

Future NEWS

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January 2002

IN THIS NEW YEAR

“As we stand on the threshold of a new year, there is need of an impartial examination of our hearts to dispel the pleasing illusions of self-love. Our condition is helpless and hopeless unless infinite mercy is granted us daily, and pardon is written against our names in the heavenly records. Those only who see and feel their spiritual necessities will go to Jesus for that help which they so much need, and which he only can give. He alone can cleanse us from all sin. He alone can place upon us the robe of righteousness.

“What fruit have we borne during the year that is now past? What has been our influence upon others? Whom have we gathered to the fold of Christ? The eyes of the world are upon us. Are we living epistles of Christ, known and read of all men? Do we follow the example of Jesus in self-denial, in meekness, in humility, in forbearance, in cross-bearing, in devotion? Will the world be compelled to acknowledge us to be the servants of Christ? What is our past record? What will be our future record? If we cannot without pain trace the workings of our own hearts and review the record of our lives, how can we stand before the Judge of all the earth, who is infinitely pure and holy, and who will determine our cases by the unerring standard of his perfect law?

“Shall we not in this new year seek to correct the errors of the past? It behooves us individually to cultivate the grace of Christ, to be meek and lowly of heart, to be firm, unwavering, steadfast in the truth; for thus only can we advance in holiness, and be made fit for the inheritance of the saints in light. Let us begin the year with an entire renunciation of self; let us pray for clear discernment, that we may understand our Saviour’s claims upon us, and that we may always and everywhere be witnesses for Christ.

“Our time and talents belong to God, to be used for his honor and glory. It should be our earnest, anxious effort to let the light shine through our life and character to illumine the pathway Heavenward, that souls may be attracted from the broad road to the narrow way of holiness. Oh, that the followers of Christ had less desire to devote labor, time, and money, to feasts and celebrations in honor of earthly friends, and a greater desire to honor Jesus! I entreat you to bring to him your gifts and offerings, and withhold not yourselves. Strong men are needed in the church, successful workers in the Lord’s vineyard, men and women who will labor that the church may be transformed to the image of Christ, rather than conformed to the customs and practices of the world. We have everything to gain or to lose. Let us see that we are on the side of Christ—the gaining side; that we are making sure work for Heaven.” *Signs of the Times*, January 4, 1883.

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"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.

"The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The world can only be warned by seeing those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God, and those who trample them under their feet. The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between those who have the seal of God, and those who keep a spurious rest-day. When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy, bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws." *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

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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

By the time you receive this newsletter Future for America should be involved with its three January-February evangelistic series in the Philippines. We have began planning our meetings Ukraine meetings for April, although I think they may get pushed off further in the year in order to translate and print the materials we need prior to the meetings. We probably will stop in London for meetings either before or after the meetings in Kiev. We have a fourth evangelistic series in the Philippines in May. The meetings in Uzbekistan are still developing, but no date has been set until we have raised funds and then, with those funds raise a church to hold the meetings.

As we begin another year of service for our Lord we want to sincerely thank all of you who have supported this ministry through prayers, encouraging words, and finances. Very soon this season of distress, which has confronted planet earth and the human family for the past six thousand years will be over. Lets covenant with God and one another to be faithful for the remaining short period of time. Lets include in our covenant, a desire for God to identify every area of our lives that He needs to change, polish, or remove, that we may all be part of the final revival which takes place during this time period.

*"There is need of constant watchfulness, a daily reconversion, that our individual traits of character shall be wholly sanctified to God. All our powers are to be purified from the dross of sin, and trained for service. There are many who, while professing to be the servants of God, and to be looking for the soon return of Christ, are not having the experience that all must have who stand without fault before God. They are making mistakes in the work of character building. To continue to make these mistakes is a costly business, for they hinder the progress in the divine life." *This Day With God*, 307.*

I must apologize for the many things that we have not been able to respond to. I stack up requests for different types of information with all the good intentions one can have to respond to the questions, but there never seems to be enough hours in the day to follow up on all these items. I have decided to make a shift in the priorities of work I pursue and intend to begin responding to some of these questions and issues.

As an example of my back log of work and requests: On one of our first presentations, years ago, I mentioned that I intended to develop a prophetic chart that focused on the Sunday law, including a representation of Daniel 11. I never accomplished the task, though I have often been asked about that chart. Since then I have received many various prophetic charts from brethren. Some were simply for my personal edification, while some were requests for my evaluation for accuracy. I am intending to begin work on answering your requests concerning the charts, (even if you forgot that you have made a request). I intend to review and evaluate the charts I have received and if they seem accurate I will make them available to whoever has an interest. I also intend to develop and publish a few prophetic charts.

Another priority that we are moving up the ladder of importance is to get our web site up and running. The web site has been under development for about two to three months now. It will include our sales materials, display our future meeting schedule, have a "question and answer" module, and more. My son and daughter have been building the web site and we hope to be up and running soon.

A few newsletters ago, (just after September 11) I raised the issue of what is and what isn't present truth. In that context, I had a brother ask me what are the other issues I was referring to in Adventism that are not present truth, and that are creating such a problem that I would address them in such a negative fashion as I had done. There are of course many winds of doctrines blowing in Adventism today, which would qualify as an answer to his question, but the winds that I personally, most often encounter, are those false winds that impact correct prophetic understanding. In public meetings I have regularly been forced to respond to many of these concepts, but we have not given much room in the newsletter for such discussion. We intend to do a little more responding to these issues than previously, for we are under great conviction that probationary time is at an end, and that those who are believing or considering false spiritual concepts need to turn loose of them, before those false ideas accomplish their eternal destruction. I also believe that as I begin to take an editorial position on some of these issues it will cause a shaking with those of you on the mailing lists that have differing positions on some of these concepts.

There is added problems in identifying error. The reader of a newsletter may be a *first time reader*. If he or she has not necessarily formed a position one way or another on a topic under discussion, they may be tempted to ask themselves about the motivations of a ministry which is opposing others who understand things differently than themselves. Having no past history with *Future for America* would not allow them to have any point of reference to our intentions or purposes and therefore they may write off our ideas as legalistic, unloving, or who knows what. I trust that those of you who have listened and followed our ministry over the past years will not stumble over this temptation, for we have no desire to hurt anyone, but we do have a responsibility to rightly divide the Word, and uphold and defend the truth, especially in this serious time period.

Our next newsletter will take up the issue that I personally run into more often than any. For those of you who hold to some or all of the positions we will oppose I would like to emphasize some points before the next newsletter.

One point is that I will *not* raise every argument available against this false concept. One newsletter does not provide enough room for that task.

Point two is that the few arguments I do raise—are not complete arguments. There is more which can be brought to bear in support of the arguments presented than can fit in a newsletter.

A third point is that we receive questions about and calls for support of this concept almost weekly in this ministry. Responding to this issue is in one sense, simply answering many, many phone calls, emails, and letters. For those of you who hold to some of these concepts, and I know there are some on the mailing list who do, I would ask you in advance to carefully and prayerfully consider the points we do raise.

We started the new years audio ministry by sending out a sermon by Pat Rampy. Pat is a co-editor of this newsletter and lives in California, attending the church where he and my family were baptized into Adventism about 25 years ago. In February we will begin a presentation that will cover Daniel ten through twelve. I desired more time to prepare this series, for I am under conviction that it will be the most important information I have ever dealt with. I believe the last three chapters of Daniel are the prophetic foundations for end time present truth. Lord willing, we will begin this series in February.

Dear Jeff,

Enclosed is the money due for the book I ordered. You sent me so many other wonderful materials, tapes and booklets that I don't know how to thank you other than continuing to pray for your ministry and to support it. We have limited income but from now on I plan to do what I can to help your ministry. The insight into prophecy, difficult prophecy, is meat in due season. It is not only helping me but others with whom I am sharing. If you remember, I needed the book to give to an SDA doctor who is studying Daniel 11. He is a Godly man and very appreciated the material. Thanks again for your generosity. Sincerely, D.F.

Have received such a blessing from the tapes and look forward to them and the newsletter. You are right on and if anyone is studying they will see the truth. God's blessings and hope we can converse sometime on these end time issues. Praying for you and the work with Christian love I ask for your prayers in my behalf. Love, I.C.—OR

Dear Brother Pippenger,

We are really enjoying your truth filled messages. Thank you for the tapes and newsletters you have been sending to us. Enclosed is a money order to help with your ministry. We know Jesus is coming very soon! We are so happy that you can get these messages out to the entire world. God bless you as you continue to witness for Him. We are so thankful for the Spirit of Prophecy. It has been such a wonderful help to us through the years. Please continue to keep us informed about your work, and special news, etc. In Christian Love, B.V.C.

Dear ***Future for America***,

Thank you so much for the information literature and cassettes. Would you please send me other literature to pass on to some other SDA friends? I have enclosed what I have at this time for postage. I will be ordering more as soon as I am able. Thank you again. Please send me any information you have on *Pokemon* and *Harry Potter*. God bless. Sincerely, B.J.—NM

Dear *Future for America*,

May God continue to bless you in your ministry. The tapes and newsletters have been such a blessing to me. G.H.

Hi,

My name is B.W. and I spoke with your wife the other day. We had such an enjoyable conversation and when I hung up, I realized I had forgotten to ask her name. [Kathy] I am writing to thank her for being so kind as to call me. I have appreciated your newsletters and tapes for a long time. My husband has been a backslidden SDA and I really have enjoyed these studies and thoughts and up-to-date signs of the times that I otherwise would not have a chance to hear.

My husband, Praise God, has come back to church and we are having Bible study every day. I share with him your newsletters and tapes. We are sending a little help with the cost and we are putting you on our special prayer list. Thanks for getting the message out for all of us! We look forward to receiving more. The signs are getting closer and closer together more intense. Just like a woman in labor. We have come this far, we don't want to be lost now. We still have some children and grandchildren who are still out there and are praying for God to intervene in their lives that they too can see where we are in "time." Thanks again for your support with newsletters and tapes! I would love to meet you some day. B.W.—KS

US CULTURE CHANGING

Hollywood, with a guilty conscience, is toning down its violence. The art world is calling for an end to irony and nihilism. So what changes can we expect on the cultural scene? If irony, cynicism, and nihilism have become irrelevant, what next? Possibly we may see a new appreciation for America's heritage. Patriotism is back, big time. Churches are full. The terrorists hate America's freedom and they hate Christianity. This is reason enough to stop taking them for granted and to build on them once again.

But there are other possibilities. An excess of freedom, warned Plato, is often followed by, an excess of tyranny. Could the culture go from the extreme of *anything goes* to the other extreme of social oppression? Liberals are crowing that the era of distrust of government is over. There are calls for national ID cards and the suspension of constitutional rights. Many in the timorous public seem willing to give up freedom for security—just as the great Christian cultural critic Francis Schaeffer warned about decades ago.

Perhaps more dangerous in the post-postmodernist era is what may happen to religion. Suddenly the cultural hostility to faith went up in smoke, when Americans faced real pain and real spiritual need. This was a good sign. And yet, in the well intentioned "interfaith prayer services," a more disturbing note was sounded. Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus were all worshipping together, praying, it was said, "to the same God."

The Bible strictly forbids syncretistic worship, the mingling of biblical and pagan religions, as a violation of the First Commandment. When the Israelites brought idols of Baal into the Temple, presumably because they thought they and the Canaanites worshipped “the same god,” the real God was not pleased.

Such multi-faith worship may be the beginning of the much-anticipated “one-world religion,” which, though filled with pious emotionalism and religiosity, will be far different from Christianity.

Another theological possibility is a militant secularism. In some circles, people are already lumping conservative Christians together with the Muslim terrorists as “fundamentalists,” as the enemy who deserves to be stamped out. *WORLD*, October 20, 2001.

“The reverence of God’s people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath.” *Prophets and Kings*, 605.

TURKMENISTAN: “CRUSHING” CHRISTIANITY

The order to destroy a Seventh-day Adventist church in Turkmenistan November 1999 came from the president of the country, according to a defecting foreign minister.

In an exclusive interview with *Keston News Service* November 6, Boris Shikhmuradov, former Turmen foreign minister and recent ambassador to China, said President Saparmurat Niyazov was responsible for the bulldozing of an Adventist church in the capital, Ashgabat. Shikhmuradov said President Niyazov personally makes all decisions about religious affairs. Christianity has been crushed and other religious minorities are also persecuted, Shikhmuradov told Keston just days after being dismissed from his post.

Thousands of Christians from all over the world participated in a letter writing campaign protesting the Turkmenistan regime’s actions against different religious groups, including Muslims, Protestants, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Baha’is. Many church buildings have been destroyed and religious leaders have been imprisoned. The destruction of the Adventist church in Ashgabat, recorded on video tape, aroused protests internationally. Shikhmuradov, now in Russia, says Turkmenistan’s National Security Committee, the KNB, is an internal police service used to control the country. Every believer is monitored, he says.” *ANN*.

Jeff,

Please use this donation wherever you feel it is most needed. Whether it be for the Ukraine or Uzbekistan. I know the Lord will direct you, since I don’t know all the needs. May He continue to bless you and your ministry. Time is so short and there is much work to do. Please remember us in your prayers. We are looking forward to the trip to the Philippines. Keep in touch. J.&M.C.—VA

TOP 10 TERROR TARGETS IN THE US

1. Postal Delivery—Never thought of as a terrorist target until now. No previous government anti-terrorism training or evaluation has been done in this area.

2. Public Places—Ball parks, amusement parks, shopping malls, concert halls, theaters, museums. Security and ventilation systems are being beefed up.

3. Nuclear Power Plants—Many in densely populated urban areas, could not be made to explode like atomic bombs, but could be made to spread radioactivity, Chernobyl-like, that rendered 1000 square miles of land unsafe for human life for more than 100 years.

4. Chemical Plants & Rail Cars—Also many in densely populated urban areas. Pathogens have to be “weaponized,” but industrial chemicals already are. They “provide terrorists with effective and readily accessible materials to develop improvised explosives, incendiaries and poisons,” concluded a 1999 federal study of dozens of facilities. Yet security ranges “from fair to very poor,” the analysis found.

5. Air Travel—“Even after the September 11 attacks, the nation’s aviation-security system leaks like a colander.”

6. Skyscrapers—Ventilation systems move air at 1,000-1,500 feet per minute and are vulnerable to pathological and chemical agents.

7. Mass Transit—Enclosed, easy to reach, unsecured and packed with people that come and go from widely dispersed areas.

8. Computer Networks—Viruses that wipe out your hard-drive are the least of it. Phone networks, the electric-power grid, the electronic funds-transfer system, airport security, the 911 system, and gas and oil pipelines have components that are controlled remotely via the Internet. Preparing for the Y2K bug helped, but there are some glaring vulnerabilities.

9. Food Supplies—*Secretary of Health and Human Services* Tommy Thompson told Congress recently, “Am I satisfied with the inspections we’re doing? No. I am more fearful about this than anything else.” The FDA’s 750 inspectors manage to check only about 1% of the 3.7 million shipments of imported food at our seaports each year, with similar low figures for domestic food.

10. Water Supplies—In 1993, Milwaukee had the nation’s largest outbreak of waterborne disease. *Cryptosporidium*, a protozoan, passed undetected through two water-treatment plants and, once it reached customer’s taps, caused more than 400,000 illnesses (mostly diarrhea) and between 50 and 100 deaths out of some 800,000 customers who drank the water. There are about 168,000 public-water systems in the US, some serving from 8 million up to 25 million people. Very few systems use the expensive chlorination, ultraviolet light, and filtration methods available, and some of the nation’s largest systems do not filter. *Newsweek*, November 5, 2001.

“As we draw near to the close of time the cities will become more and more corrupt, and more and more objectionable as places for establishing centers of our work. The dangers of travel will increase, confusion and drunkenness will abound.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 10, 260.

“MYTH” OF CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

In a fundraising newsletter, the Reverend Louis P. Sheldon of the *Traditional Values Coalition* states concerning a gay-rights bill, “There is a spirit of timidity on this issue, both in the church and in the community. Many pastors are fearful of the myth of “separation of church and state.” *Traditional Values Coalition* newsletter, November 5, 2001.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pippenger,

Thank you for sharing your ministry with us with audio tapes. I have been blessed hearing this present truth message. I signed up for this at a Seventh Day Adventist meeting back in September. I would like to study much before I have to leave to my country, Japan next year. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily and thy righteousness shall go before thee: The glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Isaiah 58:8

Dear Jeff and Kathy

Your tapes have been such a blessing to our home and a help to us in guiding us in our study of Daniel and Revelation. They help to make the passages more clear. These present truth messages from our loving God are precious yet so urgent! We need so much the Holy Spirit in our lives and a thorough work of repentance and reformation. We can see more clearly now that the third angels’s message is the message for the hour; that the souls in darkness must learn the truth as it is in Jesus—before it is too late. Probation is soon to close for SDA’s! The Lord is coming! We hear the footsteps of an approaching God. May we be watching and working and waiting and ready with our lamps trimmed and burning! Having an experience within Jesus. We pray for your protection as you travel and courage and strength as you work for him. Thank you again for the tapes and newsletter. Yours in Christ MP P.S. Please remember our 3 children and their families in prayer. Thank you.

Future for America

Don’t get discouraged. Don’t give up. You are in our prayers. Get ready, Get ready, Get ready. In Jesus M&J

SAID THE ANGEL, “GET READY, GET READY, GET READY.
YE WILL HAVE TO DIE A GREATER DEATH TO THE WORLD
THAN YE HAVE EVER YET DIED.”

I SAW THAT THERE WAS A GREAT WORK TO DO FOR
THEM AND BUT LITTLE TIME IN WHICH TO DO IT.

EARLY WRITINGS, 64.

RELIGIOUS RIGHT FINDS ITS CENTER IN OVAL OFFICE—Bush Emerges as Movement's Leader After Robertson Leaves Christian Coalition.

Pat Robertson's resignation this month as president of the Christian Coalition confirmed the ascendance of a new leader of the religious right in America: George W. Bush.

For the first time since religious conservatives became a modern political movement, the president of the United States has become the movement's de facto leader—a status even Ronald Reagan, though admired by religious conservatives, never earned. Christian publications, radio and television shower Bush with praise, while preachers from the pulpit treat his leadership as an act of providence. A procession of religious leaders who have met with him testify to his faith, while Web sites encourage people to fast and pray for the president.

There are several reasons for the adulation. Religious conservatives have regarded Bush as one of their own since the presidential campaign, when he spoke during a debate of the guidance of Jesus. At the same time, key figures in the religious right—Robertson, Jerry Falwell, James Dobson, Billy Graham and Franklin Graham—have receded in political prominence or influence, in part because they are no longer mobilized by their opposition to a president. Bush's handling of the anti-terrorism campaign since Sept. 11 has solidified his standing by painting him in stark terms as the leader in a fight of good against evil.

"I think Robertson stepped down because the position has already been filled," said Gary Bauer, a religious conservative who challenged Bush in the Republican primary. Bush "is that leader right now. There was already a great deal of identification with the president before 9-11 in the world of the Christian right, and the nature of this war is such that it's heightened the sense that a man of God is in the White House."

Ralph Reed, who once led the Christian Coalition and now is chairman of the Georgia GOP, notes that the religious conservative movement "no longer plays the institutional role it once did," in part because it succeeded in electing Bush and other friendly leaders. "You're no longer throwing rocks at the building; you're in the building."

Conservative Christians tend to view Bush's recent success as part of a divine plan. "I've heard a lot of 'God knew something we didn't,'" Reed said. "In the evangelical mind, the notion of an omniscient God is central to their theology. He had a knowledge nobody else had: He knew George Bush had the ability to lead in this compelling way."

Bush himself dismisses the notion that he is part of some divine plan. "He does not believe he was chosen for this moment," a senior aide said. "He just views himself as governing on his beliefs and his promises. He doesn't look at himself as a leader of any particular movement."

Still, some of those around Bush say they have a sense that a higher purpose is involved. "I think President Bush is God's man at this hour, and I say this with a great sense of humility," Bush aide Tim Goeglein, described as a "strong evangelical," told *World* magazine, a Christian publication.

Partially a victim of their own success, groups such as the Christian Coalition are finding fundraising difficult. Some leaders, such as Focus on the Family's Dobson, have retreated from political involvement.

Some religious conservative leaders have inflicted wounds on themselves. Falwell was roundly criticized, even by supporters, for saying on television, with Robertson's agreement, that "abortionists and the feminists, and the gays and lesbians" and civil libertarians were to blame in part for the Sept. 11 attacks. Franklin Graham produced a furor by declaring Islam a "very evil and wicked religion."

Voting patterns also show a declining religious right. Karl Rove, Bush's top political strategist, said that only 15 million of the 19 million religious conservatives who should have voted went to the polls in 2000. "We may be seeing to some degree some return to the sidelines of previously involved religious conservatives," he said.

And Bush, his advisers acknowledge, deliberately circumvented the power of the leaders of the religious right, appealing to conservatives himself rather than paying homage to the Christian Coalition during the campaign. "In the old days, Republican presidential candidates went to religious conservative leaders to seek their imprimatur," said a Bush adviser. "George W. Bush was able to go directly to those who sat in the pews."

Bush's effort succeeded. "He is the leader of the Christian right," said Marshall Wittmann, a former Christian Coalition figure now with the Hudson Institute, a think tank. "As their institutions peel away, he can go over the heads" of religious conservative leaders.

Bush, aided by speechwriter Michael Gerson, himself a religious conservative, speaks the language of religion better than any president since Jimmy Carter, religious leaders say, and Bush's policies appeal more to conservatives. To many outside the religious conservative movement, Bush's faith-infused words may sound sanctimonious; to those within it, the words sound familiar and comforting. Across the country, churchgoers share Bush's "testimony," his discovery of God 15 years ago with the help of Billy Graham. "Reverend Graham planted a mustard seed in my soul, a seed that grew over the next year," Bush's memoir recounts. "He led me to the path, and I began walking. It was the beginning of a change in my life."

As Bush had embraced religious conservatism, religious conservatives have openly embraced him. The Internet has several sites offering prayers for the president's success. One example: "Call on the name of the Lord to hedge him in from terrorists and violent people. Psalm 91:11-12; 1 Corinthians 1:10-11."

World magazine, which is edited by one-time Bush adviser Marvin Olasky, named Bush's attorney general, John D. Ashcroft, its "Daniel of the Year." Ashcroft himself considered running for president in 2000 as the candidate of the religious right. "Just as the biblical Daniel faced an established idol-worshiping religion in Babylon, so our Dans must not back down in the face of deadly persecution abroad or the scorn and harassment that comes domestically from the academic and media high priests of our established religion, secular liberalism," Olasky wrote.

The top Daniel, of course, is Bush himself, a view liberally offered by the many religious figures who pass through the White House. In an account of one such meeting, Jean Bethke Elshtain, a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School, wrote of a "powerful and moving moment" with Bush and an ecumenical group of religious leaders. "One of our group asked, 'Mr. President, what can we do for you?' He indicated that we could 'pray for me, for our country, for my family.' He believes in the efficacy of prayer and needs wisdom and guidance and grace, he said. A Greek Orthodox archbishop was invited to lead us in prayer. We all joined hands in a prayer circle, including the president." *Washington Post*, December 24, 2001.

April 16, 2001—"Bush, . . . has met privately with at least three high Catholic . . . officials, . . . has adopted Catholic themes in speeches; . . . instituted a weekly conference call with . . . Catholic advisers; and the *Republican National Committee* is setting up a *Catholic Task Force*."

Princeton University political scientist Robert George: noted in an interview last week that "in 1960, John Kennedy went from Washington down to Texas to assure Protestant preachers that he would not obey the pope. In 2001, George Bush came from Texas up to Washington to assure a group of Catholic bishops that he would." . . . Republican advocacy of 'compassionate conservatism' meshes well with Catholic doctrine. Paul Weyrich, [a key Roman Catholic spokesperson for the religious right] . . . asked senior Bush adviser Karl Rove to tell the president "that he has mastered the art of Catholic governance." Rove said "that's pretty good for a Methodist." *Washington Post*.

In an *Associated Press* article March 23 2001, [Pope John Paul II speaking about the soon to open Catholic cultural center in Washington DC] says: "We will come to view this as our little Vatican in the United States. . . . The Church has never done anything like this and we see it as a reflection of our faith."

March 22, 2001 From a White house press release. President George W. Bush spoke at the dedication of the John Paul II Cultural center in Washington. DC. Bush quoted Yelsten and a journalist, reverencing the Pope, saying he is, "The highest moral authority on earth. . . . This is not a pope from Poland, this is a pope from Galilee. . . . His is not the power of armies or technology or wealth. It is the unexpected power of a baby in a stable, of a man on a cross. . . . And we, in our country, must not ignore the words the Pope addresses to us. . . . We are also thankful for the messenger, for his personal warmth and prophetic strength.

[Editor's note: What is the *prophetic strength* Bush praises in the Papacy?

Daniel 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and **by peace shall destroy many.**

In his state of the union address President George Bush Sr. said: "It's a big idea: A New World Order, where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause . . . Only the United States has both the moral standing and the means to back it up." *Los Angeles Times*, February 18, 1991.

America found that it was not yet ready to accept the New World Order then, so America did not re-elect Bush Senior to have it implemented. But now, 10 years later, his son has picked up the torch, and thanks to just the right crisis, (the September 11th Attacks) America and the world, have finally been conditioned sufficiently to accept and even cheer the New Global Coalition a.k.a New World Order "diverse nations drawn together in a common cause." The stage is all set, the actors have been rehearsing their lines, *are you ready* for your part in the show to end all shows, the final scenes of the great controversy?]

VATICAN AND PROTESTANTS BEGIN NEW TALKS ON JUSTIFICATION

The Christian doctrine of justification will be the focus of a series of discussions between Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed Church leaders, beginning later this month in Columbus, Ohio, United States. While participants in the talks aim to move beyond the broad doctrinal consensus on justification already reached between Catholics and Lutherans, observers say there are still significant barriers to complete agreement between the groups.

In 1999, the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation signed a “joint declaration on the doctrine of justification.” Hailed as a “milestone in ecumenism,” Catholic and Lutheran leaders said the document represented agreement on the idea that salvation can only be found through faith in Jesus, not through good works.

Catholic and Lutheran leaders have suggested that the upcoming talks in Ohio may move the denominations closer to mutual acceptance of each others’ communion, or Eucharist, services, narrowing the 484-year breach between the two groups. *Adventist News Network*, November 13, 2001.

FREEDOM BY GOVERNMENT? OR FROM GOVERNMENT?

“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”—Benjamin Franklin.

George Washington said, “Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force.” Most of the freedoms we have are freedoms from government. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to a jury trial, and a host of other things. . . every one of those is freedom from government intrusion. We can’t expect to depend on the potential oppressor to save us from himself. We, the citizens, must do that for ourselves. When the government says it’s going to protect us, even when it says it’s protecting our freedoms, it always expects us to give up some of our freedoms as a price. And the freedoms we’re asked to give up are always the very freedoms meant to protect us from them. *Backwoods Home Magazine*, 57, January/February 2002.

DEMOCRATIC DESPOTISM, OR COWED BY GOVERNMENT

In the 1830’s Alexis de Tocqueville, foresaw the emergence of a new kind of “democratic” despotism—a centralized state, without overt terrors or tortures, ruling through “a network of petty, complicated rules,” which might be “combined, more easily than is generally supposed, with the external forms of freedom.” How right he was!

Under such a regime, the individual may feel little terror and may even feel free. He becomes like a cow in a pasture surrounded by an electric fence. The cow feels an unpleasant jolt the first time she brushes against the fence, but it doesn’t kill her; after a spasm or two of terror, she just gets in the habit of staying away from it, and ceases to think about it. The active feeling of fear soon goes away, but the habit of avoidance remains.

A state that threatens violence too openly may rouse the population to resistance and revolution, but a state that threatens lesser penalties with subtlety and apparent legality, gradually creating habits of timidity, may find little opposition. Its subjects will hardly recognize their own fear as fear. They may even believe the state when it assures them that they are free—and that it is “defending” their freedom! (Until they *fail to comply*, that is.) Terror tempered by tact;—leave them some freedoms until they’ve forgotten what liberty means. Then you can suavely pocket the rest. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 19, 2001.

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS—NOT YET, BUT SOON

State motor vehicle authorities are working on a plan to create a national identification system for individuals that would link all driver databases and employ high-tech cards with a fingerprint, computer chip or other unique identifier.

The effort by the *American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators*, follows disclosures that some of the September 11 hijackers used false identities or obtained driver’s licenses fraudulently. Association leaders asserted at a meeting last week that driver’s licenses “have become the *de facto* national identification card used by law enforcement, retailers, banks and other establishments requiring proof of identification.”

The group pledged to work closely with the new *Office of Homeland Security*, the *Justice Department* and federal authorities. The motor vehicle officials have proposed standardizing the driver’s license process and linking databases before, but on a voluntary basis.

The new proposal would seek to make such changes mandatory, an official said. . . . Under the proposal, every state would continue to issue driver IDs. . . . But every license and non-driver identity card would contain the same basic information and a similar set of security features to prevent tampering and fraud, association officials said yesterday.

“There’s no need to create a new national ID card,” said Jason King, the group’s spokesman. . . . “Let’s just make what we have better.”

QUEEN MAKES INVITATION TO CARDINAL

December 6, 2001, London—The Queen of England has made the unprecedented gesture of inviting Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor to stay at her Norfolk home and to preach to the royal family during their annual winter break. Such an invitation would have been unthinkable less than a generation ago and shows the great strides made in ecumenical relations in Britain since 1982 when the Queen, who is supreme governor of the Church of England, welcomed Pope John Paul to Buckingham Palace. Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor will stay on the estate at Sandringham on the weekend of January 12 and 13. It is expected that Prince Philip, the Queen Mother, and other members of the Royal Family will be in residence on the same weekend.

“The cardinal is greatly honored by the Queen’s invitation,” his spokesman told the *Daily Telegraph*. “This is a further sign of the Queen’s own determination to promote ecumenical relations within the nation.”

A Palace spokesman acknowledged the historic significance of the invitation. He said, “This is in the spirit of cooperation, unity, and friendship that Her Majesty has always practiced. It is a sign of the ecumenical age we are in.”

For centuries British Catholics have come under suspicion for offering their first allegiance to Rome rather than to the monarch. Even now Catholics are still prevented from becoming Prime Minister or attaining certain other positions of power or prestige.

In November 1995 Queen Elizabeth became the first British monarch since the 16th century to take part in a Catholic service when she attended vespers at Westminster Cathedral. She was also an admirer of the late Cardinal Basil Hume, whom she called “my cardinal.”

The present Queen’s great-great-grandmother was particularly anti-Catholic. When the hierarchy was restored in Britain in 1850 she screeched, “Am I Queen of England or not?” And she was furious that Westminster Cathedral was built without her permission. *EWTN News Brief*.

HOMAGE TO MARY

At midday today, solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, John Paul II appeared at the window of his study which overlooks St. Peter’s Square, in order to pray the angelus.

The Pope affirmed that the Blessed Virgin “invites us not to let our gaze linger upon her but to go deeper and penetrate the mystery in which she was conceived; in other words the mystery of the One Triune God, full of grace and faith.” After recalling that during the afternoon he would visit Rome’s Piazza di Spagna for the traditional homage to the Virgin, he said, “to her I will again entrust the Church and humanity, at this uneasy moment in history.”

The idea of a national ID card arouses fierce opposition among civil libertarians, both conservative and liberal, who believe a card would be used by government authorities to track individuals without their permission. But public sentiment shifted after the terror attacks. . . . One survey found that 70 percent of those questioned favored requiring citizens to carry a national identification card of the sort used in other countries.

The supporters do not include President Bush, who, an aide said, is not seriously considering the creation of such a card. But some lawmakers, technology specialists and others have begun promoting the idea as a way to identify terrorists and cut down on identity crimes.

Larry Ellison, chief executive of Oracle Corp., the world’s largest database software maker, said last month that he would donate software to make it possible for the government to create a national ID card system to improve airport security.

In an October 1 letter, the association president, Linda R. Lewis, asked that the *General Accounting Office* consider a study of the benefits of using “national databases maintained by motor vehicle agencies in the fight against terrorists and the enhancement of homeland security.”

Lewis said the current system for issuing and tracking driver’s licenses needs to be improved. “We’ve got to do something. . . . The system isn’t working as well as it should,” she said. . . . “The times have shown national security has got to be paramount.” *Washington Post*, November 3, 2001.

[Editor’s note: Here is an idea, who’s time has not yet come. But, after a few more lethal terrorist attacks? Freedom and privacy, as this nation once knew it—is virtually dead. What we are seeing is the steady and unstoppable dissolution of the American Constitution—not by anyone’s design, but due to the pressures of the realities of the 21st century.]

Hi Jeff:

I just got your newsletters and tapes and found them most uplifting in the times we are living in. I hope to order some of your materials. I came across some interesting statements made by the Queen which I thought you might want to include in a future newsletter. Canadians will be introduced to a new anti-terrorist law in few days and I hope to be able to send you some information in regard to that. May God bless your ministry as we prepare ourselves and others for the very soon return of our saviour Jesus Christ. M.—Canada

In the afternoon the Pope travelled by popemobile to Piazza di Spagna where, on arrival, he blessed a basket containing 300 roses which was placed at the base of the column to Mary Immaculate. The monument, which is being restored, is covered by sheeting upon which is an image of the column and of the statue of the Blessed Virgin.

Addressing the Virgin, the Pope said: "We ask you to present our prayer to He who clothed you in grace and delivered you from any shadow of sin. Dark clouds gather on the horizon of the world. Humanity, which greeted the dawn of the third millennium with hope, now feels threatened by new and distressing conflicts. World peace is at risk. For this reason we turn to you, Mary Immaculate, to ask that as a strong and understanding Mother you ensure that souls, freed from hatred, may open to mutual forgiveness, to constructive solidarity and to peace."

In recalling the missionary mandate that he entrusted to the Church of Rome for the occasion of the Great Jubilee, John Paul II requested that "the mission become the daily witness of each believer, each in their own life circumstances. By this means, may the Christian face of Rome be renewed so that everyone may clearly see that faithfulness to Christ changes personal life and molds a peaceful future, a better tomorrow for everyone."

At the close of his homage, a unit of 75 sailors from the Spanish Navy frigate *Santa Maria* sang the *Salve Marinera* for peace in the world. The Holy Father then travelled from Piazza di Spagna to the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he blessed the new Holy Door and prayed before the image of the Mother of God "Salus Populi Romani." *Vatican Information Service*, December 8, 2001.

INCREASED UNDERSTANDING

John Paul II prayed the Angelus at noon today with the many faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square. Before the recitation of the Marian prayer, the Pope recalled the upcoming day of fasting and prayer for peace on December 14. "This initiative," the Pope said, "has met with approval also from the faithful of other religions, in particular Hebrews and Muslims, as well as many people of good will." He then emphasized that in the current complex international situation "humanity is called to mobilize its best energies, in order that love prevail over hatred, and peace over war."

"The date of December 14 also coincides with the end of Ramadan, during which the followers of Islam express with fasting their submission to the One God. It is my heartfelt desire that the shared action of religious penance cause reciprocal understanding to increase between Christians and Muslims, called more than ever, in the current time, to together become the architects of justice and peace."

After reciting the Angelus, the Pope recalled that in the upcoming days, the representatives of 140 ratifying States will meet in Geneva to reaffirm the Convention of 1951 regarding the status of refugees, and the Protocol of 1967. "I hope that all nations implement legal protection for the unfortunately great number of individuals forced to flee their own countries, as well as for the so called *internal refugees*. May shared commitment bring an end to the grave violations of human rights, which are at the origin of these forced movements." *Vatican Information Service*, December 8, 2001.

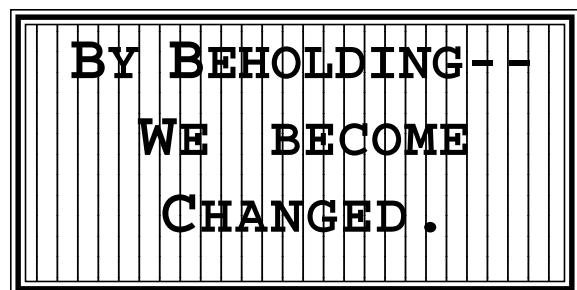
TV-THE SOUR FAMILY HOUR

In August the *Parents Television Council*, a non-profit organization in California, released its fifth analysis of North American family-hour television programming (8-9 PM Eastern and Pacific time, or 7-8 PM Central and Mountain time). The report, titled *The Sour Family Hour 8 to 9 Goes From Bad to Worse*, analyzed nearly 200 hours of programming that aired on ABC, CBS, NBC, UPN, WB, and Fox.

According to the report, the overall combined per-hour average of objectionable content was up 24 percent from May 1999. The biggest change came in the area of foul language, which increased 78 percent, with UPN (*United Paramount Network*) leading all the other networks by upping its own average 124 percent from its 1999 level. Violence also increased dramatically, up 70 percent. Sexual references were down 17 percent, however, 1999 levels represented an increase of 77 percent over 1997 levels.

According to the report, only about 12 percent of network programming was fit for children aged 2-11, even though Nielsen research shows that more than 10 million children may be watching during the family hour on any given night. *The Adventist Review*, Anchor Points edition, October 25, 2001.

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. Psalm 101:3.



MANY U.S. POSTAL WORKERS REPORT CIPRO SIDE EFFECTS

Reuters Health—Many United States post office workers who took antibiotics to protect themselves from anthrax infection suffered adverse reactions to the drugs, according to the *US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*.

Nineteen percent reported severe nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal pain; 14% reported fainting, light-headedness or dizziness; 7% reported heartburn or acid reflux; and 6% had rashes, hives, or itchy skin.

Postal employees in New Jersey, New York City and the District of Columbia were given a questionnaire on adverse events 7 to 10 days after protective antibiotic treatment was prescribed. The results of the survey are published in the November 30th issue of the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

A total of 5,819 postal workers responded to the questionnaire, of whom 3,863 (66%) said they had started taking antibiotics. Eighty-nine percent reported using ciprofloxacin and 11% used other drugs, including doxycycline (6%) and amoxicillin (1%).

The percentage of workers experiencing adverse events was higher in New Jersey than in the other two locations. This may be explained, the CDC notes, by the different mode of questionnaire administration there. In New Jersey, nurses gave workers the questionnaire, while workers completed it themselves in New York and Washington.

Eight percent of workers on ciprofloxacin stopped taking the drug, either because of adverse events, fear of adverse events or because they thought they did not need it, CDC researchers report.

The CDC emphasizes that people exposed to anthrax must take a full 60-day course of antibiotics to prevent anthrax infection. According to Dr. Nancy Rosenstein, a medical officer with the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases, people who have adverse reactions to their antibiotics and are at risk for anthrax are switched to another antibiotic if appropriate and are counseled about taking antibiotics. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

GLOBAL POWDER - KEG

The recent, incipient sense of a return to order and control—inspired by our splendid military successes in Afghanistan, and the absence of further acts of terror in America is quickly being dashed. The world increasingly looks like a gunpowder warehouse strewn with smoldering, interlaced fuses. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 19, 2001.

There is a fact that needs to be kept in mind as we make trade-offs between civil liberties and apprehending terrorists. Indeed, if “terrorist” becomes as expansively defined as “racketeering” and summary punishment as widely applied as asset forfeiture, we will do ourselves more harm than the terrorists. There is no way to hold to account a misbehaving Justice Department. The same people who brought us Ruby Ridge and Waco now have more sweeping powers to abuse. It is true that we must do something about the terrorists that a careless immigration policy has brought to our shores, but unless we are very careful, the United States will suffer the consequences of the war on terrorism long after the last terrorist is dead. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 19, 2001.

FAITH IN GOVERNMENT IS UNJUSTIFIED

George Washington likened government to fire. It was, he said, a useful servant but a fearful master. We should support our government when it does the right thing and criticize it when it goes astray, but we should never give it sheep-like blind faith.

Before you say, “Let the government do whatever it wants as long as it protects me,” you’d better remember the dead at the twin towers. The government was doing whatever it wanted to do, but it was not effective in safeguarding American lives. And now, as it always does, the government is overreacting to its own failure. It is jeopardizing our civil liberties, busting the budget and vastly expanding its ability to pry into private lives. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 19, 2001.

WAR OF CIVILIZATIONS AHEAD?

Clearly, not a few in the Islamic world and the West so believe, and ardently desire. And, with a War Party cawing for an attack on Iraq, with Sharon unleashed after the atrocities in Jerusalem and Haifa, with the US press calling for a reappraisal of our ties to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, a clash of civilizations has moved from the possible to the probable.

If belief is decisive, Islam is militant, Christianity milquetoast. In population, Islam is exploding, the West dying. Islamic warriors are willing to suffer defeat and death, the West recoils at casualties. They are full of grievance; we, full of guilt. Where Islam prevails, it asserts a right to impose its dogma, while the West preaches equality. Islam is assertive, the West apologetic—about its crusaders, conquerors and empires. Islam is the fastest growing faith in Europe and has surpassed Catholicism world-wide. And as Christianity expires in the West and the churches empty out, the mosques are going up. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 19, 2001.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS MEET ON TERROR

(CNN)—Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders are meeting in Brussels for the first major attempt since September 11 to try to curb conflicts fought in the name of religion. More than 80 religious representatives are at the conference chaired by the head of the Orthodox religions, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission.

Their stated aim is to forge new means to ensure that “no individual or organization succeeds ever again to use religion to instigate violence and terrorism.”

Attending the Wednesday and Thursday seminar are Orthodox church leaders, two Cardinals, Jewish leaders, senior Imams and Muftis plus leaders from moderate Muslim states including Prince El Hassan of Jordan. President George W. Bush is due to send a message to the gathering entitled: *The Peace of God in the World—Towards Peaceful Co-Existence and Collaboration between Monotheistic Religions*.

The 80 delegates are focusing on religion as the backdrop to recent conflicts, looking at ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, the deepening Middle East conflict and the war in Afghanistan. They are expected to agree an *Announcement of Principles* condemning the abuse of religion to justify violent acts. They will also call on the international community to provide all the necessary political, economic and humanitarian assistance to rebuild Afghanistan.

An appeal is also due to be made to politicians and the media “to avoid spreading falsehood by associating, either directly or indirectly, one group or religion with the irreligious acts of the few.”

Patriarch Bartholomew said before the meeting: “It is incumbent upon the enlightened leadership of the three religions to express with one voice once again the desire of God for peaceful co-existence among peoples.”

To bring world peace, he said, the voice of religion was “sharper than any knife” and it was important to show that religious leaders stood united. At the end of the two-day conference the delegates hope to adopt an action plan calling for regular meetings between religious leaders, seminars for policy-makers, teachers and journalists and inter-faith and cross-cultural youth initiatives. They also hope to establish a secretariat for the cross-religious body at the liaison office of the Orthodox Church to the EU in Brussels.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 2 Corinthians 6:17.

THE SANCTUARY & THE HOST TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT

By David Lin

The Adventist view of Daniel 8:14 has in most cases centered in the ritual of the Day of Atonement. The text answers a query posed in Daniel 8:13, (NKJV): “How long will the vision be concerning the daily sacrifices, and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?”

This seems to have no relation to the Day of Atonement. Hence we hear the challenge: 1) Daniel 8:14 is a reply to the question in verse 13, and has nothing to do with the Day of Atonement.

GOD’S UNITY WITH HIS PEOPLE

The best way to meet this challenge is to note what the Bible says on the unity of God with His people. Here “both the sanctuary and the host” are trampled under foot. God calls Himself “The Lord of hosts,” and says, “Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” It was a token of God’s presence.

Daniel 8:14 says, “Unto 2300 days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” This period marks not **the duration**, but the termination of the trampling. After 2300 years, the sanctuary will be cleansed or “put right,” which is the sense of *nitsdaq*. The duration of the trampling is longer. For the sanctuary was trampled in Samuel’s day.

Note that the answer in Daniel 8:14 says nothing of the “host.” We believe the host was cleansed with the sanctuary, as it does not say that it will not be cleansed with the sanctuary. This omitting of an element that is known to be included in another, is also seen in reverse in Leviticus 16: 30: “For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.” For the cleansing of the host predicates the cleansing of the sanctuary, which Leviticus 16:16 says “remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.” Not explicitly, but implicitly, is it said that the sanctuary is cleansed with the host. The sanctuary and the host are inseparable—they were trampled down together; and also cleansed together.

Zechariah says, “He who touches you touches the apple of His eye.” This is how God likes to put it.

Christ says in John 17:20,21, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they all may be one, as You, Father are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." These words have raised the unity of God with His people virtually to the same level as the unity existing in the Godhead! The main point is that the fate of the sanctuary is inseparable from the fate of the "host." And Psalm 77:13 says, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary."

So this justifies the Adventist view of Daniel 8:14. The query posed in verse 13 deals with the trampling of the sanctuary and the host. So as the host is cleansed on the Day of Atonement, the sanctuary is also cleansed.

THE MEANING OF "TRAMPLE"

2) It is argued that the Adventist view of Daniel 8:14 sees the sanctuary as defiled by the confessed sins of the saints, but Daniel 8:13 says that it is the "daily" and "transgression of desolation" that trample the sanctuary.

Hebrews 10:28–29 meets this objection: "Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy, who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant, by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" Here is a definition of "trample" It is not only a physical act, but also a spiritual one—regarding the blood of the covenant a common thing and insulting the Spirit of grace.

Now apply this definition to the "daily" and "transgression of desolation" trampling "the sanctuary and the host" underfoot. When pagan Rome (the daily) burned the Temple and persecuted the host, it was a physical act. But papal Rome (the transgression of desolation) later spiritually trampled the sanctuary underfoot by setting up a counterfeit worship in a counterfeit sanctuary. To cleanse and "put right" the sanctuary, called for repudiating the counterfeit worship and the revival of true worship.

This is called for in Revelation 14:7: "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." In 1844 began the revival of true worship in restoring the true Sabbath. Since then the sanctuary and the host are being cleansed and "put right." This basic cleansing can be appreciated and received only by them who are truly born again by the Holy Spirit.

"While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth." The Great Controversy, 425.

THUS HE SAID, THE FOURTH BEAST SHALL BE THE FOURTH KINGDOM UPON EARTH, WHICH SHALL BE DIVERSE FROM ALL KINGDOMS, AND SHALL DEVOUR THE WHOLE EARTH, AND SHALL TREAD IT DOWN, AND BREAK IT IN PIECES. DANIEL 7:23.

BUT THE COURT WHICH IS WITHOUT THE TEMPLE LEAVE OUT, AND MEASURE IT NOT; FOR IT IS GIVEN UNTO THE GENTILES: AND THE HOLY CITY SHALL THEY TREAD UNDER FOOT FORTY AND TWO MONTHS. REVELATION 11:2.

DEAR FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

By James Standish, Director of Legislative Affairs,
Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters

In this update, we will examine four current issues that are working their way through Congress.

1) The Workplace Religious Freedom Act Progresses

Many of you have been praying that the Workplace Religious Freedom Act will be enacted to protect faithful men and women whose employers refuse to give them Sabbaths off. While there is still much work to do, we have some good news to report. We have been negotiating with important lobbying blocks in Washington to gain their support, and ensure they do not prevent the passage of the bill as they have in the past. To date, these negotiations have been going well.

We are thankful to Senator Kerry and Senator Santorum for their interest and assistance on this vital issue. Even more importantly, we are thankful for your prayers. Please continue to lift this effort up to our Heavenly Father, through whom all things are possible. [To learn more about the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, please visit <http://ola.adventist.org>].

2) Military Tribunals

There has been significant interest in Washington focused on the executive order that prepares the way for military tribunals to try non-citizens accused of terrorist related crimes. There is no reason to doubt that this order was prepared with anything but good intentions. The US is indeed facing an unprecedented threat, and military courts have been used in past situations involving war crimes, including trials of approximately 10,000 suspected German and Japanese war criminals at the conclusion of WWII. Nevertheless, the proposal raises many legitimate questions. In particular, many find it of great concern that under the terms of the order, suspects can be sentenced to death on a 2/3rds vote of a military court whose proceedings are not open to the public. Hearings on the issue are currently underway on Capitol Hill. [You can read the full text of the executive order at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/11/20011113-27.html>]

3) Religious Freedom Constitutional Amendment Proposed

Calls to amend religious freedom protections of the US Constitution have recently resurfaced. The amendment was originally proposed in 1998, but failed at that time. It has now been repackaged as a response to the 9/11 tragedy. If the amendment passes, it would be the first amendment to the religion clauses in the First Amendment to the US Constitution since the creation of the Bill of Rights in 1789.

The *Religious Speech Amendment* appears harmless, if not beneficial, on its face, but changes to the constitution can never be taken at face value. A letter from the congressman proposing the amendment makes his intention clear; the amendment is aimed at changing the law governing religious expression in public elementary and high schools.

But school children are already allowed to pray in school, to have religious clubs that meet on school property after school, and student's rights to engage in religious speech in public schools is already protected by the Constitution. There is, however, one major prohibition on religious speech in schools and it is at this exception that the amendment is aimed. The law recognizes that teachers are in a unique and powerful position in relation to their students. This position is a public trust, and should not be used to advance one faith over another. Thus, while public teachers are permitted to teach about religion in general and its various facets, and to teach respect for religion generally, they are not permitted to lead out in specific religious activities such as classroom prayers, chapel services and other similar religious activities.

There is good reason for this protection. Imagine if Muslim children were led in Hindu prayers in public schools, if Catholic public school teachers led their Protestant students in prayers to Mary and the saints, or if Protestant public school teachers used public classroom time to proclaim salvation is only available through Jesus to their Jewish students. But it is not only common sense that using public schools to advance religion is troublesome; the Supreme Court has found that under our constitution, it is not the place of the government through its school system to advance one religion over another through teacher lead prayer and other school sponsored religious activities.

While the constitutional amendment is not a good idea, there are changes to the way some public schools currently operate that should be made. Some are very quick to protest any harbinger of religious bias or inculcation in the classroom, but display extreme insensitivity to the diverse religious faiths and traditions of public school students. For example, there have been instances where public schools have promoted the reading of books that espouse values that are diametrically opposed to religious traditions of their students.

In addition, there are examples in which public schools have been actively involved in promoting the normalization of behavior that is believed to be immoral by many faiths. Finally, public school curriculums must be altered to provide a balanced view of the evidence regarding origins, including an exploration of the flaws in evolutionary theory and evidence of intelligent design.

These are battles that need to be fought and won if our public schools are to be truly neutral places of learning and mutual respect. The proposed constitutional amendment would not address these needs, however, while at the same time it creates new problems that do not currently exist.

It is hard to predict the chances of the success of the efforts to enact the *Religious Speech Amendment*. As one congressman told me, “after 9/11, everything has changed. even the likelihood of amending the Constitution.

4) Historic Prayer Meeting In the Capitol Rotunda

Senator Brownback, a man who has often stood tall for religious liberty, recently stated that the prayer meeting held in the Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday was the first such meeting in over 100 years. The resolution calling for the prayer meeting was prompted by the 9/11 attacks and was authored by Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton, Congressman Tom DeLay and Senator Sam Brownback. *The Washington Post* wryly noted, “These must be troubled times if natural adversaries Hillary Clinton and Tom DeLay can come together and pray.” The prayer meeting was only open to members of the House and Senate, their chaplains, the Supreme Court Justices and the President.

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay told James Dobson on his radio show November 27, “This is about the nation that has pushed God out of its institutions, homes and communities, coming back to God and showing God that we are a nation that honors and reveres Him.” Dobson noted on the same show “Our only hope is for national revival, and perhaps this event will be the beginning of it. As the people of the United States pray . . . my great desire is that we not only say, ‘God save us,’ but that we pray ‘God forgive us.’ We’ve strayed from the moral principles that He’s given us.”

While the coming together of our leaders, the Senate’s Presbyterian Chaplain and the House’s first Catholic Chaplain, in a concerted effort to seek national forgiveness and to seek God’s blessing appears positive on its face, our understanding of prophecy gives us cause to ponder the significance of this historic event.

Did the prayer meeting violate the Constitution? The United States has employed state funded congressional chaplains since the nation’s inception, legislative sessions have always been opened with prayer, and proclamations of national days of prayer were made as far back as George Washington (although Thomas Jefferson opposed such proclamations and refused to make one during his presidency). In light of historic precedence, some would argue that the Capitol Rotunda prayer meeting could not have possibly violated the Constitution. James Madison considered the anomalies of congressional chaplains and national days of prayer in a nation built on the separation of church and state. He concluded that such mixes of church and state were permitted, not because they were constitutional, but because *de minimis non curat lex* (the law does not concern itself with trifles). In conclusion, an argument can be made that such prayer meetings on government property violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, but it would not likely succeed.

While there are many important events occurring in Washington and around our world at this time, we must always keep in mind that our hope is built on Christ and his sacrifice made on our behalf.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

By William Miller

Pilate saith unto him, “What is truth?” John 18:38.

In this question by Pilate, we have the same thing presented which all mankind are professedly seeking after; yet with as little desire, perhaps, to know, believe, or practise the truth, as the individual who asked the question.

Pilate was noted for his depravity, wickedness, and crime; and when he had asked the question, went out, without waiting for a reply, and did that which he knew was wickedly wrong. For he said to the Jews, “I find in him no fault at all;” and yet he released unto them a murderer, and took Jesus and scourged him, crowned him with thorns, mocked and smote him, and said unto the Jews, “Take ye him and crucify him, for I find no fault in him.” Just so at the present day: we find many inquirers after truth, but few who are willing to hear, and fewer still who are willing to practise it.

I shall, in this discourse, endeavor to show some things that are true; although in this question a field is open which neither you or I could fully explore, even with the talents of the highest seraph, or the ability of an elect angel. Yet, by divine permission, we may look within the door, and see so much, and only so much, as Christ came to witness unto us. For he says, “For this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.” We may, then, safely inquire, “What is truth?”

1. God is true. This may be known by his works. Look into yourselves; see the order of your bodily system, the flow of blood, the heaving of the lungs; see, too, the activity of thought, the affections of the soul, the acuteness of feeling; every department of the mind, every function of the body acting in unison with its fellow; no jarring, while in health, but every motion and emotion true to the original cause as the needle to the pole. Can these laws by which we are governed in the body be thus true, and He who created them be untrue? No.

Look at the vegetable world. See the regular system of all the plants of the earth, each springing forth in its season, growing, budding, blossoming, bearing fruit, yielding its seed after its kind, and each seed containing elements of further increase, and so on, until figures would fail to multiply the number of likes contained in every seed. All true to the laws of the vegetable world—can this be true, and He who clothes the field with its verdure not be true? Never.

Look again at the heavens. See the systems of the planetary world. See suns innumerable, each the centre of a system, and all the planets moving in their respective orbits around these suns, keeping their proper distances, observing regular times, and so true that revolutions unnumbered may pass off without the variation of a moment. Do not all these things show that He who spake them into existence must be truth?

When, in short, we view the regular laws of nature, and behold all things, both animate and inanimate, obeying those laws, and man, though a rebel, compelled to yield to them, so that he cannot by any physical force evade or nullify the acts of the Almighty, are we not irresistibly led to conclude, that God is true - true to himself, true to his own laws, true to his own word and will, and that he does manifestly declare that he will be true in his moral government? This leads us to show, that the word of God is truth.

That the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, is hardly a disputable point at the present day. Yet there are a few heaven-daring sceptics who do sneeringly insinuate that it is only the work of man. And we would not wish to deny that there are many, very many, who deny parts of the word, and by so doing nullify, or endeavor to nullify, so much as does not suit their carnal appetite or moral taste of things. Some do away the divinity of Christ, others the office or work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, others the depravity of the natural heart; and so on, to the several other parts of the word. Some deny the historical, and some the prophetic; some dispute the doctrines, and some the precepts. But I am to show that the word of God, embraced in the Old and New Testaments, is true.

1. It is true, because those books give the only rational account of creation.

2. It is true, because they give the best code of laws in our world.

3. It is true. They tell of events to come with a certainty that silences all caviling.

4. It is true. They describe the character of man, the thoughts and intents of the heart.

5. It is true. There is a general harmony through the whole. In every page, in every book, we find the same important pillars of truth. We find the same God, the same Savior, the same Spirit, described. We see human character unfolded with entire harmony and truth; and the two opposite states of man, the righteous and the wicked, from Abel and Cain, down to the judgment of the great day, clearly brought to view. In every book we find the same promises to the one, and the same curses denounced upon the other. And, although these writers lived in different ages of the world, and about sixteen hundred years apart, from the first writer to the last; although there were between forty and fifty of them, in every grade of life, from the king on his throne to the poor fisherman; yet their enemies have not been able to show any discrepancy, or disagreement, that is not easily reconciled.

These things show that God is the author of his word. “And holy men (from the king to the peasant) spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit.”

Again; the historical part of the word of God is true. All the contemporary profane historians agree in supporting some parts, and collectively prove the whole; and many monuments of antiquity, still standing, are an additional weight of testimony. The evidences of the flood, of the cities of the plain, of Babylon, Jerusalem, and the monuments of Egypt, all show that the writers lived in the several ages in which they professed to write; and if their writings had not been true, how easily would their enemies have detected them. And surely no one will pretend that the writers of the sacred books had no opposers. Had Moses none? See Egypt, then in her glory; see the Moabites, the Ammonites, Edomites, and all the nations of the land of Judea. Had Joshua, Samuel, David, no enemies? Yes; for there was war all the days of these writers. Had the prophets no enemies? Yes—in their own kings. See the history of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and of all the smaller prophets. Would not the kings and rulers among the Jews have confuted the writings of these men, if it had been in their power, for they were all against them? Yes, yes. But God preserved his word; for it was truth.

In the apostles' days,—had they no enemies? There were Jews and Gentiles, all opposed to those wild fanatics and visionary fools, as they were called, who wrote the New Testament,—“to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness.” All the erudition and wisdom of the pagan government of Rome, that mistress of the world, embracing the most learned people in the whole earth, worshiping in all manner of ways, having and professing to have a knowledge of all the gods many and lords many then known, and altars erected in every city and kingdom in their empire, with their gods and goddesses, priests and priestesses, kings, generals, heroes, soldiers, and people, all combined to destroy the Bible; and yet how vain was the attempt. It stood; “for truth is mighty and will prevail.” The fishermen's Bible hath stood the shock.

Look at the infidels of France in modern times. A government which shook the kingdoms of Europe, and made Egypt and Asia quail, bent all her energy and power to destroy the Bible. Her learned men, her great men, her mighty men, did all that men could,—and what did they do? They opened the eyes of the world. For after three years and a half, during which time the Bible was a dead letter in France, anarchy, murder, and blood filled the kingdom with horror, terror, and dismay; so that the infidels and deists themselves prayed for the restoration of the Christian religion—the precepts of the Bible. And the two witnesses, the Old and New Testaments, arose in a cloud, and have been sent to every nation, in every clime, and are now witnessing in every language.

By these events, the truth of the prophecies of the Bible has been tested. John, in Revelation 11:5,6, says, “And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth and devoureth their enemies. And if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters (people) to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

How truly were these texts fulfilled on infidel France! Where are her infidel writers? “Devoured and slain” in the same Revolution which they said would revolutionize the Christian world and destroy the Bible. Where are the millions of deists who filled France in the days of her Revolution? And the millions more in every nation in Europe and America? They are “turned to blood,” or “smitten with a curse.” There are but few left, and that “remnant was affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.” Once, our cities, our villages and hamlets, were full of deists. But now, where are they? None, none, to raise their puny arm against the Lord and his Anointed.

But, my brethren, there is one more battle, and then the mystery of God will be finished. The enemies of truth have one weapon yet. They wield it now; they begin to shout the victory. It is to pervert the word of God, and wrest its meaning: to change the truth into a lie. This will be the last struggle. Here the enemies of the truth will fall to rise no more forever; for “truth is mighty and will prevail.” “Which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: to him be glory, both now and forever. Amen.” So says Peter; and it is a solemn admonition to us, in this last day. Let us not pervert or wrest the scriptures from their own simple meaning. The word of God must be its own expositor. It is a chain of truth which cannot be broken without doing despite to the Spirit of God by whom it was indicted.

What does the word of God teach us?

1. It teaches that God is the Creator of all things, both which are in heaven and on earth. It teaches that we must be created anew in Christ Jesus: yet some say we create ourselves by good works.

2. It teaches that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh: the mighty God, the everlasting Father. Yet some tell us he is but a man.

3. It teaches that the Holy Spirit is sent down from God, as a sanctifier and reprove, to lead our minds into truth, and to regenerate the heart. Yet some deny his office totally, and some in part.

4. The word teaches that we are elected according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. See 1 Peter 1:2: “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” And yet there are many, very many, who profess to be Christians, who deny this doctrine.

5. The word teaches that “we are kept by the mighty power of God through faith unto salvation. Yet some say we keep ourselves. “I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” Yet some at this day say they can perish.

6. The Bible says the wicked shall be driven into hell, punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, shall go away into everlasting punishment. Yet, say some, everlasting has an end. “But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” And yet many say, you shall not surely die.

This is a fearful day, my brethren. It seems the devil has come down unto us, knowing that he hath but a short time. The lo-heres and lo-theres gather upon us thick as a cloud. Some pervert the doctrine of the gospel, and some the precept; some resist the power, and some pervert the ordinances. Let us, then, take heed unto the truth; for the truth shall make us free.

Let us often ask the question, “What is truth?” and let us be sure we believe, practise, and teach it. For what good will deception or false sentiments do us in the coming storm; when the fire of God’s wrath will try every man’s work, and when truth only will stand in the day of judgment? “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but not one jot or tittle of my word shall fail.” “For the great day of his wrath is come, and who will be able to stand?” Amen.



NEW BOOK: THE STATE AGAINST RELIGION

In *The State Against Religion*, subtitled, *The Case for Equal Protection* [Editor’s note: Protection for religion against secularism—that is], Gus R. Stelzer, author, world-traveler, and retired *General Motors* executive, writes that the US Government’s coercive taxation system supports public schools, whose philosophy is that of John Dewey’s Religion of Secular Humanism as defined in the *Humanist Manifesto of 1933*, in violation of the 1st, 14th and 10th Amendments of the US Constitution.

Stelzer says that the Government is guilty of shutting down 4,662 Catholic Schools, and fostering an increasingly corrupt social, economic, and political order, and that “the only solution to stopping the moral decline of America is a no-strings-attached voucher system that would enable every parent to share in funds that belonged to them in the first place so as to enroll their children in any school of their choosing, including those that project a moral and spiritual environment.”

The Foreword is written by the Reverend Louis P. Sheldon, founder of the *Traditional Values Coalition*, an influential Congressional lobbying organization. *WORLD*, October 20, 2001.

“You see what happened in 1962. They took prayer out of the schools. The next year the Supreme Court ordered Bible reading taken from the schools. And then progressing, liberals, most of them atheistic educators, have pushed to remove all religion from the lives of children. . . The people who wrote the *Humanist Manifesto* and their pupils and their disciples are in charge of education in America today. Pat Robertson, *The 700 Club*, January 13, 1995.

