storms, called solar maximum, because of its heavy reliance on satellites for communications. When solar maximum occurs, the sun bursts at its seams with explosive power, and as it churns there is potential for electrical power outages, radio problems, and the disabling of satellites, said Dr. D. James Baker, head of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As the period during the year solar cycle when the sun is most active, solar maximum brings an increase in the number and intensity of solar storms and their effects. Space storms, radiation showers, aurora borealis, and effects on power grids and Global Positioning System navigation and other systems are all expected dur-

ing the upcoming solar max period, which will last about three years. Solar activity has already increased, and will continue to build through the next year.



MAJOR SOLAR STORMS EXPECTED IN YEAR 2000

(ABC News)—The sun will greet the new millennium by turning angry, erupting into the most active part of its 11-year cycle with outbursts of energy that can threaten satellites, electrical power and spacewalking astronauts. Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said today the approaching solar storm could be more destructive than previous cycles because the Earth has more power grids and satellites that might be affected. “There are bigger power grids, drawing more power now so the power companies are more vulnerable” said D. James Baker, the NOAA administrator. “There are also 600 satellites, more than ever in history, that also might be affected,” said Baker.

This year, though, the power companies and satellite operators will be better prepared than ever, he said. Two satellites, operated by NOAA, NASA, and the Air Force, are positioned in orbit to warn about hazardous energy bursts from the sun. One satellite, orbiting a million miles from Earth, will detect a rise in charged solar particles and give an hours warning. Baker said that will be enough time for power companies to protect their electrical grids. The hours warning also would allow spacewalking astronauts to seek the safety of the shuttle or the space station. Baker said, “NOAA also has created a new scale to precisely describe the intensity of solar storms.” He said “The new values are the Richter scales [rating the intensity of earthquakes] of space weather.”

“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Son of man shall be revealed. The Lord is removing His restrictions from the earth, and soon there will be death and destruction, increasing crime, and cruel, evil working against the rich who have exalted themselves against the poor. Those who are without God’s protection will find no safety in any place or position. Human agents are being trained and are using their inventive power to put in operation the most powerful machinery to wound and to kill.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 50.



REPORT SAYS CHINESE STEALTH NUKE STRIKE ON U.S. POSSIBLE

China’s Newest Secret Weapon—Stealth Missile Could Nuke US Cities Without Warning (World Net Daily)—According to a congressional defense analyst, China is trying to acquire, and may well already possess, submarine-launched, supersonic land-attack cruise missiles—weapons which, when deployed by Chinese navy submarines, could shower US coastal cities with nuclear-tipped stealth missiles in a surprise attack that may not be detected until the first bombs are detonated. The Russian NPO

Mashinostroyeniya Yahont (NATO SS-N-26) missile was put on sale in August during a Russian air show, said Richard D. Fisher, a defense analyst working for Representative Chris Cox. Fisher, who attended the air show in Moscow, stated that the Russians openly bragged about having sold the weapon system to a major world power. Both Fisher, *Aviation Week*, and *Space Technology* confirm that China was by far the most likely customer.

The new Chinese navy missile is intended to fly at very low altitude to defeat radar detection, and strike its target at supersonic speed. No Western nation currently has such a weapon. In fact, the only similar weapon, an underwater version of the nuclear-armed US Tomahawk cruise missile, has been withdrawn from service.



NUCLEAR WARNING FROM CHINA TO U.S.

(Inside China)—China’s top disarmament official said on Wednesday US plans to build an anti-missile defense system could trigger an arms race and threaten global and regional stability. Sha Zukang, director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, said US efforts to develop anti-missile missiles, known as the National Missile Defense (NMD) system, would have a formidable, adverse impact and tip the global balance. If such a balance and stability were shattered, the nuclear disarmament process would come to a grind or even be reversed, Sha wrote in the official *China Daily*. “It will only poison the atmosphere, undermine the conditions necessary for nuclear disarmament and breed a potential danger of an arms race,” Sha said. He added: “Who can guarantee that other non-nuclear states will not go nuclear?” Beijing had no immediate comment on a US report that China appeared to be constructing a missile-related facility at a base about 300 miles from Nationalist-ruled Taiwan.



POTENTIAL FOR CHINESE ATTACK ON AMERICA

(AP)—Retired Admiral Thomas Moorer, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says China is preparing to take over the Panama Canal once the United States relinquishes control. And he warned Tuesday of possible Chinese use of the area to launch a nuclear attack on America. Moorer said China plans to seize control through a Hong Kong company, Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd., which has won the right to operate ports on both sides of the canal. He contended that the firm has close links to the Chinese military. The treaties require the United States to surrender control of the canal and to remove all US troops by December 31. Administration officials have previously dismissed allegations of an eventual Chinese takeover of the canal as baseless.



IRAN TO HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHIN 5 YEARS

(AP)—Unless the United States pressures Russia to end its military assistance to Iran, the Islamic republic will possess a nuclear capability within five years, a senior Israeli military official said Sunday. Israel has intelligence that Iran plans to upgrade its Shahab-3 ballistic missile, currently still in the testing phase, to make it capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and to extend its range to 1,300 miles, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said that the Iranians were working on advanced versions of the missile, named Shahab-4 and Shahab-5.



ISRAEL TO RECEIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR SATELLITE-GUIDED BOMBS

(CNN)—The United States plans to sell Israel the technology to convert 700 of its bombs into top-of-the-line, satellite-guided munitions, which now are only in the US military inventory. The satellite-guided bombs, known as JDAMs, or Joint Direct Attack Munitions, were considered the most accurate and reliable bombs used in this year's NATO bombing campaign in Yugoslavia. Unlike laser-guided bombs, they are unaffected by cloud cover. The proposed \$45 million sale of tail kits, which convert unguided bombs so they can use signals from a constellation of 24 global-positioning satellites for pinpoint accuracy, is to include spare parts, support equipment and technical support.



MASSIVE NORTH KOREAN DEPLOYMENT

(Agence France Presse)—North Korea has recently accelerated its massive deployment of artillery and rocket launchers near the demilitarized zone separating it from South Korea, says US General Thomas Schwartz. "The most threatening ongoing force development is the massive fielding of artillery and multiple rocket launcher systems in underground facilities near the demilitarized zone," said General Schwartz, according to his written answers to a Congress committee released on Wednesday. General Schwartz is the Clinton Administration's nominee to become the new head of US forces in South Korea. "Over the past year, Pyongyang has accelerated a comprehensive force enhancement program that has already resulted in the deployment of over 10,000 artillery systems and more than 2,300 multiple rocket launcher systems in the forward area," he wrote. "These long-range artillery systems give North Korea the ability to provide devastating, indirect firepower in support of ground force operations, and to strike targets south of Seoul."



EUROPEAN ARMY STARTING TO FORM

(The Financial Times)—Britain and France back creation of 40,000-strong multinational corps. Britain and France are pushing for the formation of a large European rapid deployment force to carry out humanitarian roles such as peacekeeping. Under the initiative, likely to be discussed today by European Union foreign and defense ministers in Brussels, European nations would agree to have a 40,000-strong force

ready for rapid deployment. The French and British propose that within three years, European countries should be able to field such a force within six to eight weeks, and to sustain it for two years. Although it would have humanitarian and peacekeeping functions, it would require a wide range of combat and specialist skills. It would not be a standing European army, but assembled only in time of crisis and therefore different in nature from the existing Franco-German Eurocorps, which has a permanent staff. French and British officials said commitments would be made within the framework of NATO but would be additional to EU countries' existing participation in forces such as the UK-led NATO rapid reaction corps in Kosovo. EU members, though they would have to agree to the principle of having a force, would be able to opt out of joining any specific operation. Non-members such as Turkey, which is in NATO, would be invited to take part.

"We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven—events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in and unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nations is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 221.



33,000,000

AIDS CARRIERS WORLDWIDE WITH NUMBERS GROWING

(AP)—Despite powerful new drugs and massive information programs, the AIDS virus is spreading at a growing rate with an estimated 33.4 million people said to be carrying HIV, according to a report released today. The UN Program on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization said it expected the number of infections worldwide to continue to grow, fueled by an increase in the use of injected drugs. According to the report, 33.6 million people, including 1.2 million children, are carrying HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That compares to 33.4 million people who were HIV positive last year. However, the agencies said this year's increase is even larger than it appears because the 1998 figures in a few heavily populated Latin American and Asian countries were overestimated. In the course of 1999 alone, 5.6 million people will become infected with HIV, the agencies said. This year also will see 2.6 million deaths from AIDS, the highest annual global total since the disease began to take hold in the late 1970s—despite so-called antiretroviral drugs that staved off AIDS deaths in the richer countries, they said. Last year 2.2 million people died. And more than 16 million people have now died of AIDS since the late 1970s, the agencies said.



GLOBAL ALERT TO SPREAD OF DRUG-RESISTANT TB

(CNN)—Many countries are ill equipped to combat the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis, already in 104 countries and the world's leading infectious cause of death among adults, a new study says. It will take \$1 billion to fight its growth, according to the Harvard Medical School study sponsored by philanthropist George Soros. Russian prisons are among the epicenters of the hard-to-treat and potentially fatal disease. About 100,000 inmates have active TB and about 40 percent have drug-resistant TB, prison chief Gen. Vladimir Yalinin said at a Thursday news conference. "About 30,000 people with active cases are released from prison there each year, and 400 prison workers have developed TB," Yalinin said. "These epidemics are only briefly local," said Dr. Paul Farmer, a professor of social medicine at Harvard and author of the report. They will not remain within prisons; they will not remain within national borders. TB is the leading infectious cause of death among adults worldwide, killing up to 2 million people each year. Eight million are infected annually by the airborne disease, which can spread through contact as casual as sitting on the same airplane with someone who is infected.

Who Can Be Saved?

Cont' from Page 6

Gad: "a troop". The character of the tribe was throughout fierce and warlike. Fearless, steadfast, firm, unwavering, each one was as courageous as a "troop" collectively, all by himself! Distinguished, Gadites were Barzillai, a friend of king David, who was a warrior-king, and Jephthah, the leader of a marauding band, who, when called to God's service showed an intimate knowledge of God's dealings with Israel and the surrounding nations, and he had great zeal for God's glory, and firmness about keeping his word. Elijah, probably the best known Gadite, was ready and unafraid at God's command to walk in on and confront the apostate wicked king Ahab, oppose the whole nation alone, and slay by his own hand eight hundred and fifty prophets and priests of Baal. He also rebuked King Ahaziah, (2 Kings 1) prophesying his death. Chosen as God's unflinching spokesman to pronounce judgment upon kings, and to singlehandedly manage the worst national crisis up to that time, it is indeed profound to consider that Elijah's spirit and power will be manifested by the entire last generation of the faithful who are to carry God's last-day, judgment-hour message to the whole world!

Asher: "happy". Here is a tribe of people of a considerably more amiable disposition. Not very aggressive, but firmly founded in trust in God and strength from God. These are able to appear to easily step over, or pass smoothly through, rough difficulties. Possessing divine fortitude and inner strength, they are able to bear heavy trials without complaining. They are also able to encourage others in trials and manifest more than ordinary humility and reverence for God. Asherites bore mocking and insult from friends in order to

reconsecrate themselves to God (2 Chronicles 30:10-11), and Anna, the prophetess, served God devotedly in the temple with fastings and prayers (Luke 2:36-38).

Issachar: "hire". These people are great burden bearers. Their meek and quiet spirits enjoy patient, self-sacrificing toil in the service of others. They are willing to work hard now to enjoy a more complete rest later; especially if the rest provided is more for the benefit of others. These ones are very hardy and laborious, enjoying the "dirty work", and delighting to bear what others consider heavy responsibilities. Issacharites are able to discern what kind of work needs to be done in order to accomplish a certain goal, and they are very good at planning and executing that work. They are persistent toward the goal, and will be determined to move steadily forward in the face of opposition or difficulties. They may not move things along quickly, but they are unstoppable and undeflectable, keeping the goal, and the rest for others that lies beyond it clearly in focus. The "great woman of Shunem" (2 Kings 4:8) worked hard in order to provide rest to God's servants. Tola (Judges 10:1), gave Israel rest under his rule. Issacharites are in fact so willing to serve others that they can easily be made to serve the cause of evil! But when converted, they will begin to serve God immediately, even though some things still need to be worked out.

Zebulun: "Dwelling". Literally, "Being with," or "united," but not quite in the same sense as Levi's "joined." These people seem to be blessed with above average intelligence and may be good at business, arts, or literature. They are the quiet thinker type; hospitable, cordial, maybe a little formal, but able to meet strangers easily and build friendships. They have a love of system, order, and uniformity while allowing for "artistically systematized" variety. They are loyal, dutiful, and pay careful attention to detail, and are generally retiring and keep a low profile, unless a crisis arises, then they are willing to risk all, even overkill preparations (1 Chronicles 12:33), in order to insure the victory beyond all possibility of defeat, and to restore harmony and unity. Similar to Naphtali, they prefer to be part of a group and have a determined "victory or death" attitude in an emergency (Judges 5:18).

Joseph: "Adding". He has the well-earned privilege of having the name of one of his sons added above a gate on the New Jerusalem in addition to his own. Similar to his brother Judah, Joseph valued strict integrity, honesty, and sincerity. Being raised as his father's "pet" though, he was in danger of becoming prideful and arrogant, but humility came as an acquired attribute as he became able to discern God's hand in his trials and adverse situations. Then he exhibited a noble self-discipline based on zeal for God's honor. Joseph harbored no resentment toward his brothers for the evil treatment he received from them, and other members of this tribe will also, by means of Godly faith and trust (more than by rigorous Levitical self-discipline), be able to keep cool when opposed or oppressed.

Benjamin: "Son of the right hand," was originally named Ben-o-ni by his mother, which means "Son of my sorrow",

which aptly describes the unconverted Benjamite nature. The tribe was famous for being ambidextrous and left-handed, and had notable eye-hand coordination. (Judges 20:16). When unconverted, the tribe was compared to a ravening wolf, a fierce predator that is most efficient at causing sorrow when it runs in a “pack.” Right or wrong (usually), the Benjamites stuck together. Similar to Gad and Dan, they were self-willed, arrogant, proud, rapacious, warlike, revengeful, sullen, petulant, quick-tempered, and deceptive. They were almost exterminated in a civil war that they themselves caused (Judges 20), and probably the most outstanding example of wolflike behavior was that of king Saul in his relentless pursuit and cruelty toward David. All this looks pretty bad for Benjamites today, but when converted, the same forcefulness of character is used to benefit, help, aid, and particularly, to shield and protect others. The “pack attack” attitude is also replaced by an independent humility. Examples: Ehud (Judges 3), delivered and judged Israel. Mordecai (in the book of Esther), became the king’s “man of my right-hand”, as he shielded and protected Esther, the king, and all the Jewish nation from a universal death decree. Benjamin’s relationship to Jesus as a type of Christ’s human experience is marked. Both were born in Bethlehem (Genesis 35:16–19), originally as “a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3), and afterward to sit “on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Hebrews 8:1).

Thus both names given to Benjamin—the “son of sorrow”, and the “son of the right hand”—apply to Jesus. The apostle Paul, undeniably God’s “right-hand-man” during the first century of the Christian Church, turned from fierce persecutor to ambassador for Christ to the Gentile world. Ready and willing to endure all manner of persecutions and privations that others may hear of the good news of God’s shielding and protecting power against eternal death. Incidentally, he caught some of his converts with “craft” and “guile.” (2 Corinthians 12:16).

Manasseh: “Forgetting”, in the sense of the troubles of the past. Usually meek, mild-mannered, flexible, humble, conciliatory, and unobtrusive, Manassites do not seem very intellectual, calculating, or far-sighted regarding cause/effect relationships. Perhaps this is the reason they do not generally seek leadership roles, however, they are quite zealous for God’s cause and if the needs of the cause clearly require it they will readily come out of the shadows of their traditional supporting roles and aggressively prosecute the work. The most notable character in Scripture from this tribe was Gideon (Judges 6), who although seemed to need quite a bit of coaxing in order to get him going, once convinced that God was right there with him to hold him up, plunged boldly ahead to fulfill God’s will.

The Lost Tribes

Both tribes were powerful and numerous, but though they were living in the same environment as the other tribes, failed to perfect a Christian character.

Ephraim: “fruitful”. This tribe bore plenty of fruit, but unfortunately, it wasn’t good. They had a great desire for

fame, wealth, and pleasure, and were lacking in faith that God’s cause would be victorious. They were sensitive, suspicious, envious, and jealous when others seemed to be given preferential treatment, or had more blessings or possessions. They often felt slighted, ignored, unrecognized, and unhonored. They were haughty, arrogant, covetous, and idolatrous (same thing, Ephesians 5:5). They did not really appreciate the things of God or the companionship of God’s people, and they allowed themselves to become mixed with worldly people and interests, diluted in their religious experience, and finally were characterized as “a cake not turned” (Hosea 7:8), or “half-baked”, so to speak.

As a tribe, the name of Ephraim will not appear above one of the gates of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, but fortunately we are not saved in groups and there are recorded in the Scripture records some Ephraimites who were a blessing to others, namely Joshua, Samuel, and a certain unnamed benevolent Ephraimite in Judges 19:16–19.

Dan: “judging”. This lost tribe was articulate, artistic, intellectual, and discerning, which fitted them for their calling as God’s judges for the nation, but sadly, they were also attracted toward wealth, self-indulgence, and idolatry (Judges 18:31). They used their discerning powers for faultfinding rather than looking for the good in others. They were sly, backbiting, and cruel (Judges 17 & 18). Wise as a serpent, and just as deadly, they were characterized as a young lion leaping out from an unseen hiding place upon his victim. (Genesis 49:16–17; Deuteronomy 33:22). The only noted (or notorious) Danite in the Scriptures is Samson. Chosen as God’s judge and deliverer of his nation, his violent, uncontrolled passions and lusts only got him in a lot of trouble, and eventually cost him his life (Judges 13–16).

Conclusion

The name which God will give to each of the redeemed will convey to each person God’s knowledge of his character.

“A new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it,” Revelation 2:17.

Also, the redeemed will bear names, which will designate them as belonging exclusively to God.

“Him that overcometh. I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem . . . and I will write upon him My new name,” Revelation 3:12.

These character names were “written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,” Revelation 17:8. Each one must permit God to fit him to obtain the character expressed in the meaning of the “new name.” God does not predestinate persons, but He does predestinate character. The privilege that each of us has is to co-operate with God in obtaining the character which He has predestinated to measure up to the meaning of the name written for us in the book of life from the beginning of the world. Amen.