

FUTURE NEWS

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Judgments Are Already Falling

“The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.

“The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

“The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.

“Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but the heavenly watchers see the earth filled with corruption and violence. Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.

“We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime,’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?

“The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation.” *Christian Service*, 51-53.

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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

We had not the time to prepare a newsletter last month. Our apologies. We have been traveling a little more than normal. We spoke at three different meetings in California, followed by a trip to the Ukraine. Tomorrow I leave for a camp meeting in Venezuela, then speak at two other camp meetings at different cities in Colombia over the next two weeks.

UKRAINE PROJECT

Our meetings in the Ukraine did not go as expected, though we recognized the Lord's leading in the trip. We had expected to hold meetings with students at a college for two weeks with a possibility to speak to the Union officials during our time there. The college decided against allowing us to share with the students under the pretense that some of the students were non-Christian and that prophecy was too deep for young people to comprehend. They did allow me to speak on Sabbath morning, though they asked me to keep it simple and direct it towards the non-Christian. Instead, I shared that—probation is about to close. I determined if this was the only opportunity I might have to speak in the Ukraine—I would give the trumpet a certain sound.

In the audience, among the students, were about fifteen to twenty pastors who were helping in some construction projects at the college to help pay off their education costs from the seminary near Moscow. After the sermon they approached me and asked if I would be willing to continue speaking to them for the rest of the Sabbath and into the evening. Of course, I readily agreed.

They were all going to be working there until Wednesday and as they listened that evening to the information, they asked if I would come during the next three evenings after they finished work and continue sharing the prophecies. So besides all day long Sabbath we had from seven to ten the next three evenings. The material we shared was received with open hearts. Their endorsement helped arrange a meeting at the Union office that Monday to give an overview of what we were presenting to the local pastors during their weekly workers meetings. They offered me an hour to share—so I spoke for an hour and a half. They also were touched by the information.

What we had planned and expected in the Ukraine did not happen, but what the Lord planned was for the prophetic message to be introduced in order to prepare for a more productive sharing of the message. At this time the Union president is arranging a date early next year where we can return to the college to share the prophetic material for four solid days. We will use the college because it can house up to two hundred people and they intend to have two hundred pastors come together and study this material for a four-day seminar. Bear in mind that about seventy percent of the Adventists in the former Soviet Union are in the Ukraine. The Ukraine is no doubt the perfect launching pad for end time Bible prophecy in the former Soviet Union.

Because of the economy in the Ukraine *Future for America* will need to cover the expense of these meetings. They estimate three dollars a day for each pastor's room and board equaling six hundred dollars a day times four days. We intend to have a brother travel with us in order to video the entire presentations so the message can continue to sound through video and audio after we are gone. This will bring our travel expense to around twenty five hundred dollars, along with the twenty four hundred for the pastor's room and board. We have already started the translation of all our notes and materials for the seminar with some college students who were very willing to help with the project. We are budgeting up to two thousand dollars for the translation and printing of the materials. We are estimating the budget for this Ukraine project at seventy-five hundred dollars.

We have recognized the Lord's providence in our trip and we are trusting that He will bring this work to fruition through your prayers and financial support. If you are convicted to help with this project please mark your funds as Ukraine project. Thank you in advance.

UZBEKISTAN PROJECT

This was not the only door that was opened while we visited the Ukraine. I had traveled to Ukraine with my good friend and associate Steve Dickie. The Lord used him several years ago to raise up a printing work in the Ukraine, and it was the brethren he works with who were our contacts when we traveled to Kiev. He also supports a sister who does evangelism in the Moslem world. This sister was holding two evangelistic series in Uzbekistan while we were there and after my meetings ended, brother Steve traveled to Uzbekistan to video her meetings in order to put together a video presentation to help raise money for her ongoing work. Uzbekistan is the country the United States is currently using one of their airports in the war with Afghanistan. Uzbekistan borders the Ukraine.

While there, Steve traveled with some local conference pastors and as he did so he was confronted with an understanding, which I also had learned years before. This understanding is that in some of the Moslem world the most significant historical figure after the prophet Mohamed is the prophet Daniel. Steve passed through one town which has a monument which is supposedly a tomb containing the leg of the prophet Daniel. He brought back the label from some bottled drinking water, which claims to be curative because the spring where the water comes from is associated and named after the prophet Daniel.

MAGIC WATER

Месторождение целебного источника воды "Дониер-Бек" расположено в г. Самарканде в пойме реки родникового происхождения "Чашма" и известно населению Центральной Азии, Ближнего Востока и Китая с начала XV века.

История рождения его связана с именем пророка Даниила (Дониер-Пайгамбар). Родники "Дониер-Бек" в настоящее время являются местом паломничества с целью излечения заболеваний желудочно-кишечного тракта, почечно-каменной болезни кожных заболеваний, бесплодия и потенции.

Химический и биологический анализы воды соответствуют всем предъявляемым нормативам, вода признана специалистами экологически чистой, рекомендована как для прямого употребления, так и для приготовления пищи.

Тартиби:
Na- 26,6 mg/l
Ca- 68,0 mg/l
Mg- 26,7 mg/l
SO₄- 76,5 mg/l
HCO₃- 250,0 mg/l
Cl- 12,0 mg/l
Жесткость - 4,5 mg/l

0,6 L



MAGIC WATER

TOZA SUV

+5° DAN +20° C GACHA HARORATDA SAQLANSIN. SAQLANISH MUDDATI 12 OY
ICTF "ZAR INTER", XT "BAHRAMOV SHUHRAT"
SAMARQAND SH. UZBEKISTON K. 74
TEL: (3662) 35-31-43

MAGIC WATER

The curative water spring "Daniyor" is located in Samarkand, in the district of the small river of spring origin "Chashma". The spring water is well known in Central and south-eastern Asia, Middle East and China from the beginning of the XV century. The origin of the spring connected with the name of the Prophet Daniel.

At present "Doriyor-Bek" springs is known as the place of pilgrimage for the people suffering from skin gall stones and stomach diseases, sexual potential, barrenness. Chemical and biological analysis of spring water correspond to all the world standards. It is recognized the ecological pure and it is recommended both for drinking and for cooking.



As he traveled through Uzbekistan he came under conviction that the key to reach the Moslem world might possibly be to emphasize Daniel the prophet. By the time he had left he had got commitments from the conference brethren that we could return and hold a seminar in the city of Samarkand, a city of one-hundred thousand, and share the end-time prophetic message using the book of Daniel as our point of reference. We then will travel to a city in Turkistan and present the same material.

Years ago an Adventist sister I knew had been raised in Iran. She had told us that in the public schools in Iran, Daniel the prophet is the same type of historical figure as Abraham Lincoln is in the United States. I too, recognized the potential that Steve had recognized in his visit.

Not only would the prophet Daniel be a subject of interest, but the book of Daniel identifies the Catholic church as the antichrist power. The Catholic church is a tremendously important historical figure in the Moslem world, because for hundreds of years during the crusades the Catholic church warred against the Moslem world. The United Nations is the one-world government of Bible prophecy and this too is identified

in the book of Daniel, as well as the United States. Both the US and the UN are currently having great impact on the Moslem world. Several big items of interest for the Moslem mind are located in the book of Daniel and it seems reasonable that the Lord will be willing to use this approach as a tool to bring the final warning message to at least part of the Moslem world.

The difficulties in this project are as follows. There is no evangelism allowed in Uzbekistan or Turkistan except if it is done in a church that you own. In order to take this message to an un-entered city we will need to raise money to buy a building and convert it to an Adventist church. The brethren estimate this at twenty thousand dollars per church. We then have the expense of translating the materials into their local language and designing and printing tracts for the meetings. We are budgeting two computers for the translators in Uzbekistan along with the hourly rate for the workers and the printing costs. There are travel expenses and no doubt some unknown cost as we proceed, but we have recognized that our trip to the Ukraine was for purposes we never thought before we left home. We must believe this is in the Lord's providence and that He will guide and supply the necessary means. Steve Dickie's ministry, *Strawberry Meadow* is actively working on raising money for this project along with *Future for America*, and if you are impressed to help with this project mark your contribution as Uzbekistan project. We are trying to hold these meetings before next summer as we are under conviction that our time to work is rapidly running out.

We are now finalizing next years' evangelistic projects in the Philippines. We are holding four evangelistic series. The financial commitment for the fourth series was given a few days ago and is twelve hundred dollars short of the budget of fifty-two hundred dollars per series. We needed to move forward in order to get the Bible workers started in advance of the meetings, so we are still hoping for twelve hundred to cover the fourth series. All the funding for the other three series is in. We will hold two series simultaneously from January 20 through February 2 and then the third series will begin on February 2 and continue until the 16th. The fourth series will take place the last two weeks of May.

We have funded the building of one church and currently have one thousand dollars towards the construction of another church. We had hoped to build a total of three churches, but are only sure of the one at this point. The second church has a budget of \$7,800.00 while the third church has a budget of sixty-five hundred dollars. If you can help with part of the remaining twelve hundred dollar balance of the fourth evangelistic series mark your offerings as Philippine evangelism. If you can help with part of the remaining sixty-eight hundred dollar balance on the second church mark your offering as Philippine church.

We have been warned that our work would be harder as we approach the end and that we would have to accomplish tasks during hard times that we could have done in easy times ad we not been so Laodicean in our attitude.

“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.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 463.

I am convinced that one of the unseen difficulties that has recently arrived is our ability to clearly identify the role the United States plays in end-time Bible prophecy. Since September 11, patriotism in the

United States has risen to a level that I certainly have never recognized in my fifty years of life. In spite of this we will still need to clearly identify who and what the United States is in Bible prophecy to those who would listen. And the role of the US at the end of the world is not something that promotes patriotism when correctly understood. Our work has become more difficult!

I certainly do not agree with Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson's analysis on why the United States was attacked by terrorists, but they were closer to the truth than they usually are. Brothers and Sisters, each step away from God that the US takes removes it farther from the divine protection that has been especially given to this nation.

“The greatest and most favored nation upon the earth is the United States. A gracious Providence has shielded this country, and poured upon her the choicest of Heaven’s blessings. Here the persecuted and oppressed have found refuge. Here the Christian faith in its purity has been taught. This people have been the recipients of great light and unrivaled mercies. But these gifts have been repaid by ingratitude and forgetfulness of God. The Infinite One keeps a reckoning with the nations, and their guilt is proportioned to the light rejected. A fearful record now stands in the register of heaven against our land; but the crime which shall fill up the measure of her iniquity is that of making void the law of God.” *Signs of the Times*, July 4, 1899.

Certainly, God is not arbitrarily punishing the US, but has not the USA moved further and further from its foundation as a Protestant and Republican nation in the last twenty years? This truth corresponds to all the prophetic information that has been being confirmed in current events over the last twenty years or so. When have we had a more pro-Catholic president? When has the Congress been more under the influence of the leaders of apostate Protestantism? When have the politicians been more directed by popular opinion instead of principle than now? When have the people of this nation been more influenced by worldliness and affluence than now? When has the principles within the Constitution been under greater threat than now? When?

It is unfortunate that the prophetic truth concerning the USA is clouded by the misguided rhetoric which has been spewed out by people such as Falwell and Robertson, but as Seventh-day Adventists living at the end of the world, we must not dodge the tough truths associated with end-time events. We are the people who are supposed to clarify the issues at the end of the world, just as Daniel clarified the issue of the hand writing on the wall for Belshazzar. One of the obvious prophetic truths connected with September 11, is that God is letting the winds of strife blow and those winds are directly related to man's rejection of the mercies of God. This principal holds true for men, families, nations—even the world at large.

“With unerring accuracy the Infinite One **still keeps an account with all nations**. While His mercy is tendered with calls to repentance, this account will remain open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. There is no more pleading of mercy in their behalf.

“The prophet, looking down the ages, had **this time presented before his vision**. The nations of this age have been the recipients of unprecedented mercies. The choicest of heaven's blessings have been given them, but increased pride, covetousness, idolatry, contempt of God, and base ingratitude are written against them. **They are fast closing up their account with God. . . .**

“The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help. ‘The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 208–209.

Genesis 16:11 teaches that Ishmael's descendants would be wild men who were against all men and that every man would be against them. Certainly September 11 is a fulfillment of this prediction about the descendants of Ishmael, but also provides the prophetic light on how the whole world would be brought into the unity necessary for a willingness to implement a one-world government. The descendants of Ishmael have drawn the world into an alliance designed to ultimately demand the whole world to set up "the image of the beast." This very issue has also catapulted the US to a point where it is telling the whole world that you are either for us or against us, in direct fulfillment of Revelation 13. With these prophetic issues suddenly crystallizing on September 11, how can we not see that the Lord is responding to the USA's continued apostasy by gradually removing the providential blessing which this nation has received since its inception two centuries ago?

Attacks Not "God's Punishment," Says Biblical Scholar

The tragic events surrounding last Tuesday's terrorist attacks should not be interpreted as an expression of God's anger against America, says Dr. Angel Rodriguez, a leading Seventh-day Adventist Biblical scholar. "Tempting as it is to speculate concerning the role of God in those events, we must simply acknowledge that they were the result of the presence of evil in this world," says Rodriguez.

Rodriguez' comments come just a few days after well-known Christian television evangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson speculated, on air, that, "God continues to lift the curtain and allow the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve."

Naming pagans, abortionists, feminists, homosexuals, the *American Civil Liberties Union* and the *People for the American Way*, Falwell said, "All of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'" Falwell and Robertson have since backed away from their controversial comments, saying their "theological" observations have been widely misunderstood or misconstrued.

But the controversy has illustrated the perception among some people of an avenging God, who had a direct hand in the destruction of last week's terrorist tragedy, says Rodriguez.

"While we deplore the constant assaults on Christian values in American society through secular philosophies and action groups, **we do not believe the terrorist attacks were a direct result of the waning spirituality in America,**" says Rodriguez, who is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, located at the Adventist Church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States.

"We also believe God can bring good out of the chaos created by irrational assaults on buildings and human lives," adds Rodriguez. "He can make us more sensitive to the need to strengthen our relationship with Him, realizing that our ultimate refuge is found in His loving Care. He can use the result of evil to invite us to forget ourselves, pray and work for others, and to unite the nation."

"A tragedy like the one our nation has experienced should motivate our leaders to serious reflection in an attempt to understand better why we have become the object of such hatred that led to this crime against humanity," he adds. "God can bring good out of an unspeakable evil, without either being its cause or part of the process of justifying it."

Spiritual questions raised by the events of the past week were also addressed by Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the Adventist world church, who spoke to church members around the world this weekend via a special satellite uplink.

"It is important to remember that God only knows precisely how the future will develop and how events will play themselves out," said Paulsen. "It helps no one, and it does not help the mission that God has entrusted to His church to carry out, for you or I to become overly speculative about that which is yet to happen. We are called on to be vigilant, to be sober, and to carry on with His mission until He comes." *ANN*, September 18, 2001.



LET NO ONE'S INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY ROB YOU

“But there is a day that God hath appointed for the close of this world’s history. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ Prophecy is fast fulfilling. More, much more, should be said about these tremendously important subjects. The day is at hand when the destiny of every soul will be fixed forever. This day of the Lord hastens on apace. **The false watchmen are raising the cry, ‘All is well’; but the day of God is rapidly approaching.** Its footsteps are so muffled that it does not arouse the world from the deathlike slumber into which it has fallen. While the watchmen cry, ‘Peace and safety,’ ‘sudden destruction cometh upon them,’ ‘and they shall not escape’; ‘for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.’ It overtakes the pleasure-lover and the sinful man as a thief in the night. When all is apparently secure, and men retire to contented rest, then the prowling, stealthy, midnight thief steals upon his prey. When it is too late to prevent the evil, it is discovered that some door or window was not secured. ‘Be ye also ready: for in an such hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.’ People are now settling to rest, imagining themselves secure under the popular churches; but let all beware, lest there is a place left open for the enemy to gain an entrance. **Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one’s interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand.**” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 335.



THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD ARE ALREADY DOING THEIR WORK

“‘What of the night?’ Do I discern the import of these messages? Do I understand the place they occupy in the closing work of the great remedial system? Am I so familiar with the ‘sure word of prophecy’ that I can see in the events transpiring around me positive evidence that the coming King is even at the door? Do I sense the responsibility that rests upon me, in view of the light God has given? Am I using every talent entrusted to me as his steward, in well-directed effort to rescue the perishing? or am I lukewarm and indifferent, partly mixed up with a wicked world, using the means and ability God has given me, largely in self-gratification, caring more for my own ease and comfort than for the advancement of his cause? Am I by my course strengthening ‘the conviction that has been gaining ground in the world that Seventh-day Adventists are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound, and are following in the path of worldlings’?

“‘We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity.’ ‘The end of time is close upon us. The world’s inhabitants are being bound in bundles to be burned. Shall you be bound up with the tares?’ ‘Do you realize that every year thousands and thousands and ten times ten thousand souls are perishing, dying in their sins? **The plagues and judgments of God are already doing their work,** and souls are going to ruin because the light of truth has not been flashed upon their pathway.’” *General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1897.



EVERY REPORT OF CALAMITY IS A TESTIMONY

“Sound an alarm through the land. Tell the people that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. Let none be left unwarned. We might have been in the place of the poor souls who are in error. According to the truth that we have received above others, we are debtors to impart the same to them.

“We have no time to lose. The powers of darkness are working with intense energy, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do, but soon it will be more difficult than we imagine. God help us to keep in the channel of light, to work with our eyes fastened upon our Leader, and patiently, perseveringly press on till the victory is gained.

“The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. Every report of calamity by sea or by land is a testimony to the fact that the end of all things is at hand. Wars and rumors of wars declare it. Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? The Lord is coming. **We hear the footsteps of an approaching God**, as he comes to punish the world for its iniquity. We are to prepare the way for him by acting our part in getting a people ready for that great day. No entreaties are so tender, no lessons so plain, no commands so powerful and so protecting, no promises so full, as those which point the sinner to the fountain that has been opened to wash away the guilt of the human soul. Let every heart as well as every hand be engaged to do the work that must be done. The word is given from the throne of God, ‘Every man to his work, each to do his best.’” *Review and Herald*, November 12, 1914.



BARNA RESEARCH ON POTTER, LEFT BEHIND, PRAYER OF JABEZ BOOKS.

Barna conducted telephone interviews with a nationwide random sample of 1003 adults in May 2001.

The *Harry Potter* series is almost three times as widely known as the *Left Behind* series, despite the enormous sales of the latter; The *Harry Potter* series, written by British author J.K. Rowling, includes four books that have sold an estimated 24 million copies. Although the target audience for those books is children, more than two-thirds of American adults (69%) are aware of the series.

About one out of every ten American adults has read at least part of one book in the *Left Behind* series, and the series is about twice as widely-known as the *Jabez* book, perhaps attributable to the fact that it contains nine books and has been in the marketplace several years longer than *Jabez*; The researcher noted that the *Left Behind* series represents one of the most widely experienced religious teaching or evangelistic tools among adults who are not born again Christians. He pointed out that the series has reached a larger unduplicated audience of non-believers than most religious television or radio ministries draw through their programs.

Among adults who have read a book in the *Left Behind* series, born again Christians outnumber non-Christians by more than a nine-to-one. The adults least likely to have read a *Left Behind* book included non-born again adults (only 2% said they had read one or more of the books), Catholics (3%) and adults in the Northeast (2%). *Barna Research Update*, October 22, 2001.



ONE-THIRD US CHRISTIANS HAVE NO DENOMINATIONAL TIES

One-third of Americans identifying themselves as “Christian” in a recent poll say they are unaffiliated with any church. The result builds on existing evidence that Americans are increasingly unwilling to be identified with a particular denomination, say researchers with Beliefnet, one of the organizations that sponsored the survey.

The *ABC-Beliefnet* June poll also showed the broad range of Protestant Christian denominations that exist in the United States. Respondents who claimed denominational affiliation named a total of 50 different Christian groups. Fifteen percent said they were Baptists; 6 percent Methodists; 5 percent Lutherans; 2 percent Pentecostals; 2 percent Presbyterians; and 1 percent each for Seventh-day Adventists, Episcopalians, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Mormons. *ANN*, August 20, 2001.

USA TRADITIONAL FAMILY DECLINES

% of all householders who are unmarried.	1950	2000
	22%	48%
% of households occupied by one person.	1960	2000
	13%	26%
% of population that has never been married.	1970	1999
	22%	29%
% of parents who never married; 1998 census.	Male	Female
	35%	42%
% of married householders with children.	1970	2000
	40%	24%
Children whose parents are college graduates;	1998 census.	
	One-parent homes	Two parent homes
	9%	29%
% of same-sex female householders with children.	1990	1998
	14%	17%
% of all U.S. households run by single moms.	1970	1999
	5%	9%
% of children with a single parent earning under \$12,500: 1998 census.		
	% with fathers	% with mothers
	17%	41%

In their new book, *The Myth of Monogamy*, David Barash and Judith Lipton say that in the natural world, monogamy is rare, and even among humans it was probably the exception throughout much of human history. *Newsweek*, May 28, 2001.

[**Editor's note:** Making moral judgments on the basis of observing amoral creatures degrades morally responsible mankind down to the level of beasts, and so they behave themselves accordingly. The gist of the article shows that US women tend to be perfectionistic, and US men tend toward abandonment of their children. With opposing attitudes like that, it is easy to see why the current trend exists, and why it will continue. "And he (the final Elijah message) shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:6.]

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STUDY: 300,000 US KIDS IN SEX TRADE

"Nation's least recognized epidemic," researcher claims Lois Lee, director of the Los Angeles-based Children of the Night, talks to a teen prostitute on Hollywood Boulevard about trying to get off the streets.

Between 300,000 and 400,000 US children are victims of the sex trade each year, from juvenile pornography and street prostitution to selling sex at school, according to a university study released Monday that tracked children in 17 major cities.

The most comprehensive study ever done on the sexual exploitation of children in the US is reaching some disturbing conclusions. NBC's Andrea Mitchell reports.

"Child sexual exploitation is the most hidden form of child abuse in the US and North America today. It is the nation's least recognized epidemic," Richard Estes, a University of Pennsylvania professor of social work and co-author of the report, said in a statement announcing the study.

Based on field research, interviews and surveys from 288 federal and local agencies, the study estimated that 300,000 to 400,000 children in America were victims of sexual exploitation each year. That's 1 of every 100 children in the country.

"That figure just blew our minds. We never, at the beginning of the study, thought we would encounter so many children in this predicament," Estes told Reuters.

Estes and his team visited 17 US cities over two years, meeting with federal and local law enforcement agencies, human services departments and hundreds of children both living at home and on the streets. "We never, at the beginning of the study, thought we would encounter so many children in this predicament."

Contrary to popular belief, as many boys as girls were affected, but Estes said boys got less attention both from law enforcement and social services because of the view that they could look after themselves.

"Every place we went, we found for every girl there was a boy involved too. People feel a need to protect girls, and for boys it's thought of as sowing their oats," said Estes, adding some boys graduated from their years of sexual servitude to become pimps.

Most of the children in the study were white youths who had run away from middle-class homes. Less than a quarter of the children in the report were from impoverished homes, Estes said.

The largest groups of children affected were runaway, "throwaway" and homeless youths, many of whom used "survival sex" to acquire food, shelter, clothing and other things needed to eke out a living on America's streets, Estes said.

"Like other groups of sexually exploited persons, street children are exposed to violence, drug abuse, rape and, sometimes, even murder at the hands of the pimps, 'customers' and traffickers that make up their world."

Lois Lee, who runs a Los Angeles-based shelter called *Children of the Night*, said her experience shows that "heroin is often the entry into prostitution." And she traces the problem of teen prostitution and street life back to 1976, when Congress passed a juvenile delinquency act that cut off funds if police forces picked up children for misdemeanors. Estes said some children sell themselves for sex to high school students while living at home and used the money to buy drugs, expensive clothes and other consumer goods.

Many of these children lived in secure middle-class homes, and few parents were aware of what was going on. This group also included US youths who crossed into Canada or Mexico in search of cheaper drugs, alcohol and sex, Estes said.

The study pointed out other trends as well, among them: 95 percent of the commercial sex that boys engaged in was with men. At least 25 percent of girls in gangs had sex with other members as part of the gang rites.

Married men who have children of their own are one of the most common customers who pay children for sex. The sexual exploitation of children affected all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, although children from poorer families appeared to be at a higher risk. Strangers committed fewer than 4 percent of all the sexual assaults against children.

Estes said a disproportionate number of street youths had histories of recurrent physical or sexual abuse at home and took to the streets in a bid to stop this. "It is ironic that running away from home increases their risk of physical violence and sexual abuse," he said.

The study titled *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the US, Canada, and Mexico* was undertaken by the Center for the Study of Youth Policy, part of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Work.

The results for Canada were not yet available, while the section on Mexico, compiled last year, concluded that at least 16,000 children in the country are sexually exploited. The study noted that some exploitation was among immigrant communities, with both organized gangs and individuals bringing children illegally into the country.

“The situation in the US must be understood within the broader content of child sexual exploitation occurring throughout both the North American region and the rest of the world,” Estes said. “Only through such understanding will the US be able to act decisively in protecting her children from such heinous abuse.” The US and Mexican studies are online at caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC.htm. *MSNBC.com*’s Miguel Llanos as well as *The Associated Press* and *Reuters* contributed to this report.

STUDY FINDS RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT BUILDS SELF-ESTEEM IN YOUTH

Religiously active youth have higher levels of self-esteem than their counterparts who are not religious, according to a study presented at the *American Psychological Association* annual convention August 24.

“Religious involvement appears to have the largest impact on how early adolescents evaluate themselves,” researchers said. The study demonstrated that religious youth are more confident in their abilities, while adolescents not involved in religious activities are prone to feel like they “don’t have much to be proud of.”

The study, conducted by the *University of Michigan Survey Research Center*, examined the self-esteem of 1,261 eighth graders. Researches found that close family relationships reinforced religious involvement.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5–6.

GROUP CONVINCES SCHOOLS TO OFFER SCRIPTURE COURSE AS ELECTIVE

The National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools has already seen its materials approved by 151 school districts in 32 states. Currently, over 60,000 public-school students nationwide have taken the course, which presents the Bible as history and literature, using the Bible as the textbook.

Specifically, the course has five main objectives, as stated in the curriculum:

To equip the student with a fundamental understanding of the important literary forms contained in the Bible, as well as people and symbols often referred to in literature, art, and music;

To equip the student with a fundamental understanding of the influence of the Bible on history, law, American community life and culture;

To give insight into the world views of America’s Founding Fathers and to understand the Biblical influences on their views on human rights;

To provide greater knowledge of Middle-Eastern history, geography, religion and politics; and

To inform the students of the importance of religion in world and national history, without imposing the doctrine of any particular religious sect.

A total of four semesters are available through the courses titled Bible I and Bible II. Each yearlong program includes a semester each on the Old and New Testaments.

“How can a student study Middle Eastern history without incorporating the Bible?” asks council President Elizabeth Ridenour. “What meaning would Michaelangelo’s ‘Moses’ or Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Last Supper’ have to students if they don’t know about the figures who inspired these works of art? How could some people even consider censoring the best-selling book of all time from our children’s education? Do they consider the Bible a ‘right-wing’ book?”

The Supreme Court, said Ridenour, has declared as legal the teaching of Bible curriculum as an elective on campus during school hours for credit in public high schools. And to back up the validity of the council’s curriculum, the group

solicited an 11-page legal opinion that states the course materials meet all constitutional guidelines. The opinion was written by five attorneys, including law professors from Notre Dame University and Princeton University.

A secular study by the *American Political Science Review* on the political documents of the founding fathers showed 94 percent of the documents were based on the Bible. Of that, 34 percent of the contents were direct quotations from the Bible.

“Our Founding Fathers never intended for the Bible to be removed from our public schools,” Ridenour remarked, noting that the men “were willing to give their very lives for their beliefs.”

Yet, in 1963, the Supreme Court outlawed Bible reading in government run schools, and in 1980, it banned the 10 Commandments as well. The council claims a causal relationship can be seen between the rulings and “a steep decline” of America’s collective virtue and education. About 88 percent of students nationwide are educated in the public school system, and those students have been denied their constitutional right to choose to learn about the Bible in school, the council contends.

“While there are principals, teachers and school boards who serve their communities in truth and fairness, due to misunderstanding and misinterpretation many have assisted in the denial of the constitutional rights of students and teachers. We must reclaim our rights, and we must do this responsibly,” said Ridenour. “As President Woodrow Wilson said, ‘A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know what it is today nor what it is trying to do.’ We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”

So far, various school districts in Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Kentucky, New Mexico, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia have approved the program and have begun offering the elective. Districts in several other states have approved the curriculum as well, including Texas, which has the highest number of districts onboard at 31.

In the next month, associates of the *National Council on Bible Curriculum* in Public Schools will present the curriculum to 12 more school districts across the country. The council is also working to approach districts in Hawaii.

The council’s efforts are endorsed by several prominent public figures, including pastors D. James Kennedy and Jerry Falwell, actress Jane Russell and Capt. Scott O’Grady, who was shot down over Bosnia and later rescued. *WorldNetDaily.com* July 31, 2001.

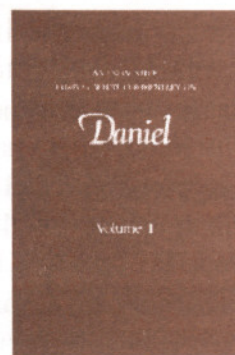
Dr. Albert Barnes: “If we can have a Sabbath, maintained by a healthful, popular sentiment, rather than by human laws, Christianity is safe in this land, and our country is safe. If not, the Sabbath, and religion, and liberty, will die together.”



10 COMMANDMENTS MONUMENT

Two years ago Alabama Circuit Court justice Roy Moore became famous when after being sued by the *American Civil Liberties Union*, he refused to take down from his courtroom wall a small wooden plaque with the Decalogue inscribed on it. Now, he has been elected Chief Justice of the Alabama state Supreme Court, and has commissioned a sculptor to create a 5,280 pound stone monument with the Ten Commandments, plus some quotations from the Founding Fathers of the country inscribed on it. The ACLU and *Americans United for the Separation of Church and State* are considering legal action again. Dr. D. James Kennedy, Ph.D., who founded the Coral Ridge TV and radio ministries, supports Justice Moore saying, “Our nation must return to the fear of God. We must honor God’s Law, God’s Word. It is horrifying to think of our fate as a nation if we continue to blatantly disregard the Ten Commandments that were given for the protection of all people, and the preservation of all nations.” From a *Coral Ridge Ministries* solicitation letter. September 2001.

The Daniel And Revelation SOP Commentary



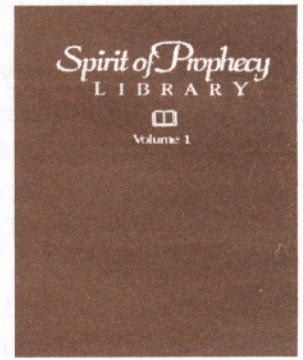
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“Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin. The protest of Bible truth will be no longer tolerated by those who have not made the law of God their rule of life.” *Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897.

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CHRISTIANITY

“ALMOST VANQUISHED” IN BRITAIN?

Roman Catholic Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor claimed the impact of Christianity on the culture and intellectual life of modern Britain is greatly diminished, to the point of being “almost vanquished,” said the cardinal at a conference of priests held September 5.

Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the Adventist Church in Britain, said he was surprised and concerned by the cardinal’s comments.

“Although we see other religions displacing Christianity in some parts of our country and are concerned at the rise of atheism and apathy in formerly Christian communities, we do not believe that we should fear for the future. If anything these trends should motivate us to redouble our efforts in convincing others of the truth and beauty of the Christian faith,” Perry added.

Other Christian leaders in Britain also disagreed with the cardinal’s analysis. The Anglican Church’s Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, told reporters that there should be “nothing to frighten us or worry us” as we see changes in the society around us. It is “an exhilarating time to be a Christian,” he said.

With almost 700,000 adherents, Islam is Britain’s fast-growing faith, according to 1999 statistics. Some 6 million, or 12 percent of Britons, are Christians, a drop of 10 percent since 1970. *ANN*, September 18, 2001.



JAPAN STEPS UP FIGHT AGAINST MAD COW DISEASE

Tokyo, September 19, 2001—Stepping up its battle against mad cow disease Wednesday, Japan adopted strict European standards that require the testing of up to 1 million cattle nationwide for signs of the brain-deteriorating disease.

The investigations come as Japan scrambles to head off a consumer backlash and reopen beef export markets, such as the United States, which quickly barred Japanese meat imports after a possible mad cow case was announced last week. China, South Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines have joined the list of countries banning Japanese beef.

Just last week, Japan’s Agriculture Ministry announced that a test on a suspected mad cow from an area outside Tokyo showed evidence of the disease—making it possibly the first case in Asia. A panel of scientists is still expected to make a final determination, however. Since then, the ministry has mobilized about 5,800 officials to conduct spot tests at the nation’s 140,000 cattle farms. nandotimes.com.



CHINA AND THE VATICAN

A major diplomatic triumph for Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Pope John Paul II is in the works. China and the Vatican are preparing to bridge the historical differences between them—and may even pave the way for the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

According to diplomatic and church sources, a series of carefully choreographed statements and meetings in the weeks ahead will end decades of hostility between the tiny European state, which heads the world's hundreds of millions of Roman Catholics, and China, which expelled foreign clergy and broke links with the Vatican in the 1950s.

For the Vatican—and this pope—the benefits of an official relationship with China are plain: the potential to increase their following among the 1.3 billion people who live there.

For Beijing the primary reason for wanting to heal the rift is political, say diplomats and clerics. In the event of mutual diplomatic recognition, the Vatican would be obliged to break diplomatic relations with Taiwan. As the last European state to refuse to recognize Beijing and as an influential voice in the world, the Vatican's conversion would be a significant coup for China. It would also weaken the stance of half-a-dozen predominantly Catholic countries in Central America that maintain ties with Taiwan.

Visible steps towards improved relations could coincide with the planned visit by United States President George W. Bush to China from October 20–21. This would allow Beijing to deflect U.S. criticism of its human-rights record—likely to be muted now as Washington seeks to build support for its global campaign against terrorism—and permit Bush to claim a major success.

For Jiang Zemin, it would be a further move toward a more confident foreign policy. It could also heal a sometimes-nasty split between the state-approved Patriotic Catholic Church, which rejects the pope's authority, and an "underground" Catholic Church that has remained loyal to the Vatican. Bringing the two together would help rid Beijing of its underground church problem.

The process will begin to unfold on October 14 when Catholic scholars from around the world gather in Beijing for a conference to mark the 400th anniversary of the start of Italian Jesuit Matteo Ricci's mission to China in 1601.

Ricci is remembered among Chinese intellectuals as a Westerner who understood China, and his reputation survived the anti-Western mood that swept the country in the aftermath of the Communist takeover in 1949. Today his grave lies neatly tended in the grounds of the Communist Party School in northwestern Beijing.

In the last few weeks the attendance at the Beijing conference of two Vatican officials—a cardinal and a representative of the Vatican State Department—has been agreed. They will be accompanied by former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Later in the month Bishop Michael Fu Tieshan of the Beijing Diocese, chairman of the Patriotic Catholic Church, will attend a ceremony in Rome to mark the Ricci anniversary at the invitation of the Italian Catholic Church.

The pope will deliver an address at the ceremony. It is expected to include reference to a bitter row that erupted last year between the church and China over the nomination of bishops and the canonization of saints. More importantly, he will offer some form of apology for historical wrongdoing by the Catholic Church in China, primarily its close connection with European imperialism, say diplomatic and church sources.

According to the schedule worked out by both sides, relations between the two states will be much improved by the end of next month. But observers caution that full diplomatic relations need not follow automatically and point out that Beijing and the Vatican have been on the brink of concord in the past, only to retreat into acrimony.

In late 1999, Catholics in China believed they were on the brink of a breakthrough. But obstructed by conservatives in Beijing and Rome, the deal fell through in a welter of recrimination and venom directed at the Vatican and the history of Catholicism in China by the communist press.

Among those reluctant to embrace a relationship, say diplomats familiar with the situation, are conservatives among the Taiwan bishops and conservative elements within the Vatican as well as leftists inside China who are suspicious of the church's authority over Catholics.

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“But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians ‘knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away.’ Matthew 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.

“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 Old and New Testaments are linked together by the golden clasp of God. We need to become familiar with the Old-Testament Scriptures. The unchangeableness of God should be clearly seen; the similarity of his dealings with his people of the past dispensation and of the present, should be studied. Under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, Solomon wrote, ‘That which hath been is now: and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.’ In mercy God repeats his past dealings. He has given us a record of his dealings in the past. This we need to study carefully; for **history is repeating itself.** We are more accountable than were those whose experience is recorded in the Old Testament; for their mistakes, and the results of those mistakes, have been chronicled for our benefit.” *Review and Herald*, April 20, 1897.

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.

Video	20.00	Audio	10.00
		Sermon notes	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.

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		Sermon notes	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.