

# FUTURE NEWS

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## SOMETHING GREAT AND DECISIVE IS SOON TO TAKE PLACE

“A crisis has arisen in the government of God on earth. Enmity to God has struck its roots deep in human hearts. It has become widespread, both in the world and in the professed churches of Christ. A wakeful impiety is quickened into an instinctive vigilance, and rouses to demonstration of hatred against the testing truth for this time. Wherever the truth is proclaimed, it will be opposed in a decided manner.

“Everything has been moving on just as the Lord revealed in prophecy that it would. Something great and decisive is soon to take place, else no flesh would be saved. The character of God will not be compromised. Under the wrath of God, universal desolation will soon reach all parts of the known world. There have been lightnings and earthquakes, fires and floods, calamities by sea and land; but who reads these warnings? What impression is made upon the world? What change in their attitude is seen? No more than was seen in the inhabitants of the Noachian world. The people are just as ardent today in their games, in their horse racing, in their love of amusement, as were the antediluvians, who ‘knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.’ They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. By their attitude they declared, We want not thy way, O God; we want our own way, our own will. Today the world is mad: an insanity is upon men and women, and is hurrying them on to eternal ruin. Every species of indulgence prevails, and men have become so infatuated with vice that they will not listen to warnings or appeals.

“The Lord says to the people of the earth, ‘Choose you this day whom ye will serve.’ All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended. God gives no man a message that it will be five years or ten years or twenty years before this earth’s history shall close. He would not give any living being an excuse for delaying the preparation for his appearing. He would have no one say, as did the unfaithful servant, ‘My Lord delayeth his coming;’ for this leads to reckless neglect of the opportunities and privileges given to prepare us for that great day. Everyone who claims to be a servant of God is called to do his service as if each day might be the last.

“The words of Christ have a direct application to this time: ‘Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.’

“Let everyone to whom the Lord has given light from his word be sure that he makes a right use of that light. Let him beware that he does not presume to feed the flock of God with food which is not appropriate for the time. ‘Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’ Talk of the speedy appearing of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Put not off that day. God has given no man a right to say, ‘My Lord delayeth his coming.’ Let the inquiry be made, Shall I stand at the right hand or at the left hand of the Judge at that day? ‘Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?’”

*Review and Herald*, November 27, 1900.

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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.

# An Editorial—Our Message

“Terrible shocks will come upon the earth, and the lordly palaces erected at great expense will certainly become heaps of ruins. When God’s restraining hand is removed, the destroyer begins his work. Then in our cities the greatest calamities will come.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 3, 312–314.

The terrorists attacks took place a few days ago reminding Seventh-day Adventists of the certainty of God’s prophetic declarations. On the front page of this newsletter we placed part of the message from the *Review and Herald*, November 27, 1900. Within that passage is the following statement:

“Let everyone to whom the Lord has given light from his word be sure that he makes a right use of that light. Let him beware that **he does not presume to feed the flock of God with food which is not appropriate for the time.**”

There is an attempt by Satan to undermine, misdirect, and prevent the message of *present truth* from being understood as present truth among God’s people. Anything but *present truth* is being fed to the flock. In *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 273, we are further enlightened:

“Our people need to understand the oracles of God; they need to have **a systematic knowledge of the principles of revealed truth, which will fit them for what is coming upon the earth and prevent them from being carried about by every wind of doctrine.**

“Great changes are soon to take place in the world, **and everyone will need** an experimental knowledge of the things of God. **It is the work of Satan to dishearten the people of God and to unsettle their faith. He tries in every way to insinuate doubts and questionings in regard to the position, the faith, the plans, of the men upon whom God has laid the burden of a special work and who are zealously doing that work. Although he may be baffled again and again, yet he renews his attacks, working through those who profess to be humble and God-fearing, and who are apparently interested in, or believers of, present truth. The advocates of truth expect fierce and cruel opposition from their open enemies, but this is far less dangerous than the secret doubts expressed by those who feel at liberty to question and find fault with what God’s servants are doing. These may appear to be humble men; but they are self-deceived, and they deceive others. In their hearts are envy and evil surmisings. They unsettle the faith of the people in those in whom they should have confidence, those whom God has chosen to do His work; and when they are reprovved for their course they take it as personal abuse. While professing to be doing God’s work they are in reality aiding the enemy.**”

We are further told in the *Canadian Union Messenger*, September 3, 1907:

“We are living in a time when **every wind of doctrine is blowing**, and when those who think they stand are liable to fall. We are living in a time when Satan is striving to implant seeds of skepticism and infidelity in every mind. We are living in a time when error is taught so insidiously that the faith of many is being rapidly undermined.”

As I personally survey the implications of Tuesday’s terrorists attacks I tremble for those of us who have had great light and opportunities, but failed to move forward with those privileges. Among the many concerns that impacts my heart is the many winds of doctrine within Adventism today. Those of us who find ourselves in the “conservative” branch of Adventism have our own brand of blowing doctrines, beyond those false winds which blow throughout “liberal” Adventism.

It is time to recognize, understand, and present the message for the hour. Not simply do we need to segregate false doctrines from the true, but we need to step upon the platform of *present truth*. A failure to understand and receive the message of *present truth* for this time, even under the pretext of upholding truth, is to prepare to receive **strong delusion**. We are to near the end of probationary time to remain spiritually lethargic and complacent. As stated above in *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 273: we need a knowledge of truth “which will fit” us, “for what is coming upon the earth and prevent” us from being deceived.

My favorite definition of the message for this time is in *The Great Controversy*, page 594:

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.”

The “events connected with the close of probation” is half the definition, while the other half is “the work of preparation for the time of trouble”. We need to reference all we attempt to accomplish within the context of these two truths: End-time events and personal preparation for the seal of God.

**“We have no time for dwelling on matters that are of no importance. Our time should be given to proclaiming the last message of mercy to a guilty world. Men are needed who move under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. The sermons preached by some of our ministers will have to be much more powerful than they are now, or many backsliders will carry a tame, pointless message, which lulls people to sleep. Every discourse should be given under a sense of the awful judgments soon to fall on the world. The message of truth is to be proclaimed by lips touched with a live coal from the divine altar.**

“My heart is filled with anguish when I think of the tame messages borne by some of our ministers, when they have a message of life and death to bear. The ministers are asleep; the lay members are asleep; and a world is perishing in sin. May God help His people to arouse and walk and work as men and women on the borders of the eternal world. Soon an awful surprise is coming upon the inhabitants of the world. Suddenly, with power and great glory, Christ will come. Then there will be no time to prepare to meet Him. Now is the time for us to give the warning message.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 36.

Notice that in the last passage every discourse is to be given under the sense of the coming judgments, or in other words, every discourse should be given in connection with the events connected with the close of probation—the events which are directly connected with “the awful judgments”. Notice also that, these messages should be given by lips—touched from by coal “from the divine altar”. That is to say, lips, which have prepared a character to stand during the seven last plagues. The message for our time is always this two-fold understanding. Brothers and Sisters there is no more time to be unsure about the message for this hour. There is no more time to play and entertain fanciful fallacies designed to stimulate our curiosity, but unable to bring about the true repentance and the earnest self-examination we each need in order to shake off the deadly Laodicean experience which is our condition as Seventh-day Adventists at the end of the world.

I invite you to consider some of the points of prophecy that *Future for America* has regularly presented over the last seven years and determine if the focus qualifies as present truth and connects with the history of the last few days. We have consistently taught and discussed that the **final events will come suddenly and unexpectedly**. Who expected last Tuesday's attack?

We have taught that economic crisis would be one factor that leads to the Sunday law based upon the following statement: in *The Great Controversy*, page 591:

“It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublemakers of the people, **preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.**”

James 5:1–3 agrees with the end time economic situations when he states:

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Something obviously happens to the temporal prosperity of planet earth as the end-time prophecies unfold. This truth is clearly understood in Tuesday's attacks. As the war escalates should we expect better economic conditions? We certainly came to understand the monetary ramifications of this current crisis, when Tuesday afternoon we went to our bank in order to withdraw the funds that have been sent into this ministry. We were

told they were limiting withdrawals to one thousand dollars. My wife was persistent and we were allowed to withdraw forty-two hundred, but it took daily visits to the bank for the rest of this week to get the amount down to where we felt we had fulfilled our responsibility as stewards. Did you know the banks had limited withdrawals last week?

We have also taught that in the last days there will be war.

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love him. There is a rest from earth’s conflict. Where is it?—‘That where I am, there ye may be also.’ Heaven is where Christ is. Heaven would not be heaven to those who love Christ if he were not there. Are we individually forming characters that will be meet for the society of Christ and the heavenly angels?” *Review and Herald*, October 19, 1897.

Once again the events are illustrated along with the necessary experience. Joel speaking of the latter rain time period not only speaks of the mighty men—the USA, preparing for war; but he identifies that in connection with this the weak—Moslem nations and terrorists claiming to be strong:

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; **Prepare war**, wake up **the mighty men**, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: **let the weak say, I am strong.** Joel 3:9–10.

Are the news reporters portraying the United States as awakening to this crisis?

**We have emphasized that prophecy teaches that America will rapidly develop the character of the papacy in a time of escalating crisis. How this change happens so quickly was clearly illustrated in the history of Nazi Germany. In a time of escalating crisis men will rapidly proceed in the direction which events are pushing them, and in very short periods of time these men will agree with actions and ideas that would have repulsed them previously in a time of ease. Brothers and Sisters the times of escalating crisis has arrived. We have been forewarned that the end is as a woman in travail. Pains more severe, coming quicker and quicker. What’s next? Since becoming President, who has Bush looked to for moral instruction? Or to say it another way, is there any man Bush has praised more often or profusely than the pope of Rome?**

Studies have shown that in times of crisis a nation will quickly move away from principles, which we would call *liberal or radical* in today’s terminology, and they will quickly become more *conservative or reactionary* in their outlook. Have you noticed the rapid change of outlook in America, compared to a week ago? Many liberal pundits on the news broadcasts who have traditionally been known for their anti-war positions are now pounding a very loud war drum. Liberal pundits who have not given any time for the subject of God, except as they brought forth stories to oppose organized religion within the US and world are now reverently calling on God to bless America. Who would of thought?

In connection with this truth *Future for America* has greatly emphasized that the final movements will be rapid ones. This week has emphasized that truth in a mighty way.

On Thursday, September 13, Jerry Falwell apologized for a remark he made the day before. He had stated that those who support abortion, along with gays and lesbians brought on the attack Tuesday. By Wednesday evening the leader of a lesbian organization was calling for his retraction, which he gave on Thursday. Do we not recognize the Protestant leaders who will identify faithful Adventists as “the troublers of the people” and who “are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; [and] that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced”. They are already in our midst and fully ready to speak out against those they deem are worthy of condemnation.

We have taught, based upon the prophetic word, that the nations of the world would unite into a one-world government, which was supported and directed by the United States. Are you seeing this environment rapidly develop? Both in the US and the world we have taught that the rights of individuals would be taken away as an growing dictatorial police state formed as we approach and enter into the Sunday law time period. Are you

watching the laws being pushed through our Congress, in order to deal with the terrorist subversives. Will these laws eventually be used against God's faithful? Absolutely! Perhaps what is more serious about these developments is the reasonableness of the need for these laws in order to deal with the Islamic fanatics. This too, is part of the prophetic scenario.

We have taught that the US would force the whole world. Have you paid attention to the force being exercised against the world currently? Have you noticed the dynamics of why and how Pakistan came into agreement with the US? Do you think the threat brought by these terrorist fits a scenario to set up a one world government in order to better cooperate and protect?

We are at the very end of our probationary time. There must be a call to focus on the battle before us. We see the leaders of this nation carefully placing together a battle plan for the war before them. We see the leaders of this nation directing the flow of information to win the support of the people of this nation and the countries of this world in order to accomplish their goal. Should God's people do less? We are Laodiceans. Among the many things necessary for God's people to recognize if we are going to take part in this final work is what the final message and work is. The final work and message is clearly set forth in the following passage:

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. **Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed. God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near.** *Testimonies*, volume 5, 716.

Brothers and Sisters our message and work is to “show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism”. What message have you and I been proclaiming and supporting? Is it the message for the hour? You and I have a responsibility to live, know, and proclaim the correct message, while supporting those who also live, know, and proclaim the message. We will be held accountable for all these points. As eloquent and accurate to the facts as some of the politicians and news reporters may have been in the last week, none of them have presented the dynamics of this crisis in its true bearing. The only people on planet earth who have the insight necessary to correctly identify the forces and issues at work currently are Seventh-day Adventists. But how few Seventh-day Adventists have even made the final warning message a focus of their study and understanding. If they have been studying at all, they have chosen from a wide variety of winds to make the focus of their personal emphasis.

Brothers and Sisters—pluralism is unacceptable to truth! There is only one *present truth* message at this time! Please consider the question in the middle of the following passage. “Are all messengers?”

“Then again was held up before me those who were not willing to dispose of this world's goods to save perishing souls by sending them the truth while Jesus stands before the Father pleading His blood, His sufferings, and His death for them; and while God's messengers are waiting, ready to carry them the saving truth that they might be sealed with the seal of the living God. It is hard for some who profess to believe the present truth to do even so little as to hand the messengers God's own money that He has lent them to be stewards over.

“The suffering Jesus, His love so deep as to lead Him to give His life for man, was again held up before me; also the lives of those who professed to be His followers, who had this world's goods, but considered it so great a thing to help the cause of salvation. The angel said, ‘Can such enter heavens?’ Another angel answered, ‘No, never, never, never. Those who are not interested in the cause of God on earth can never sing the song of redeeming love above.’ I saw that the quick work that God was doing on the earth would soon be cut short in righteousness and that the messengers must speed swiftly on their way to search out the scattered flock. An angel said, ‘Are all messengers?’ Another answered, ‘No, no; God's messengers have a message.’

“I saw that the cause of God had been hindered and dishonored by some traveling who had

no message from God. Such will have to give an account to God for every dollar they have used in traveling where it was not their duty to go, because that money might have helped on the cause of God; and for the lack of the spiritual food that might have been given them by God's called and chosen messengers, had they had the means, souls have starved and died. I saw that those who have strength to labor with their hands and help sustain the cause were as accountable for their strength as others were for their property.

"The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause. The angel said, 'Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice? No, no. It must be a freewill offering. It will take all to buy the field.' I cried to God to spare His people, some of whom were fainting and dying. Then I saw that the judgments of the Almighty were speedily coming, and I begged of the angel to speak in his language to the people. Said he, 'All the thunders and lightnings of Mount Sinai would not move those who will not be moved by the plain truths of the Word of God, neither would an angel's message awake them.'" *Early Writings*, 50.

We have taught that the judgment is progressive and that it is directly connected to several truths of the hour. One aspect of this progression is that God's hand of mercy is withdrawn progressively as men further reject His grace. In one sense the tragedy on Tuesday is a fulfillment of this truth. America now has a President and Congress who promote and uplift the papal power. America is quickly moving down the road to overturn the Constitution. And now this tragedy hits. Coincidence, or Providence? Do you recognize how much more difficult it has become to present our message as of Tuesday? Try to share with a grief stricken patriotically aroused individual that God allowed this crisis to arrive because He is removing His blessing from this glorious land due to its rejection of His mercy and truth. The message has just become more difficult.

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges.

"My brother, my sister, ponder these things, I beseech you. You have each a work to do. Your unfaithfulness and neglect are registered against you in the Ledger of Heaven. You have diminished your powers and lessened your capabilities. You lack the experience and efficiency which you might have had. But before it is forever too late, I urge you to arouse. Delay no longer. The day is almost spent. The westering sun is about sinking forever from your sight. Yet while the blood of Christ is pleading, you may find pardon. Summon every energy of the soul, employ the few remaining hours in earnest labor for God and for your fellow men.

"My heart is stirred to the very depths. Words are inadequate to express my feelings as I plead for perishing souls. Must I plead in vain? As Christ's ambassador I would arouse you to labor as you never labored before. Your duty cannot be shifted upon another. No one but yourself can do your work. If you withhold your light, someone must be left in darkness through your neglect.







# THINKING PEOPLE SEE AHEAD

It seems that Americans—including too many in Congress—think that freedom means you can do anything you want without responsibility and without consequences. That is true gutlessness, and I am sad to say that I think if anything characterizes the moral tenor of our times, it is that kind of cowardice.

Our fault does not lie so much in the fact that we do wrong and that we sin, or that we do not respect the principles of truth and justice. Rather, the greater fault lies now in the fact that **we no longer wish to admit the existence of truth**; we no longer wish to acknowledge **the importance of principles**. Americans wish to pretend that there is some way in which we can hold on to our rights, while denying that right and wrong exists at all. And I believe you know, my friend, that this attitude toward our freedom is never going to work. As a matter of fact, I think that in spite of our present little bubble of calm and fragile prosperity, somewhere in the depths of our being we know that we are just on the edge of the abyss that is going to destroy the great hopes of this nation. And it is true! I do not care what the polls or the financial figures look like today.

So I predict for you—and I say with certainty—that if we do not grapple with these moral issues and deal with them rightly, then before we are much into the new century, we shall begin to see emerge, in this nation and the world, a cavalcade of evil that will make the 20th century look like a dress rehearsal. And that is evil indeed, for in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people violated their consciences. In the 21<sup>st</sup>, if we are not careful, they will have no consciences at all! Alan Keyes, Chairman of *The Declaration Foundation*, July newsletter.

[**Editor's note:** Notice the date of the newsletter.]



## Ministry Update

We have recently presented the message at two churches in California. This week my wife and I travel by car to speak at another camp meeting in California. We solicit your prayers.

Although we have known about an invitation to speak in the former Soviet Union in October, we have not announced those meetings based on the principle of being “wise as serpents but harmless as doves”. We will speak at an Adventist college to the theology students. Our prayers have been that nothing would cause these meetings to be stopped, so we chose not to announce them too far in advance. We will travel there in October and we have reason to believe that our financial expenditures will be large. We will need to translate our literature for the presentations very rapidly and we will need to have oral translators available as well. From the information we have thus far the translation work may be expensive. In our many trips to South America translation is generally free, but conditions where we are going are uncertain and we have a burden to make sure the message is clearly proclaimed. We intend to spend what is necessary to make these meetings a success. We intend to video all the presentations, so the message will continue to echo after we return. If the Lord impresses you to help with this effort financially please mark your offering as Eastern Europe. We will give the specifics on the meetings when we return. We earnestly solicit that you uphold this two-week series in your prayers.

In November we will speak at three camp meetings in South America. The first will be in Venezuela and then two cities in Colombia. We solicit your support with these meetings as well. We need special prayers for the Colombian trip as problems there continue to escalate as it increasingly continues to unravel, apparently on its way into open civil war and anarchy.

In January we will hold the first two of three evangelistic series we intend to hold in the Philippines next year. The third will be in May. We have the funds secured for the three evangelistic series and are now seeking additional monies to help with some construction needs, extra literature distribution, and three airfares for speakers who need some support. We will present more details on the Philippines in our following newsletters.

“The end is near, and every city is to be turned upside down every way. There will be confusion in every city. Everything that can be shaken is to be shaken, and we do not know what will come next. The judgments will be according to the wickedness of the people and the light of truth that they have had.”

*Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 248.



## PRAYER MEETINGS

### “Rome’s Arraignment Of Sabbath- Breakers”



65¢ Each

Friends, I watched the official State prayer meeting at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC at noon today. It alone was enough to warrant God’s judgment last Tuesday—or next Tuesday.

**Here is a quotation from Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon: “Those of us who are gathered here—Muslim, Jew, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu—all people of faith.”**

Leading the meeting were Episcopalians, a Roman Catholic Cardinal, Methodists, a Muslim cleric, and Baptist Billy Graham, an Arminian. The Methodist minister from Houston offered his prayer to the “God of Abraham and Mohammed, and the Father of Jesus Christ.”

**This is the sort of religious activity that makes God want to vomit (see Revelation 3:16). Isaiah’s warning to Israel is more detailed:**

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O Earth. For the Lord has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know; my people do not consider.’ Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters. They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. They have turned away backward. . . . When you come to appear before me, who has required this from your hand, to trample my courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to me. The new moons, the sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your new moons and appointed feasts my soul hates. . . . Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood.”

The United States is under the judgment of God. We are a nation of idolaters—demonstrated by today’s prayer meeting—running after other gods: Mary and the saints, Allah, Buddha, and bowing before images, statues, icons, and priests. We have rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ; we have violated every one of the Ten Commandments, not only as individuals, but as a nation: legalized abortion, legalized theft, campaigns and officeholders that pander to envy and covetousness, legalized sexual perversion and immorality, unbelievers and idolaters as chaplains in Congress and the armed forces, **desecration of the Christian Sabbath**, officially condoned lying and perjury—there are the reasons for the attack on Tuesday. God did not merely permit that attack; he caused it.

**If we are not humbled before God; if we do not believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, who saved his people from their sins; if we harden our hearts, then God will not be merciful; his judgment will continue. The religious response so far has been to harden our hearts, to continue to reject the truth of the Gospel, to continue to wallow in our religious filth and idolatry.**

But God will always be merciful to those who turn to him in faith. Isaiah continues: “‘Come now and let us reason together,’ says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword.” John Robbins, *The Trinity Foundation*, <http://www.trinityfoundation.org/>, September 14, 2001.

[**Editor’s note:** Robbin’s [author of *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*] comments are undermined by his understanding of the “**desecration of the Christian Sabbath**”. As Adventist’s we have further light that teaches that as we promote the final warning message, we are to seek to “remove prejudice” in order to enhance the reception of the truth by those who do not understand the issues.]

“Those who have long known the truth need to seek the Lord most earnestly, that their hearts may be filled with a determination to work for their neighbors. My brethren and sisters, visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness seek to reach their hearts. Be sure to **work in a way that will remove prejudice** instead of creating it. And remember that those who know the truth for this time and yet confine their efforts to their own churches, refusing to work for their unconverted neighbors, will be called to account for unfulfilled duties.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 34.

## **ISHMAEL SONS——USAMA BIN LADEN, SADDAM HUSSEIN, AYATOLLA KHOMEINI, YASIR ARAFAT, MUNIR KHADAFI, & ON & ON**

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And **he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man**, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Genesis 16:11–12.

## **REPORT NAMES WORLD’S WORST RELIGIOUS-FREEDOM OFFENDERS**

Nine countries—Burma, China, Iran, Iraq, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Turkmenistan—are among the world’s worst religious-freedom violators, according to the *United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*.

In an August 16 letter to United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, the commission recommended the US government designate these countries as “countries of particular concern,” thus making them subject to diplomatic and economic sanctions.

The commission, an independent body set up in 1998 to advise the United States government on the status of religious freedom internationally, also recommended that Afghanistan’s Taliban regime be re-categorized from “a country of particular concern” to “a particularly severe violator” of religious freedom.

Religious freedom violations in both Sudan and China have increased during the past year, the commission notes. The letter cites the violent crackdown on members of the Falun Gong sect in China, as well as the arrest of members of an underground Roman Catholic group. In Sudan, “religious-freedom violations were intertwined with other human rights and humanitarian abuses,” including the government bombing of civilian and humanitarian targets, the commission reports. The commission also cites “credible firsthand sources” who have described ongoing torture and execution of religious believers in North Korea.

In Turkmenistan, the government continues its harassment, arrest and, in some instances, torture, of religious believers, including Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, and Bahai’s, says the commission. *Adventist News Network*, August 20, 2001.

**Quotation:** “I feel very strongly that if any people are oppressed anywhere, the wrong inevitably reacts in the end on those who oppress them; for it is an immutable law in the spiritual world that no one can wrong others and yet in the end himself escape unhurt.” Theodore Roosevelt.

### **Number Eleven**

The date of the attack: 9/11—9 + 1 + 1 = 11

September 11<sup>th</sup> is the 254<sup>th</sup> day of the year: 2 + 5 + 4 = 11

After September 11<sup>th</sup> there are 111 days left to the end of the year

119 is the area code to Iraq & Iran

1 + 1 + 9 = 11 Twin Towers—standing side by side, looks like the number 11

The first jet to hit the towers was Flight 11

State of New York—The 11<sup>th</sup> state of the Union

New York City—11 Letters

Afghanistan—11 Letters

The Pentagon—11 Letters

Ramzi Yousef—11 Letters (convicted of orchestrating the attack on the WTC)

Flight 11—92 on board —  $9 + 2 = 11$

Flight 77—65 on board —  $6 + 5 = 11$

## firemen were unable to operate the engines

“On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners and builders. . . . The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings and said: ‘They are perfectly safe.’ But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

## this is the message

“‘Out of the cities; out of the cities!’—this is the message the Lord has been giving me. The earthquakes will come; the floods will come; and we are not to establish ourselves in the wicked cities, where the enemy is served in every way, and where God is so often forgotten. The Lord desires that we shall have clear spiritual eyesight. We must be quick to discern the peril that would attend the establishment of institutions in these wicked cities. We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places.” *Country Living*, 31.



## SYMBOLIC MIDEAST TACTICS

JERUSALEM, August 11—As they pound away like arm-weary boxers who refuse to give up, the Israelis and the Palestinians have each turned to making targets of some of each other’s important symbols. The tactic was conspicuously evident this week in attacks and reprisals that widened the already considerable divide and all but guaranteed that more violence lay ahead. Israeli police officers battled Palestinian protesters today on the streets near Orient House, the Palestinians’ political center in eastern Jerusalem. The building was occupied by Israeli forces on Friday after a Palestinian terrorist bombing in the city center.

**Several people on both sides were injured in the scuffles, and leaders of the Palestinian Authority appealed for international pressure to get the Israelis to reverse their takeover of Orient House and other Palestinian offices.**

The United States lent a sympathetic ear on Friday. A State Department spokesman called the Israeli moves against Palestinian institutions a “political escalation” that undermines “faith and confidence of a negotiated settlement” of a conflict that is now nearly 11 months old. And President Bush told *ABC News* that day that he felt frustrated by the events in the Middle East. “We’re doing our very best to convince both sides to stop the violence, but it requires an attitude, a desire to break the cycle of violence,” he said in an interview from Crawford, Texas. “They can do a better job of that.”

But there was no sign that either the Israelis or the Palestinians were about to blink first by taking steps acceptable to the other side, steps that would lead to resumed peace talks, or that until then the Americans were

prepared to get more deeply involved. The violence reached new peaks this week in certain respects, especially the symbolic.

The week began with a Palestinian gunman brazenly unloading an automatic rifle outside the compound in Tel Aviv that houses Israel's Defense Ministry and army headquarters, a symbol of Israeli might and independence if ever there was one. No one died, except for the gunman. But he had made a point: even at the gates of their military high command, Israelis may not assume they are safe.

Four days later, in the heart of downtown Jerusalem, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded pizzeria and restaurant, killing 15 people besides himself and wounding 130 others. The restaurant was a popular place for families. It was well-lighted and comfortable. It was also, in its way, a symbol of the strong desire among most Israelis to lead what much of the world considers a normal life.

Places like that—a shopping mall, a disco, a restaurant—have frequently been the targets of young suicide terrorists sent by Islamic radicals, so the violence directed at symbolic sites is not brand new. On one level, those sites are practical targets; the chances of taking many lives there are reasonably high. But those places also represent a Western way of life that most Israelis seem to have embraced. So bombing them may also be seen as attacking a basic element of Israeli hopes.

Hours after the Jerusalem bombing, Israel retaliated with a devastating, symbolic act of its own. Early Friday, its army and police force took over nine Palestinian offices in and around eastern Jerusalem. Most important was Orient House, a building generally regarded by Palestinians as their government house. It is, simply put, a physical symbol of their yearnings for a state, with the capital in Jerusalem. Israel's seizing of Orient House—intended to show that it controls all of Jerusalem, no matter what the Palestinians may think—could prove the symbolic act with the most enduring consequences. That was underlined by the battles that took place near the building today, and warnings from Palestinian leaders like Ahmed Qurei, a former peace negotiator who called the Israeli action "very serious and very dangerous." In the scuffles today, police officers pushed back Hanan Ashrawi, one of the more prominent Palestinian figures overseas, as she tried to walk toward Orient House. A short time later, Palestinian protesters attacked Israelis from nearby Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods.

A hardening of positions on both sides has given many people in both camps a sense that they are in for a long siege. "One can assume that this can indeed go on for a long time," said Joseph Alpher, a strategic analyst in Israel. But "it can't go on forever," he said.

That sense, shared by others, has fed concerns that one way the crisis can turn is toward a full-scale war, however that becomes defined. But Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has said repeatedly that he wants neither a war nor a collapse of the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasir Arafat.

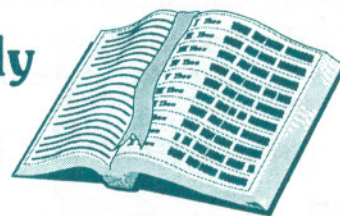
At the same time, Mr. Sharon says he will refuse to begin negotiating with the Palestinians until the daily violence stops completely.

While opinion polls show the prime minister enjoying solid public support, his efforts to cling to a ground somewhere between war and peace talks has fed criticism that he lacks a long-range strategy. "It seems that this government has chosen to get used to the present situation of everlasting conflict, with its ups and down," Alex Fishman, a columnist for the *Yediot Ahronot* newspaper, wrote on Friday.

The same surveys that say Mr. Sharon's policies have popular backing also suggest that most Israelis want to return to negotiations with the Palestinians. These conflicting desires may be reflected in tensions within the

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center-right coalition that Mr. Sharon has led for the last five months. Three Labor Party members in the coalition, notably Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, voted in an emergency cabinet meeting against actions like the Orient House takeover. In recent days, Mr. Peres has become more openly critical of the prime minister's refusal to negotiate under fire, saying it is unrealistic to expect all violence to stop and that the policy "means that every gunman can decide there will be no dialogue." <http://www.nytimes.com>.



## SOURCE OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PROPHECY OF LAST POPE

**A**bsurd theories abound. A search of the Internet would verify this assertion. Our popular view, held by many, occupied the thoughts of Roman Catholics in the early part of the twenty-first century as Pope John Paul II's health deteriorated and the effects of advanced Parkinson's disease were all too evident. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, January 3, 2001, recorded the impact of a prophecy, not inspired by God, but cunningly devised by an ambitious cardinal.

**The 900-year-old prophecies of an Irish saint have suddenly become new year's reading among Roman Catholics wondering who might be the next Pope—and worried about Armageddon.**

Bishop Malachy O'Morgair had a vision on a pilgrimage to Rome in 1139, which prophesied that the successor to the current pontiff, John Paul II, would be the second last to reign before the world ends.

Although not as widely known as Nostradamus, credited with foreseeing major events including the rise of the Beatles and the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Bishop O'Morgair has developed a huge following, including several Web sites.

The current Pope is the 110th nominated in the Malachy Prophecy, in which Bishop O'Morgair named 112 popes, the last of whom would reign as the world came to an end.

Adherents say the prophecy is moving into its final phases, triggered by plans by John Paul II to prepare for his successor.

He will appoint 25 new cardinals as early as next month, bringing the number of "red hats" to 120—the number required to elect a successor to the 80-year-old Pope, who has Parkinson's disease and may be forced to step aside.

Each pope identified in the prophecy had a mystical title, with the 110<sup>th</sup> described as De Labore Solis—"from the Labor of the Sun"—and is taken by many to allude to the fact that John Paul II is the son of a laborer, or a reference to his globe-circling missions, or even that he was born on a total eclipse.

John Paul II's successor was described by Malachy as Gloria Olivae, The Glory of the Olive. Wags link this with one of the front-runners for the next election, the 73-year-old Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini (Martini and Olive on the Rock—of Peter, that is).

But some who believe in the prophecy relate it to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and hence point to the Jew who is Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean Lustiger, 74.

Others claim it indicates an olive sprig bearer, a peacemaker, such as John Paul's global troubleshooter, Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, another Frenchman, who is 78.

Still others see it as a reference to the Olivetan branch of the Benedictine religious order. The Prophecy says the 112<sup>th</sup> pope will be named Peter II and his reign will coincide with Armageddon.

Malachy was a 12<sup>th</sup>-century monk who reformed the church in Ireland, linking it more closely with Rome. He presented his vision to Pope Innocent II, but the prophecy was suppressed or forgotten and was first published in Venice in 1595. Like those of Nostradamus, it is in code, and skeptics claim they are fake.

John Hill's response the following day exposed the subterfuge. The sixteenth century cardinal certainly receives high marks for originality in promoting his suitability for clerical advancement, but in this amateurish effort he did not succeed in his aims. His very act of subterfuge disqualified him from an ecclesiastical office of whatever rank. Hill explained, St Malachy had nothing to do with the prophecies attributed to him by Desmond O'Grady (*Herald*, January 3). They were first published in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, because that was when they were written.

A certain cardinal, anxious to be elected pope, had a series of “prophecies” written that accurately described previous popes, gave a nice description of himself (the would-be pope), and then had to run on for a few centuries to make the whole thing look authentic, with fanciful predictions that have absorbed a certain kind of mind ever since.

They were associated with Malachy because of his high standing in Rome. He was not the sort of man to indulge in this sort of thing; his journeys to Rome began because he was said to have “usurped” the See of Armagh, when his real concern was the reform of the Irish church.

There are others who, on tenuous grounds totally devoid of Scriptural support, cite the return of temporal power to the Vatican with the establishment of nationhood for the minuscule popedom as a significant point from which the seven heads of the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 will be counted. They point to the fact that there have been six popes since that date, February 11, 1929—Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I and John Paul II.

Those proposing this view state that John Paul II’s successor will be the seventh and last pope and “he will continue a short space” (Revelation 17:10). If such a scenario does occur it will owe nothing to Scripture, for proponents of this view have forgotten the eighth head.

Of the eighth head Scripture has stated, And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. Revelation 17:11. It would require the resurrection from the dead of one of the previous six popes in order for an “eighth” pope to rule jointly with the seventh. None should hold their breath awaiting such an event.

**[Editor’s note:** Unfortunately this Catholic prophetic interpretation has made its way into many Adventist prophetic presentations. The source should be considered, before promoting such heresy among God’s people.]



## CONGRESSMAN REQUESTS INVESTIGATION INTO “AIDS FLOW CHART” THEORY

**WASHINGTON (NNPA)**—An Ohio congressman has asked the Bush administration to investigate the research of a Black man who claims AIDS was developed by the United States government.

In a July 19 letter to Comptroller General David Walker, Representative James A. Traficant Jr., a democrat, wrote that civil rights activist and AIDS researcher Boyd Graves “has been studying the origins of the AIDS virus for years and has discovered documents that put into question the US government’s involvement in the creation of the virus.”

Traficant, who enclosed examples of Graves’ research, asked that they be examined for the health of Americans and people all over the world. <<http://www.boydgraves.com/images/congressmantraficant071901.JPG>>

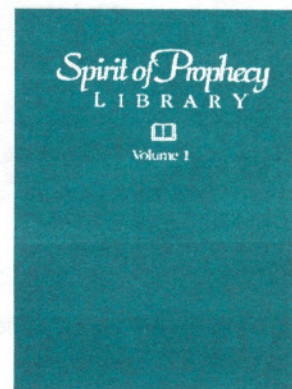
An official at the comptroller’s office said she could not confirm receiving the correspondence. As of press time last week, the comptroller’s office has not replied to the letter, according to Anthony Traficanti, regional director for the congressman.

Graves, who has addressed several African-American audiences on his theory, believes AIDS is the result of a US government-backed biological weapons program used by the Pentagon to limit Black population growth. August 28, 2001.

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# The Character and Sovereignty of God

David Lin

**B**ible Hebrew uses the word “name” for “character”. In Exodus 34:6–7 God proclaimed His name saying, “the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation.”

The chief attributes of God are His love and justice. They are epitomized in John 3:16; “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

It seems to speak only of God’s love, but His justice is also seen. For if God needed only to love men, He could have issued an order to grant to all eternal life. He need not have given His Son. But if sinful souls that do not love God could live forever, the world would be filled with immortal sinners. The world would be ruined, and eternal life would become a curse. So God must restore men’s faith in Him and love for Him. Jesus said, “You must be born again.” This means a heart renewal. To win our love, He gave His Son to bear our death penalty. This revealed His love and justice. But how do we know Jesus is the Son of God?

Hebrews 1:6,8–9 says, “When He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your companions.” Here God calls Jesus God.

Just how did God give His Son to the world? Hebrews 2:14 says, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” This says that one purpose in Christ taking human nature was to destroy the devil by dying. This was prophesied of Him from the day that the first parents of man sinned. After the serpent, the agent of Satan, tempted the woman to sin, God said to him, “I will put enmity between you and

the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Jesus, born of a virgin, finally inflicted the mortal wound on the devil.

How did the devil have the power of death? Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death.” By tempting man to sin, the devil acquired the power of death over man. Since the Lord bore man’s death penalty He saved man from the power of death, and destroyed him who had the power of death. He who wanted to destroy the human race, will finally be destroyed.

It is not enough for God just to proclaim His character. He must show His love by His needs. In giving Christ to the human race, He showed them His love. But how could man be made to believe in this and respond in love to God? Jesus proved His divinity by rising on the third day after His burial. His disciples, who were in total despair after His death, were the first to feel the force of this fact. 1 Peter 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Men accept history testified by witnesses. Witnessing to Jesus’ resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:3–7 says, “I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.” While the resurrection is good history, it was also foretold in Bible prophecy. Isaiah 53:9–10 says, “They made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death. . . . He shall see His seed, he shall prolong His days.” (live again) We find 43 prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament fulfilled in Jesus. The first came 4000 years before His birth. Most prophecies were written between 1500 to 400 BC Their fulfillment proves their divine source. To meet man’s intellect, God put the 43 miracles in the Bible to reward honest seekers for truth, and also that all who reject them be without excuse.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared incognito to two of His disciples and explained the prophecies to them



as they traveled to the village of Emmaus. Only after He had established their faith in Bible prophecies, did He reveal Himself to them as their risen Saviour. This is recorded in Luke 24, where it is also written, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Luke 24:44-45.

God proclaimed Himself as forgiving sin, and yet "by no means clearing the guilty." This apparent contradiction is fulfilled in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." God's forgiveness of sin must fulfill legal demands. Since Jesus became sin for us, God can by no means clear the guilty. He must execute the death sentence, on Christ. For the law cannot be abolished. God must bear the loss in order to satisfy His law. IF the law could be abolished, Christ need not have died. Man must respond to the love of our heavenly Father and be wholly born again through the work of the Holy Spirit. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." Reconciling means change of mind, not only responding to God's love, but also realizing that His law cannot be abolished.

The law that "the wages of sin is death," is not God's arbitrary decision. It resides in the very nature of the act. God had told Adam not to eat the fruit of a tree. His violation set him in opposition to God, severing his own connection to the Source of life. Psalm 36:9 says, "With Thee is the fountain of life." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25.

Another purpose in Christ's incarnation was to set an example for man. Philippians 2:5-11 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The ideal is in the words, "obedient to the point of death." God sets this example for all His creatures. He will show that Christ-likeness shall prevail in the whole universe. Is it possible? To attain to His ideal, God has paid an infinite price. It shall succeed. Romans 8:29 says,

"Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." To be "conformed to the image of His Son," is to follow Him gladly, making a positive response to His love. By truly admiring His obedience, we aspire to be true brethren worthy of that great Firstborn.

In the Bible Jesus says, "Follow Me" 18 times to different people. He wants all to learn His obedience to the Father. Revelation 14:4-5 records 144,000 saints "who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the lamb. . . . in their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God." God will be pleased with the fruitage of the infinite price He paid. Isaiah 53:11 says, "He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied." His satisfaction is that there are now 144,000 saints who have followed Him in perfect obedience, thus exposing Satan's lie that God's law cannot be kept. 2 Corinthians 10:6 says, "Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." That will mark Christ's final victory.

The above truths can be accepted by the honest-in-heart, but some are disturbed by the genocide, slaughter of children, slavery, polygamy and concubinage found in the Old Testament. They see such customs as incompatible with the character of God. That is due to their misconception, because they lack a comprehensive view of the Bible. They do not appreciate the sovereignty of God and His ways of dealing with men. The Old Testament is the basis and source of the New. In fact, first century Christians had only Old Testament books as their Bible, because New Testament books had not yet been written. For instance, the teaching of loving ones' enemies in Romans 12:20 is quoted from the OT in Proverbs 25:22. So it is wrong to think that the truths of the Old Testament and those of the New Testament are different. They come from the same source.

The principle in God's dealings with men is: obey and live; disobey and die. He once told Jeremiah to go to the potter's house, where he was making something on the wheel. The clay vessel he made was marred in the potter's hand; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter. Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter? . . . As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I

will repent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will repent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.” Jeremiah 18:7–10.

The first example is the flood in Noah’s day. The whole world, except Noah’s family, was destroyed for their sins. Babies died as well. Another calamity was the fire and brimstone rained on sinful Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham pleaded with God, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? . . . Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” God said that if there were 10 righteous people in the city, He would not destroy it. See Genesis 18:23–33. In the end there were not even 10. God sent angels to rescue a family of four out of Sodom before the fire fell, Genesis 19:10–29.

The book of Jonah tells of the repentance of the Ninevites, who were finally spared by God. He had sent Jonah to proclaim, “Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” “So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. . . . Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, and God repented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He didn’t do it.” Jonah was worried, lest he be called a false prophet. God said to him, “Should I not pity Nineveh, . . . in which are more than 120,000” children “who cannot discern between their right hand and their left, and also much livestock?” God does care for children.

God promised Abraham that his tribe may live in Canaan, but that they must wait 400 years before they can come, “For the iniquity of the Amorites,” who then occupied the land, “is not yet full.” Genesis 15:16. The Amorities were related with 6 other tribes whose crimes included copulation with beasts. Leviticus 18:24–28 says, “Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled . . . and the land vomits out its inhabitants . . . lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, . . . as it vomited out the nations that were before you.” God is fair, and deals equally with all. In Daniel 9:24 God fixed 490 years’ probation for the Jews. In the end they rejected their Messiah and crucified Him. So Jesus declared to the Jews the end of their probation, saying, “The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.” Matthew 21:43. God’s chosen people were rejected.

How do we explain, “visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children?” Deuteronomy 24:16 says, “The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.” The Bible Hebrew for “visit” occurs 305 times, and is rendered “number” or “count” in English 112 times. It means that failings of the fathers are likely to appear in the children. The progeny of thieves learn to steal more easily from their parents.

God ordered Israel to destroy 7 Canaanite tribes, for Genesis 15:16 had said, Their iniquity was full after 400 years had passed. Deuteronomy 8:19 says, “If you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.” God is no respecter of persons. He will punish Israel if they disobey.

Israel had to replace the 7 Canaanite tribes, but there were others they were told not to invade. See Deuteronomy 2:4–9; 17–19. They could give some a chance to surrender. If they did so, they were not to be killed. If a city resisted, they could capture it and slay the men, but spare women and children. See Deuteronomy 20:12–15. God dealt differently with every nation, keeping a clear account with them.

As to the fate of children, parents are told to instruct them. See Deuteronomy 6:4–7. 1 Corinthians 7:14 says of parents’ influence on children, “The unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband, otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.” Here “sanctify” and “holy” are use in the relative, not absolute, sense. In this we see that the fate of children depends much on their parents.

In the days of Moses, slavery was global in extent. Hence the Mosaic law was adapted to fit, but limited slavery to 6 years, so that a slave was set free in the 7th year. Yet God’s highest ideal was for all slaves to be free. Isaiah 58:6 says, “Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?” In New Testament times, 1 Corinthians 7:20–23 says, “Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it, but if you can be made free, rather use it. For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought with a price, do not become slaves of men.” In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1–9) Jesus taught that the only way to change man’s heart is to let the Holy Spirit apply God’s Word to it, as Jesus said, “You must be born again.”

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” John 3:5.

The royalty of England, Belgium, Holland and Sweden do not have concubines. This tradition is based on the truth in 1 Corinthians 7:4. “The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.” This higher standard has replaced the lower one of ancient times.

Jesus said of divorce, “What God has joined together, let not man separate,” Men asked Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.” Matthew 19:6–8. God made due allowance for men’s weaknesses. In Malachi 2:16 in the Old Testament, God says that He “hates divorce.” In Deuteronomy 17:17 He says of the king, “Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away.”

Many say they are offended by “eternal fire”, and don’t see how God can make people burn forever. This is really a misconception. God’s penalties follow a rule. He says, “That servant who knew his master’s will, and didn’t prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who didn’t know, yet committed things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few.” Luke 12:47–48. If they all burned forever, no difference could be made. The eternal fire in the Bible points to the eternal result of the penalty. The “eternal fire” in Jude 7 that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah, has gone out long ago. In Revelation 14:11 “The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.” That comes from Isaiah 34:10, which says, “Its smoke shall ascend forever and ever, from generation to generation it shall lie waste. . . . but the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it.” When all is burned up, the fire will go out. If a man cannot die in the fire, then he would have eternal life!

John 3:16 says that whoever believes in God’s only-begotten son should “not perish, but have everlasting life.” Note the wording. To perish is to cease to exist, not to live forever in the Hell fire. Even human justice, let alone God’s justice, would not think of making a sinner suffer endlessly for sins committed in a brief lifetime. Only sadists derive pleasure from tormenting people, how can God do so? Whenever the Bible applies the term “forever” to a human being, it refers to something lasting only for his lifetime (Exodus 21:26). Only when speaking of “eternal life”, would it mean unending existence.

“As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?” Ezekiel 33:11 “The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. Yet He will not clear the guilty. “The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves will hear His voice, and shall come forth—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.” John 5:28–29. The Lord is slow to anger, but when His anger comes, He must do “his strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.” Isaiah 28:21. It is unusual for God to do it.

The error on the other extreme is Universalism, which says that God never destroys. It fails to reckon with the fact that God made men free to choose between right and wrong. If they insist on disobeying God, He will not bear with them forever. James 4:12 says, “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.” God will certainly but reluctantly destroy those for whom He gave His Son to save, but who refuse to change their ways. He says, “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? My heart churns within Me, My sympathy is stirred.” Hosea 11:8. For them Christ has shed His blood in vain. They have repaid His love with hate, so in the end He gives them up to destruction.

After all evil has been destroyed, “there shall be no more sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain.” Revelation 21:4. As men get rid of garbage, so God gets rid of the wicked. It would be unthinkable for God to keep an ever-burning Hell where men writhe in flames and curse God continually. No, there will be a complete end to everything offensive. See Nahum 1:9.

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yea, all who do wickedly will be stubble, and the day which is coming shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts. “They will leave them neither root nor branch, but to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day that I do this, says the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 4:1–3.

After the earth has been cleansed by fire, God says, “Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.” Isaiah 65:17. The Garden of Eden will then be restored to a pure, sinless world.

# Video or Audio Presentations—by Jeff Pippenger

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“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. **The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment.** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 14.

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## *The Daily*

4 hours

This study upholds and defends the pioneer understanding of the “daily” in the book of Daniel, while applying that understanding to present fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

<b>Video</b>	20.00	<b>Audio</b>	10.00
		<b>Sermon notes</b>	3.00

“Then I saw in relation to the ‘daily’ (Daniel 8:12) that the word ‘sacrifice’ was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly **all were united on the correct view of the ‘daily’**; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test.” *Early Writings*, 74.

## *REVELATION 16*

5 hours

**This study identifies the beast, dragon, and false prophet of Revelation sixteen as the three powers symbolized in Daniel:40–45. It covers their history and shows how they are well on the way to leading the world to Armageddon.**

<b>Video</b>	30.00	<b>Audio</b>	17.00
		<b>Sermon notes</b>	2.00

“Many ministers make no effort to explain Revelation. They call it an unprofitable book to study. They regard it as a sealed book, because it contains the record of figures and symbols. But the very name that has been given it, ‘Revelation,’ is a denial of this supposition. Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events that are to take place in the last days of this earth’s history. The teachings of this book are definite, not mystical and unintelligible. **In it the same line of prophecy is taken up as in Daniel.** Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 415.