

Future NEWS

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THERE IS A FAULT WITH US

With painstaking effort, we should work in the mines of truth, discovering the precious jewels that have been hidden. It is the laborer's privilege to have a constant supply of fresh truth for the people. He should be in such a position that he can bring from the treasure house of God, not the same thing over and over, but new beauty and new truth.

We must not for a moment think that there is no more light, no more truth to be given us. We are in danger of becoming careless, by our indifference losing the sanctifying power of truth, and composing ourselves with the thought, "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." Revelation 3:17. While we must hold fast to the truths which we have already received, we must not look with suspicion upon any new light that God may send.

It has been shown me that there is a fault with us, of honoring the human, flattering men, accepting their ideas, their judgment, as the voice of God, and advocating their cause. Many have such confidence in those whom they have been accustomed to regard as leaders, that they seem incapable of discerning when these persons are in error, and they are ready to cling to and defend erroneous positions, because others do so. This spirit is displeasing to God, and is dangerous to all who indulge in it; for if leading men allow themselves to be controlled by prejudice, evil surmisings, or envy, those who look to them for an example are led astray. Brethren, trust not in man; look to God; trust in his infallible wisdom. Shun as a sin the practice, so common even among Seventh-day Adventists, of becoming the echo of any man, whatever his position. Listen to the voice of the True Shepherd, and you will never be led astray. *Gospel Workers*, 389–390.

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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.

Greetings from *Future for America*. Our recent meetings in London were solemn. There was about one hundred in attendance. This was our third time to share the prophetic message with the brethren there and each time has been a battle. Ministries from the US and Great Britain that oppose the message we present on Daniel eleven have held counter meetings just prior to our meetings. The focus of these counter meetings has been to undermine the message we present, as well as to discredit the messenger. This time one leader of a ministry from the US stated that, “Daniel eleven is not salvational”—while another leader of a ministry from the US stated that, “the Holy Spirit had told me to no longer study Daniel eleven”!

How can a passage of Scripture not be *salvational* when we are told to live by “every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4? And why would the Holy Spirit instruct a man to no longer study a passage of Scripture when Inspiration states that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”?

Our previous two meetings were successful from our human perspective, but this third meeting seems to have turned the tide among those who were in the middle ground of making a decision about the prophetic information. We closed these recent meetings by providing opportunity for testimonies about the content of the meetings. Virtually everyone in attendance stood and confirmed that the week’s studies had a powerful impact on their experience and understanding. We praise the Lord for the privilege to participate in this experience!

Next week we will attend the annual meeting of the Christian Coalition. There is much anticipation concerning these meetings among Adventists, as there has been information circulating that it is at these meetings where the Christian Coalition and others of the Religious Right will begin to openly push for a national day of rest. The stories about this possibility are at this point unconfirmed, but the following letter gives an overview of some of the concerned interest that is taking place over these meetings:

Dear Jeff, I attempted to scan a copy of a letter I had given to me from a Pastor Mike Brown, of the Christian Coalition. If you received it then ignore this. Otherwise continue on as I think that if this is true, it is very significant. One page included the following, “We not only need a day of prayer and unity but many of us here at Christian Coalition believe it is time to legislate a national day of rest.” From another page I quote, “33 (thirty-three) Capitol Hill Legislators have now signed on to our legislated agenda for the national day of rest.”

From your newsletter I see that you are attending the annual Christian Coalition conference in Washington D.C. October 11–13. Do you have any information regarding: this, or is this just some false rumor that someone is circulating for whatever reason? I want to thank God for the wonderful work He is doing through your ministry. Keep Him ever close to you. In Christ, B.

There are other points of interest that will take place in these meetings as well as the false interpretation of Bible prophecy has provided an erroneous understanding of the role of the Jews in end time prophecy, the role of the USA, as well as the role of the Moslems at the end of time. The following article about Jerry Falwell’s understanding of Moslems is representative of Protestant darkness concerning the prophecies of the end:

Jerry Falwell says "I think Muhammad was a terrorist" in an interview to be broadcast Sunday on the CBS program *60 Minutes*.

The conservative Baptist minister tells correspondent Bob Simon he has concluded from reading Muslim and non-Muslim writers that Islam's prophet "was—a violent man, a man of war."

"Jesus set the example for love, as did Moses," Falwell says. "I think Muhammad set an opposite example."

CBS released a partial transcript of the interview Thursday. Falwell's comments occur in a segment about American conservative Christians' political support for Israel.

Falwell stood by his opinion in a telephone interview with *The Associated Press*. He said Simon asked directly whether Falwell considered Muhammad a terrorist and he tried to reply honestly. The minister said he would never state his opinion in a sermon or book.

"I've said often and many places that most Muslims are people of peace and want peace and tranquility for their families and abhor terrorism," Falwell said. "Islam, like most faiths, has a fringe of radicals who carry on bloodshed wherever they are. They do not represent Islam."

Other conservative Protestant clergy have made sharply critical remarks about Islam and Muhammad in the past year. They include Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son and successor, TV evangelist Pat Robertson and leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In response to Falwell's remarks, Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the *Council on American-Islamic Relations* in Washington, said: "Anybody is free to be a bigot if they want to. What really concerns us is the lack of reaction by mainstream religious and political leaders, who say nothing when these bigots voice these attacks."

Hooper noted that Falwell and Robertson will speak at next week's Christian Coalition convention in Washington alongside House Majority Whip Tom DeLay and other politicians.

"How can these elected representatives legitimize this kind of hate speech by appearing on the same platform with Islamophobes and Muslim-bashers?" Hooper asked.

Falwell was widely criticized last year after he said on Robertson's TV show that pagans, abortionists, feminists, homosexuals and civil liberties groups had secularized the nation and helped the September 11 attacks happen. Falwell later apologized. *Associated Press*.

Of course Revelation 9, and other passages of Scripture identify that in the past Moslems were a tool to bring judgment to papal Rome, while at the same time providing a political environment in Europe that allowed the Reformation to be established. A correct understanding of the power that the Moslems were raised up to oppose (papal Rome) does not endorse or uphold the papacy above Islam. As we approach the end, and the Moslem world is once again used to be a catalyst of God's providence—it should be recognized that Islam is in no greater darkness than the papacy, or the apostate Protestantism that is currently being brought into confrontation with the Moslem world.

We should remember that we are citizens of a heavenly country, and that patriotism for the power that is currently fulfilling its role of forcing the whole world to worship the beast of Catholicism is not a position which Seventh-day Adventists can afford to maintain and still give a clear message about who and what are the issues connected with the third angel's message. The fact that some in the Moslem world have identified the USA as the "great Satan", does not oppose Revelation 13:11 and onward, although we should refrain from such inflammatory statements:

"We are to make no railing accusation against the nations, for this would close our way so that we could not set the light before the people." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 12, 142.

Seventh-day Adventists have the best light available on “who and what” are the powers, events and issues that transpire at the end of the world, while the Religious Right has cast off the Bible and no longer has the information necessary to correctly understand prophetic truth:

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and **Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth**, will also be deluded.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

We will of course give you a overview of these meetings in our next newsletter.

We currently have received eight hundred dollars towards the six thousand dollar goal for the January evangelistic series in the Philippines. We have received two pledges for further funds, so it appears the Lord is opening the way to move forward with this series. We need to send three thousand dollars right away so the Bible workers may begin their advance preparations. Please keep this upcoming work in your prayers and if the Lord impresses you to help financially with this project, mark your funds Philippines 2003.

The next article should be considered in the light of Daniel eleven. Speaking of Daniel eleven’s future fulfillment Sister White states:

“The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that ‘shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.’ [Verses 31–36, quoted.]

“Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 394.

As Sister White emphasizes a repeat of history in the fulfillment of Daniel eleven, she points to the history of the transition from pagan to papal Rome as identified in verses thirty-one through thirty-six of Daniel eleven. This is the history of pagan Rome’s work to place papal Rome on the throne of the earth. This history parallels the history of our time—when the papacy once again returns to control the earth. In our day the USA is paralleling the work that paganism accomplished in forcing the whole ancient world to worship the beast of Catholicism. The role of pagan Rome prefigures the role of the USA. There is much prophetic light in the recognition that the history of the transition from pagan to papal Rome is the pattern for the relationship between the USA and Rome today, but without touching on that in detail, notice the following article, and understand that in many areas of political analysis within the world today the former Roman empire is being identified as the model for what the USA is currently accomplishing.

HAIL BUSH: A NEW ROMAN EMPIRE

They came, they saw, they conquered. Now the US dominates the world. With the rise of the New Age Roman empire, Jonathan Freedland asks how long before the fall?

The word of the hour is empire. As the US marches to war, no other label quite seems to capture the scope of American power or the scale of its ambition. "Sole superpower" is accurate enough, but seems oddly modest. "Hyperpower" might appeal to the French; "hegemon" is favored by academics. But empire is the big one, the gorilla of geopolitical designations—and suddenly the US is bearing its name.

Of course, enemies of the US have shaken their fist at its "imperialism" for decades: they are doing it again now, as Washington wages a global "war against terror" and braces itself for a campaign aimed at "regime change" in a foreign, sovereign state. What is more surprising, and much newer, is that the notion of a US empire has suddenly become a live debate inside the US. And not just among Europhile liberals either, but across the range—from left to right.

Today a liberal dissenter such as Gore Vidal, who called his most recent collection of essays on the US *The Last Empire*, finds an ally in the likes of conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer, who earlier this year told *The New York Times*, "People are coming out of the closet on the word 'empire'." He argued that Americans should admit the truth and face up to their responsibilities as the undisputed masters of the world. And it wasn't any old empire he had in mind.

"The fact is, no country has been as dominant culturally, economically, technologically and militarily in the history of the world since the Roman empire."

But is the comparison apt? Are the Americans the new Romans?

The most obvious similarity is overwhelming military strength. Rome was the superpower of its day, boasting an army with the best training, biggest budgets and finest equipment the world had seen. No one else came close.

The US is just as dominant—its defense budget will soon be bigger than the military spending of the next nine countries combined, allowing it to deploy forces almost anywhere on the planet at lightning speed. Throw in its technological lead, and the US emerges as a power without rival.

There is a big difference, of course. Apart from the odd Puerto Rico or Guam, the US does not have formal colonies, the way the Romans did. There are no American consuls or viceroys directly ruling faraway lands.

But that difference between ancient Rome and modern Washington may be less significant than it looks. After all, America has done plenty of conquering and colonizing. For some historians, the founding of America and its 19th-century push westward were no less an exercise in empire building than Rome's drive to take charge of the Mediterranean. While Julius Caesar took on the Gauls—bragging that he had slaughtered a million of them—American pioneers battled the Cherokee, the Iroquois and the Sioux.

"From the time the first settlers arrived in Virginia from England and started moving westward, this was an imperial nation, a conquering nation," says Paul Kennedy, author of *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*.

More to the point, the US has military bases, or base rights, in some 40 countries—giving it the same global muscle it would enjoy if it ruled those countries directly. According to Chalmers Johnson, author of *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*, these US military bases are today's version of the imperial colonies of old. Washington may refer to them as "forward deployment", says Johnson, but colonies are what they are. On this definition, there is almost no place outside America's reach.

So the US may be more Roman than we realize, with garrisons in every corner of the globe. But there the similarities only begin. For the US approach to empire looks quintessentially Roman. It's as if the Romans bequeathed a blueprint for how imperial business should be done—and today's Americans follow it religiously.

Lesson one in the Roman handbook for imperial success would be a realization that it is not enough to have great military strength: the rest of the world must know that strength—and fear it. The Romans used the propaganda technique of their time—gladiatorial games in the Colosseum—to show the world how hard they were. Today 24-hour news coverage of US military operations, including video footage of smart bombs scoring direct hits, or Hollywood shoot-'em-ups at the multiplex serve the same function. Both tell the world: this empire is too tough to beat.

The US has learned a second lesson from Rome, realizing the centrality of technology. For the Romans, it was those famously straight roads, enabling the empire to move troops or supplies at awesome speeds—rates that would not be surpassed for well over a thousand years. It was a perfect example of how one imperial strength tends to feed another: an innovation in engineering, originally designed for military use, went on to boost Rome commercially.

Today those highways find their counterpart in the information superhighway: the Internet also began as a military tool, devised by the US Defense Department, and now stands at the heart of American commerce. In the process, it is making English the Latin of its day—a language spoken across the globe. The US is proving what the Romans already knew: that once an empire is a world leader in one sphere, it soon dominates in every other.

But it is not just specific tips that the US seems to have picked up from its ancient forebears. Rather, it is the fundamental approach to empire that echoes so loudly. Rome understood that, if it was to last, a world power needed to practice both hard imperialism, the business of winning wars and invading lands, and soft imperialism, the cultural and political tricks that worked not to win power but to keep it.

So Rome's greatest conquests came not at the end of a spear, but through its power to seduce conquered peoples. As Tacitus observed in Britain, the natives seemed to like togas, baths and central heating—never realizing that these were the symbols of their “enslavement”.

Today the US offers the people of the world a similarly coherent cultural package, a cluster of goodies that remain reassuringly uniform. It's not togas or gladiatorial games today, but *Starbucks*, *Coca-Cola*, *McDonald's* and *Disney*, all paid for in the contemporary equivalent of Roman coinage, the global hard currency of the 21st century: the dollar.

When the process works, you don't even have to resort to direct force; it is possible to rule by remote control, using friendly client states. This is a favorite technique for the contemporary US—no need for colonies when you have the Shah in Iran or Pinochet in Chile to do the job for you—but the Romans got there first. They ruled by proxy whenever they could. The English know all about it. One of the most loyal of client kings, Togidubnus, ruled in the southern England of the first century AD.

Togidubnus did not let his masters down. When Boadicea led her uprising against the Roman occupation in AD60, she made great advances in Colchester, St Albans and London—but not Sussex. Historians now think that was because Togidubnus kept the native Britons under him in line. Just as Hosni Mubarak and Pervez Musharraf have kept the lid on anti-American feeling in Egypt and Pakistan, Togidubnus did the job for Rome nearly two millennia ago.

Not that it always worked. Rebellions against the empire were a permanent fixture, with barbarians constantly pressing at the borders. Some accounts suggest that the rebels were not always fundamentally anti-Roman; they merely wanted to share in the privileges and affluence of Roman life. If that has a familiar ring, consider this: several of the enemies who rose up against Rome are thought to have been men previously nurtured by the empire to serve as pliant allies. Need one mention former US protégé Saddam Hussein or one-time CIA trainee Osama bin Laden?

Rome even had its own 9/11 moment. In the 80s BC, Hellenistic king Mithridates called on his followers to kill all Roman citizens in their midst, naming a specific day for the slaughter.

They heeded the call and killed 80,000 Romans in local communities across Greece. "The Romans were incredibly shocked by this," says the ancient historian Jeremy Paterson, of Newcastle University, England. "It's a little bit like the statements in so many of the American newspapers since September 11: 'Why are we hated so much?'"

Internally, too, today's US would strike many Romans as familiar terrain. America's mythologizing of its past—its casting of founding fathers Washington and Jefferson as heroic titans, its folk-tale rendering of the Boston Tea Party and the war of independence—is very Roman.

That empire, too, felt the need to create a mythic past, starred with heroes. For them it was Aeneas and the founding of Rome, but the urge was the same: to show that the great nation was no accident, but the fruit of manifest destiny.

There are some large differences between the two empires, of course—starting with self-image. Romans reveled in their status as masters of the known world, but few Americans would be as ready to brag of their own imperialism. Most would deny it. But that may come down to the US's founding myth. For America was established as a rebellion against empire, in the name of freedom and self-government. Raised to see themselves as a rebel nation and plucky underdog, they cannot quite accept their current role as master.

One last factor scares Americans from making a parallel between themselves and Rome: that empire declined and fell. The historians say this happens to all empires; they are dynamic entities that follow a common path, from beginning to middle to end.

"What America will need to consider in the next 10 or 15 years," says the Cambridge classicist Christopher Kelly, "is what is the optimum size for a non-territorial empire, how interventionist will it be outside its borders, what degree of control will it wish to exercise, how directly, how much through local elites? These were all questions which pressed upon the Roman empire."

Anti-Americans like to believe that an operation in Iraq might be proof that the US is succumbing to the temptation that ate away at Rome: overstretch. But it's just as possible that the US is merely moving into what was the second phase of Rome's imperial history, when it grew frustrated with indirect rule through allies and decided to do the job itself. Which is it?

Is the US at the end of its imperial journey, or on the brink of its most ambitious voyage? Only the historians of the future can tell us that. *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

"Prophecy is history in advance." James White.

THE FORMULA FOR ENDLESS WARS

The new Bush Doctrine: America asserting a right to launch preventive wars on any "rogue nations" that we catch building the kind of weapons we have had in our own arsenal for half a century?

This is a formula for endless wars, almost certain to produce the very horror the president seeks to avert—the detonation of an atomic or biological weapon on American soil. By dividing the world into good and evil, and threatening pre-emptive wars on all "evil ones," we may persuade the targets of our pre-emption to acquire the only kind of weapons able to deter a crusading US president. *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 19, 2002.

"The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old." *The Great Controversy*, 614.

EMPIRE, SELF-RULE AND THE FINAL WAR

In 1919, Woodrow Wilson arrived in Paris preaching a doctrine of "self-determination" for all peoples. Wilson's Secretary of State Robert Lansing realized Wilson had let the genie out of the bottle. "The phrase (self-determination), is simply loaded with dynamite. It will raise hopes, which can never be realized. What a calamity that the phrase was ever uttered! What misery it will cause!" . . . And so we all stumble toward a war of civilizations in which the atomic bomb may be the ultimate rational, the last argument of those who believe there are principles and rights even higher than those of self-rule and self-determination. *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 12, 2002.

NOTABLE QUOTES

“Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.” Daniel Webster.

“After an unequivocal experience of the inefficiency of the subsisting federal government, you are called upon to deliberate on a new Constitution for the United States of America. The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences nothing less than the existence of the Union, the safety and welfare of the parts of which it is composed, the fate of an empire in many respects the most interesting in the world. It has been frequently remarked that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force. If there be any truth in the remark, the crisis at which we arrived may with propriety be regarded as the era in which that decision is to be made; and a wrong election of the part we shall act may, in this view, deserve to be considered as the general misfortune of mankind.” Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 1. www.Federalist.com, September 16, 2002.

“Among the features peculiar to the political system of the United States, is the perfect equality of rights which it secures to every religious sect.” James Madison www.Federalist.com, September 16, 2002.

“Comrades, we must abolish the cult of the individuality decisively, once and for all.” Nikita Khrushchev.

“We must stop thinking of the individual and start thinking about what is best for society.” Hillary Rodham Clinton. *The Federalist Chronicle*, October 1, 2002.

“The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man’s relation with his God is above human legislation, and his rights of conscience inalienable. Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth; we are conscious of it in our own bosoms. It is this consciousness which, in defiance of human laws, has sustained so many martyrs in tortures and flames. They felt that their duty to God was superior to human enactments, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can eradicate. *Congressional documents* (U.S.A.), serial No. 200, document No. 271.” *The Great Controversy*, 295.

“Our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty.” Samuel Adams.

Hi Jeff,

As I was driving up to DC to hand out the new magazine, I heard this news article over the radio. When I came home I searched for it on the net and printed it to use as an outline for my Sabbath end time events class. Not all of it is relevant, but it will be painfully clear which parts are. I just have a couple of Spirit of Prophecy passages with it, but you may have better things to add. I won't embellish it. Maybe it might have something useful.

Amendment I Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Notice how connected these two aspects of the 1st Amendment are, they are not really separate issues seeing how this is framed.

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

Now the news article:

POLL SHOWS FREE SPEECH SUPPORT DOWN

Support for the First Amendment has eroded significantly since September 11 and nearly half of Americans now think the constitutional amendment on free speech goes too far in the rights it guarantees, says a poll released Thursday. The sentiment that the First Amendment goes too far was already on the rise before the terrorist attacks a year ago, doubling to four in 10 between 2000 and 2001.

The poll found that 49 percent think the First Amendment goes too far, a total about 10 points higher than in 2001. “Many Americans view these fundamental freedoms as possible obstacles in the war on terrorism,” said Ken Paulson, executive director of the *First Amendment Center*, based in Arlington, VA, which commissioned the survey. Almost half also said the media has been too aggressive in asking the government questions about the war on terrorism.

The center, which also has offices in Nashville, asked the University of Connecticut's *Center for Survey Research and Analysis* to measure views about the First Amendment. Their poll of 1,000 adults was taken between June 12 and July 5, and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The researchers said they designed this year's survey, in part, to test the “public's willingness to tolerate restrictions on the First Amendment liberties during what they perceive to be wartime.”

They found that 48 percent of respondents agreed the government should have the freedom to monitor religious groups in the interest of national security—even if that means infringing upon the religious freedom of the group's members. Forty-two percent said the government should have more authority to monitor Muslims.

The survey also found a significant dip in the number of people who believe newspapers should freely criticize the US military about its strategy and performance. Fifty-seven percent were supportive this year, compared to 69 percent in 2001.

Seven in 10 respondents agreed newspapers should publish freely, a slight drop from 2001. Those less likely to support newspaper rights included people without a college education, Republicans, and evangelicals, the survey found. Republican respondents also were more likely than Democrats or Independents to see the news media as too aggressive in seeking war information from government officials. *Associated Press*, August 29, 2002.

“Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice, but a change will come. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence. The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, . . . It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed. Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world’s great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians or the world’s greatest men, it will be done.

“We must individually know for ourselves what is truth, and be prepared to give a reason of the hope that we have with meekness and fear. . . . We shall be attacked on every point; we shall be tried to the utmost. We do not want to hold our faith simply because it was handed down to us by our fathers. Such a faith will not stand the terrible test that is before us. We want to know why we are Seventh-day Adventists, what real reason we have for coming out from the world as a separate and distinct people.” *Maranatha*, 217.

I hope to hear from you soon. Say hello to Kathy for me. Maranatha—Dean Ferrell.

GOVERNMENT INTRUSION

October 1—A year after the government’s response to terrorism began eliciting questions about civil rights, eight in 10 Americans say theirs have been preserved intact. *ABCNEWS.COM*, October 1, 2002.

INFO-TAINERS ARE SEDATING US

[About news shows:] . . . What else have you been telling me is important when it is not? What else have you been not telling me that is important?

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn’s prophecies about media trends in the West: Who needs overt Eastern-style censorship when “fashionable trends of thought” and “idols of the prevailing fad” can accomplish the same thing, “giving birth to strong mass prejudices and blindness” that “functions as a sort of petrified armor around people’s minds”? Who are these guys anyway, and what do they want? They are the big winners of the *1996 Telecommunications Act*, which was ostensibly all about competition, but in reality was the Trojan Horse of cultural consolidation: *AOL/Time-Warner*, *Viacom*, *Bertelsmann*, *AT&T*, *Disney*, *General Electric*, *Sony*, *News Corporation*, and *Vivendi* are their names; getting into your kids’ wallets is their game—to the tune of \$100 billion a year. Their business is to know your teens better than you ever did, and they do it well. These [pop-culture info-tainers] are telling me how to think and what to think about. How nefarious is that! Who out there has an interest in sedating me? What was it that Jesus said about not getting caught slumbering (Mark 13:36)? *WORLD*, June 29, 2002.

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Mark 13:34–37.

US MILITARY SPENDING

The U.S. economy produces one-quarter of the world's GDP [gross domestic product]. Military spending of the US equals one-half of what the entire rest of the world spends on arms. American culture is a powerful force for good (and for evil). *WORLD*, June 15, 2002.

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. Revelation 13:12.

US IN DANGEROUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

I think that we are in a very dangerous relationship with the rest of the world. The go-it-alone policy of the US—of the present administration—shows a certain amount of condescension and contempt for international institutions and for international opinion. After all, we may be omnipotent, but we're not omniscient. *Arthur Schlesinger Jr.*, former special assistant to President John F. Kennedy, *Newsweek*, September 9, 2002.

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. Revelation 13:16.

PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES THE UN

Mr. Bush accurately assessed the dangers: "To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble. And this is a risk we must not take."

"The conduct of the Iraqi regime is a threat to the authority of the United Nations, and a threat to peace. . . . All the world now faces a test, and the United Nations a difficult and defining moment. . . . Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding, or will it be irrelevant? . . . Iraq has answered a decade of UN demands with a decade of defiance."

And the president concluded with a challenge and a promise: "We cannot stand by and do nothing while dangers gather. We must stand up for our security, and for the permanent rights and the hopes of mankind. By heritage and by choice, the United States of America will make that stand.

And, delegates to the United Nations, you have the power to make that stand, as well." *The Federalist* (www.Federalist.com), September 13, 2002.

SILLY PUTTY LAW

Today, the US legal system has been laid low by: a great profusion of law and regulation, much of which is contradictory; class action and plaintiff civil suits that blame deep pocket defendants for the plaintiff's mistakes; unscrupulous prosecutors who abuse their powers; assets freeze and forfeiture laws that have destroyed the security of property; and legal influences that have stripped away the individual's protections, which were once the glory of the Anglo-American legal system.

Today, not even lawyers know what the law is. This is due not only to the law's sheer bulk, but also to the ability of prosecutors and regulators to create law on the spot by interpreting statutes and regulations to suit their purposes. In effect, law has become a kind of Silly Putty out of which prosecutors and police fashion bills of attainder.

Financial privacy is ceasing to exist. It is even illegal to use the *official legal tender* to make a cash purchase of a \$10,000 used car. These complaints just scratch the surface. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 29, 2002. [Emphasis in original.]

"Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. 'Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.' Isaiah 59:14." *The Great Controversy*, 586.

THE UN, THE SUPREME COURT, & INTERNATIONAL LAW

New frontiers for circumventing democratic politics keep appearing. Take the use of United Nations declarations and precedents to create new “norms” of customary international law that could supersede national law around the world. Abortion lobbyists are promoting a norm on “reproductive rights,” which is being interpreted to mean the right to abortion anywhere in the world, for girls as young as 10, without parental consent. Since the US Supreme Court has ruled that customary international law is enforceable in US courts, an international norm on abortion would apply here, even if a constitutional amendment banning abortion were passed. The advantage of this system is that you can push things through at lightly supervised international meetings that would never be adopted through the democratic processes in most countries. Richard Wilkins, a Brigham Young University law professor, says abortion advocates are showing “contempt for democracy and sovereignty” by using unaccountable and lightly supervised international meetings this way. He’s right. In part, this is corner cutting on the left: Outcomes are more important than procedures. Winning is what counts, not how you win. The furtive and often illegal guerrilla warfare . . . shows a determination to win at any cost. *U.S. News & World Report*, May 20, 2002.

“Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.” *The Great Controversy*, 592.

THE UN, ICC & THE JEWS

Among the “fact finders” UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed to report on the Israeli attack on Jenin was a former head of the *International Red Cross*, who had once compared the Jewish Star of David to the swastika. This new *International Criminal Court* could prove equally impartial. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 29, 2002.

[**Editor’s note:** The anti-semitic attitude of the UN could apply to all Sabbath keepers.]

US ECONOMY LIKE A THIRD-WORLD COLONY

Because of past successes, Americans live in a smug, no-think world. Wake up! The US has the export profile of a 19th century Third-World colony. . . . a \$53 billion trade *deficit* in manufactured goods and a \$3 billion surplus in agricultural goods. A large trade deficit in manufactured goods and a surplus in agricultural goods is the profile of a Third World colony. Looking at net exports, it is obvious that the US does not have trade surpluses in areas associated with high-tech industrialized economies. *The United States’ largest trade surplus is in soybeans.*

Another misconception is that China’s economy is a gigantic sweatshop—cheap labor but low-tech. According to the April 19 *Financial Times*, this comforting view is out-of-date. The rapid shift of manufacturing to China by multinational firms has taken research and development with it. *Intel*, *IBM*, *Motorola*, *Lucent Technologies*, *G.E.*, and *Microsoft* were among the first to set up R&D labs in China, where skilled researchers can be hired at one-third the US wage. The US has trained enough Chinese scientists and engineers to support a massive shift in R&D from America (and Japan) to China.

The R&D trickle has become a flood. *Black & Decker*, battery maker *Evercel* and auto parts maker *Lear Corp.* have recently announced closure of US operations and moves to China. We are confronted with massive desertion of industrial and high-tech production and R&D to China, and a consequent decline in middle-class jobs and incomes in the US.

Free-traders, forgetting that consumers have to work in order to consume, think everything is fine as long as consumers are paying lower prices. But US consumers are also earning lower wages. The lost manufacturing and high-tech jobs are being replaced with low-productivity retailing jobs. *Wal-Mart* is now the largest US corporation, with larger revenues than *Exxon-Mobil* and *Microsoft*, combined. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 8, 2002. [All emphases in original.]

“This nation will yet be humbled into the dust.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 259.

POLITICIANS FINALLY CRAFT STATE BUDGET, ALREADY COLLAPSING

That giant swooshing sound you heard early Sunday morning was the collective sigh of relief among California politicians, and perhaps a few real Californians, as the Legislature finally passed a two-month-late state budget, ending a record-long stalemate. That giant crackling sound you heard a nanosecond later was that same, nearly 100 billion dollar budget beginning to collapse on its rotten foundation, weighed down by its unsustainable gimmicks. Many lies were told about the budget during the self-congratulatory speeches in the Assembly, about how it will do various wonderful things, or at least avoid various terrible things. Politicians finally craft a state budget, but it's already collapsing. The day of fiscal reckoning has been postponed again, but it will come. Authorities are warning that while this budget papers over the \$23.6 billion official gap, revenues are already running so much lower than official estimates that the budget may be \$3 billion or more deeper in the hole. What happened Sunday was not the end, but merely the beginning, and not a very good one. *Sacramento Bee*, September 2, 2002.

[Editor's note: If the state of California was an independent nation, it would have the 7th largest economy in the world. If California's economy collapses and sinks, how much of America's "temporal prosperity" would it take down with it?]

"Those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity." *The Great Controversy*, 590.

US NOT TOPS IN ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The *Index of Economic Freedom*, co-published by *The Heritage Foundation* and *The Wall Street Journal*, first appeared eight years ago. While the US consistently scores among the top five most-free nations, it has never in the eight-year history of the *Index* surpassed this year's top three: Hong Kong, Singapore, and New Zealand.

The US landed in a five-way tie, followed by also-tied Australia, Chile, and the United Kingdom. US scores actually slipped from last year. Property rights "are under assault," said the report. US courts "are proving increasingly ineffective in protecting property from regulatory takings." The *Index* also criticizes the US for abandoning its leadership role in international trade. Currently the US is in technical violation of NAFTA while litigating a dispute over whether to allow Mexican long-haul trucks into the US. And since the *Index* came out it has increased both farm and steel tariffs on imports. *WORLD*, June 15, 2002.

BUSINESSES FRET AFTER SHUTDOWN OF WEST'S PORTS

September 30—Cargo ships waited offshore today and factory owners worried about parts shortages as port operators from Seattle to San Diego shut down 29 West Coast ports in a dispute with the longshoremen's union.

After five months of contentious negotiations over a new contract, the operators said they were compelled to shut the ports indefinitely because of what they said was a longshoremen's slowdown that was paralyzing operations.

The union called the shutdown an unjust lockout of 10,500 longshoremen.

Economists and political leaders voiced fears that a long shutdown of the ports, which handle \$300 billion in cargo a year, could hurt a broad swath of businesses. Retailers complained that the shutdown would make it hard to stock shelves for the holiday season, auto dealers said they might soon run out of some popular Japanese cars, and farmers said fresh produce meant for export would soon rot.

"Obviously, this is a major economic disaster for US importers and exporters that represent a substantial portion of the nation's economy," said Robin Lanier, executive director of the *West Coast Waterfront Coalition*, a group that includes *Wal-Mart*, *Kmart*, *Toyota* and dozens of other major importers. "This shutdown is having an immediate impact. We are at the brink of an assembly line shutdown in various places."

The West Coast ports handle about half the nation's imports and exports.

The Bush administration said it was monitoring the shutdown, which some economists say will cost the economy \$1 billion a day for the first five days, with the cost rising exponentially if it lasts several weeks.

"If it goes on for even a short period of time, it's a problem for the economy," said Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesman. "We're monitoring it carefully."

The longshoremen's union, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, denounced the employers' group for closing the ports, insisting that management was putting the nation's economy at risk.

Joseph Miniace, president of the employers' association, said it would not reopen the ports until the union agreed to resume work normally and extend its contract. The employers have agreed to meet with federal mediators, but union officials said they were not ready to meet with a mediator.

Mr. Spinosa said the longshoremen would not extend the contract until management met the union halfway on the central issue in the negotiations—management's desire to use new technologies.

"The I.L.W.U. will not be intimidated," Mr. Spinosa said. "We will not move into a contract that is not desirable for our workforce." *The New York Times*, September 30, 2002.

"The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began." *Last Day Events*, 116.

SUNDAY LAWS—A LURKING DANGER

An issue that has been of vital importance to Seventh-day Adventists since our beginnings is Sunday laws. Adventists resolutely oppose Sunday laws. There are three primary reasons for this opposition.

The first reason Adventists oppose Sunday laws is that the governmental enforcement of Sunday rest is a violation of freedom of conscience. Some claim that Sunday laws do not violate the religious scruples on non-Sunday keepers because they do not force non-Sunday keepers to go to church or engage in other religious activity. Those that make such claims forget that the act of rest on a holy day is in itself a religious activity. In fact, the only religious activity that the Ten Commandments require on the Sabbath is to cease from work. Therefore, forcing non-Sunday keepers to keep Sunday holy by resting is in itself a violation of their religious freedom. In addition, forcing Seventh-day Adventists, Jews, Seventh-day Baptists and members of the Church of God (seventh-day), who already shut their businesses on Saturday to shut them on Sunday as well creates an impermissible economic burden on their religious practice. As such, Sunday laws violate the guarantee of the free exercise of religion found in the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Sunday laws also violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The Establishment Clause forbids the government from enforcing or promoting religion. This is precisely what Sunday laws do by enforcing a religious holy day rest.

Finally, Seventh-day Adventists oppose all civil enforcement of religious doctrines, but civil enforcement of false doctrines is particularly galling. Sunday laws establish through civil power a false Sabbath. The seventh day of the week was declared holy at creation. It was confirmed in the Ten Commandments. Jesus kept Sabbath on the seventh day, Saturday. Early Christians also kept Sabbath on the seventh day (the book of Acts mentions the Sabbath nine times, including instances of Gentiles keeping the Sabbath and Sabbath meetings that did not occur in Synagogues—each time it is clear that it is referring to the seventh day Sabbath. In addition, there is overwhelming evidence that early Christians kept Sabbath on the seventh day, Saturday). While Seventh-day Adventists respect the right of all to rest and worship on the day of their choice, and we actively promote legal protections to ensure that people can do just that, we oppose the establishment of any particular group's holy day as an official national day of rest.

Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming evidence of the religious origin, motivation and impact of Sunday laws, the Supreme Court has upheld such laws as constitutional.

In 1961, the Supreme Court decided cases challenging the constitutionality of Sunday closing laws. The Supreme Court went through a lengthy analysis of the origins and the nature of Sunday laws at the time of the cases. It acknowledged that Sunday laws have a religious origin, quoting from various state and colonial laws that contained reference to the "Lord's Day," prohibitions against "profaning the Sabbath" and other similar blatantly religious language. Nevertheless, the Court found that by the 1960's the motivation behind Sunday laws was the protection of workers' rights. Thus, as Sunday laws now protect worker's rights rather than enforcing religious doctrine, they do not establish a religious belief. In addition, the Court also found that Sunday laws do not violate the Equal Protection Clause or the Free Exercise of Religion Clause of the Constitution.

It is worth taking the time to read the Court's opinion for yourself to see the reasoning the Court employed. It is particularly interesting to read the dissenting opinions in each case, which are located at the end of the discussion. You can visit the cases at: *McGowan v. Maryland* (Sunday laws are not laws pertaining to the establishment of a religion); *Braunfeld v. Brown* (Sunday laws do not violate the guarantee of freedom of religion or equal protection).

Adventists are not alone, however, in opposing the constitutionality of Sunday laws. For example, Justice Stewart joined with Justice Brennan in dissenting to the Court's opinion in *Braunfeld*. He noted in his dissenting opinion that: "I think the impact of this [Sunday] law upon these appellants grossly violates their constitutional right to the free exercise of their religion."

Similarly, Justice Douglas dissented in *McGowan*, stating: "The Court picks and chooses language from various decisions to bolster its conclusion that these Sunday laws in the modern setting are 'civil regulations.' No matter how much is written, no matter what is said, the parentage of these laws is the Fourth Commandment; and they serve and satisfy the religious predispositions of our Christian communities . . . It seems to me plain that by these laws the States compel one, under sanction of law, to refrain from work or recreation on Sunday because of the majority's religious views about that day."

It is over forty years since these cases were decided. This raises the question whether the Court has subsequently found Sunday laws violate the Constitution. The answer is no. In fact, the Supreme Court has confirmed the concept that Sunday laws are constitutional relatively recently. In 1990 the Supreme Court decided *Employment Division v. Smith*. Justice Scalia writing for the majority of the Court in this case used Sunday laws as an example of the types of laws that impact on people's ability to practice their faith but that are nevertheless constitutional. He stated: "Subsequent decisions have consistently held that the right of free exercise does not relieve an individual of the obligation to comply with a "valid and neutral law of general applicability . . . In *Braunfeld v. Brown*, . . . we upheld Sunday-closing laws against the claim that they burdened the religious practices of persons whose religions compelled them to refrain from work on other days."

This raises one final obvious question—if Sunday laws have been interpreted by the Supreme Court to be constitutional, why aren't we forbidden from working on Sunday? Currently the national mood does not support the passage or enforcement of Sunday laws. Thus, as we live in a democracy with legislators who are sensitive to the mood of the populace, there is no great effort to pass Sunday laws or to enforce the Sunday laws that remain on the books. If and when the public mood changes, however, Sunday laws can be passed and enforced with criminal penalties and it is unlikely that courts would prevent such enforcement. www.ola.adventist.org

TOO HOT TO HANDLE?

The bread and butter of the church's religious liberty ministry is helping members with Sabbath problems at work. In the Pacific Union, we help hundreds of members every year. Occasionally, we are faced with significant legislative issues that impact the church. These concerns are frequently resolved through negotiation and compromise. Rarely are we faced with vitally important legislation. This year is exceptional, in more ways than one. We have been dealing with not one or two, but three very high-priority legislative issues.

First, the Workplace Religious Freedom Act. Strengthening civil rights laws that protect against religious discrimination in employment is urgently needed so that Adventists are not forced to choose between their faith and their work. This bill has gained powerful support in the Senate. We have pulled out all the stops in our grassroots effort and have gone on the talk radio circuit around the nation, promoting a petition drive on www.conservativepetitions.com

Another bill emerged as heading for a September vote in Congress, a bill to permit churches to endorse political candidates. This bill threatens to destroy the American church by transforming it into a political action committee. Because churches possess an unfair tax advantage over political organizations, they would become the new magnet for soft money, corrupting both churches and the political process.

The courts have been no less busy. The US Supreme Court approved of tuition vouchers for religious schools, effectively demolishing the wall of separation between church and state. The golden rule has not been abolished—he who has the gold still makes the rules, and these rules are strings to strangle Christian education.

The Ninth Circuit ruled “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. This is not a remarkable decision, based as it was on the principle of strict government neutrality toward religion. What is prophetically significant is that the American people overwhelmingly reject such strict neutrality and insist that school children and the government pledge their allegiance to the One God.

Meanwhile, the gravest threat to our liberties emerges from the emphasis on “homeland security.” The war on terrorism will almost certainly erode our liberties to an even greater extent than the drug war, which shredded our 4th, 5th, and 6th constitutional amendment rights. Members of a particular religious group are being rounded up on “suspicion” and held indefinitely, in blatant violation of the ancient principles of habeas corpus. This is “mark of the beast” stuff, and is setting a dangerous precedent for targeting of other religious “undesirables.”

Our prophetic convictions have never appeared more probable or imminent—surely a few more terrorist attacks would encourage the world community to clamor for a religious compromise in the name of world peace and survival.

All in all, the world of public affairs and religious liberty is heating up, becoming almost too hot to handle. *Pacific Union Recorder*, September 2002.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES GROW

Researchers say that every year 3 million [US] teenagers contract STDs. Officials at the *Centers for Disease Control* in Atlanta say it is “a serious epidemic” and they are “worried.” By all accounts, large numbers of young teens engage in oral sex, and doctors are seeing STD infections in mouths and throats. (At-risk Americans once had to contend mainly with just two STDs: gonorrhea and syphilis. Now there are at least 20, some of them deadly.) *WORLD*, June 15, 2002.

“While exalting the ‘sure word of prophecy’ as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by ‘false teachers,’ who would privily bring in ‘damnable heresies, even denying the Lord.’

Acts of the Apostles,
535.

Dear Jeff, A while back you helped us with some questions that my husband had. I appreciate that. Now he has some more questions. I guess you are aware that Samuel Bacchiocchi has put out a theory that the Islam people will join hands with the Catholics and come together. What do you think? Did Sister White ever say anything about this? What do think their part will be in all of this? Next question! Since everybody seems to be so against President Bush and this Iraq war, how will this man be the one to get the whole world to follow the US with the coming Sunday law. I voted for Bush because I felt like he would bring the law in and we would be closer to the Coming of our Lord. His father plays such a role in the New World Order. Thank you for your help. Yours in Christ, VS

Sister VS, We are told that all apostate powers will unite to oppose God and His people:

“‘These have one mind.’ There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanists.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God’s people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 393.

This being stated, the sequence of events leading to this world unification includes the Moslems as a prophetic catalyst to bring the world into political agreement prior to the persecution of God’s people.

The ultimate effect of the terrorism of the Moslem extremists is to provide the reasoning and justification for a one-world government. This I believe is the inspired pronouncement upon the descendents of Ishmael:

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Genesis 16:10–12.

There are many factors that prophecy identifies that contribute to the Sunday law in the US and the current history that President Bush is fulfilling fits with it all. Iraq is part of the Moslem world and therefore fulfills the purpose of uniting “every man’s hand”. Also the “temporal prosperity” of the USA is swept away before the Sunday law. Consider the cost of the current war on terrorism, and then look to Wall Street as it spirals down. Notice also the Religious Right in the US fulfilling its role as the “false prophet” as it begins to identify who and what are the causes of the current problems while seeking political support for action against the troublers of the people by the government of the USA. (First the Palestinians and Iraq, but ultimately Seventh-day Adventists.) It is not the responsibility of George Bush to accomplish these things, for he is simply a ruler subject to God’s divine providence.

If I had a concern about your note, it would be on the concept of voting for a man we thought would bring on the final events. The inspired commentary on this subject is that we are to do everything to hold back these final evil times.

“We as a people have not accomplished the work which God has committed to us. We are not ready for the issue to which the enforcement of the Sunday law will bring us. It is our duty, as we see the signs of approaching peril, to arouse to action. Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. **Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected.** Let there be most earnest prayer, and then let us work in harmony with our prayers. It may appear that Satan is triumphant and that truth is overborne with falsehood and error; the people over whom God has spread His shield, and the country which has been an asylum for the conscience-oppressed servants of God and defenders of His truth, may be placed in jeopardy. But God would have us recall His dealings with His people in the past to save them from their enemies. He has always chosen extremities, when there seemed no possible chance for deliverance from Satan’s workings, for the manifestation of His power. Man’s necessity is God’s opportunity. It may be that a respite may yet be granted for God’s people to awake and let their light shine. If the presence of ten righteous persons would have saved the wicked cities of the plain, **is it not possible that God will yet, in answer to the prayers of His people, hold in check the workings of those who are making void His law?** Shall we not humble our hearts greatly before God, flee to the mercy seat, and plead with Him to reveal His mighty power?” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 714.

I could add that I believe that when it comes to politics we have a responsibility to uphold a defense for religious liberty, but there are few if any other issues in the political sphere that God’s people should be involved with. As I view things, (from my human perspective) it does not appear that God’s people are ready what is beginning to take place. I believe our efforts are to work to prolong the time as much as possible, so that we can wake up, prepare and sound the warning for others. Jeff.

Hi. I would like to know what are your findings on the 144000 mentioned in Revelation. Is it symbolic or is it literal and if literal do I have a chance of being in that number or they are already decided. Thanks, DM

Dear DM,

For Seventh-day Adventists today salvation is not enough. Part of the “present truth” for today is that probation is about to close. This means that among other things our calling is not simply to be saved, but to be among those who make up the 144,000. We have been counseled to “strive” to be among that number:

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” *Maranatha*, 241.

We are commanded to strive to be among them, and therefore this is our calling at this time period. Not only do you have a chance, but it is your responsibility to work out this calling with “fear and trembling”. Remember:

“His commands and promises are identical.” *Review and Herald*, January 14, 1890.

Jeff.

Dear Jeff: Could you please tell me who is the “son of perdition” from 2 Thessalonians 2:3? Thank you. A.

Brother A: The son of perdition is the pope of Rome. Son or daughter in prophecy usually (depends on context) is referring to the last days. The son or daughter being the descendant. With the pope in Bible prophecy there is also times when the symbol pointing to the pope can correctly be understood as Satan, for the pope is simply Satan’s earthly representative. Both the pope and Satan are destined for perdition. The man of sin is the son of perdition. Jeff.

Brother Jeff,

I’m not sure where you are just now. God bless you richly is my prayer.

Presently I am in Trenton, Ontario conducting a series of evangelistic meetings which will take me till October 19th. This is where Sister Phyllis Vallieres is a member. Last night she gave your recent newsletters to the lady where I am staying. This lady didn’t know or hear about you before, so I was able to assure her that she was safe in reading your material. Besides that I was able to borrow them and keep up on the reading myself, for which I was very grateful.

Our attendance here is small, we have a high school auditorium that seats 700 and we are having around 70 in total come out. I am praying that our numbers will increase. Tonight is number five in the series of twenty-six. Thank you for your prayers. You pray for me, I will pray for you. We need each other’s prayers. Any thing I can do more for you please let me know. Sincerely, Pastor V.

Future for America:

Keep up the good work for the Lord. Your presentations on Daniel 10–12 is great. You are in our prayers. Jesus be with you always. May the Lord show you what His will is, then give you the power to do it. In Jesus, M&J—WA

Dear Kathy and Jeff,

I pray all is well with you all, and everyone at *Future for America*. I really enjoy your tapes & newsletters. I’m doing OK, tried, but well, thanks to God! All I do any more is work, study, and witness for the Lord! Our country is really beginning to “speak as a dragon” more and more these days. Please continue to pray for me—that my faith will grow and grow in the lord Jesus, and that He will give me strength to endure anything, no matter what it may be. I will continue to pray for you all. May God bless and keep you all always. Your sister in Christ Jesus, LL—FL

“The question has been asked me, ‘Do you think that the Lord has any more light for us as a people?’ I answer that He has light that is new to us, and yet it is precious old light that is to shine forth from the Word of truth. We have only the glimmerings of the rays of the light that is yet to come to us. We are not making the most of the light which the Lord has already given us, and thus we fail to receive the increased light; we do not walk in light already shed upon us.”

Selected Messages, book 1, 402.