

Future NEWS

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THE DECLARATION OF TRUTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THIS NATION

“O,’ said the heavenly messenger, ‘the Lord’s institutions are terribly behind the greatness of the truths which are being fulfilled at the present time. There is a fearful misconception of the claims of duty. The frosty atmosphere in which believers are content to live retards the self-sacrificing movements which should be made to warn the world and save souls.’

“‘The powers of darkness are working with an intensity of effort, and year by year thousands of people, from all kindreds, nations, and tongues, pass into eternity, unwarned and unready. Our faith must mean something more definite, more decided, more important.’

“‘Ask my institutions and churches, “Do you believe the Word of God?” What then are you doing in missionary lines? Are you working with self-denial and self-sacrifice? Do you believe that the Word of God means what it says? Your actions show that you do not. How will you meet at the bar of God the countless millions who, unwarned, are passing into eternity?’

“‘Will there be a second probation? No, no. This fallacy might just as well be given up at once. The present probation is all that we shall have. Do you realize that the salvation of fallen human beings must be secured in this present life, or they will be forever lost?’

“‘The Laodicean message is applicable to the church at this time. Do you believe this message? Have you hearts that feel? Or are you constantly saying, We are rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing? **Is it in vain that the declaration of eternal truth has been given to this nation to be carried to all the nations of the world?** God has chosen a people and made them the repositories of truth weighty with eternal results. To them has been given the light that must illuminate the world. Has God made a mistake? Are we indeed His chosen instrumentalities? Are we the men and women who are to bear to the world the messages of Revelation fourteen, to proclaim the message of salvation to those who are standing on the brink of ruin? Do we act as if we were?

“‘In a clear, determined voice the messenger said, ‘I ask you what you are doing? O that you could comprehend! O that you could understand the importance of the warning and what it means to you and to the world! If you did understand, if you were filled with the spirit of the One who gave His life for the life of the world, you would cooperate with Him, making earnest, self-sacrificing efforts to save sinners.’” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 91–92.

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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.

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This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY UPDATE

We have recently held a week of prayer in New York and then had Sabbath meetings in Northern California. In four days I leave for London to hold nine days of meetings and when we return we will attend the annual Christian Coalition meetings in Washington D.C. In November we speak at two camp meetings in Colombia. In March we have been invited to hold several meetings in Chile. We have two evangelistic meetings under preparation in Uzbekistan and two others in Senegal, Africa. All four of these series will be speaking to a Moslem audience. In January we have an evangelistic series in the Philippines.

Times are very busy for us here. We have been helping Alfonso and Lupe Perez to get settled into managing the Spanish work here at *Future for America* and helping Sister Phyllis get started with the same work in Canada. We solicit your prayers and thank you for your financial support. We have now received one hundred dollars for the Philippines 2003 evangelism series. The budget is six thousand dollars and we need to have half of that amount to the Philippines by October in order to start the Bible workers three months in advance.

AN EMAIL FROM A SISTER WHO PLACES MUCH OF OUR MATERIAL ON HER WEBSITE:

I learned this last week that Sam Bachiocchi is putting forth a “new understanding” regarding the 1260 day/years. I was deeply saddened. I will not read it unless duty demands it, but I wondered if you had heard about it?

That is one of the clearest and well established foundation rocks of our prophetic understanding. How could anyone have the nerve to lay unhallowed hands on that? I wanted to weep!

I wanted to ask a question and I do not mean it as any criticism in the least. I want to have a full spectrum of your prophetic information on the subweb—and I don't have as much transcribed as I would wish. I haven't been getting the time to do much and have been sicker than usual lately. But what I want to ask is this. I find that all the messages coming out lately seem to be repetitious, and I can understand that they might have to be, but can you provide some guidance to me as to what is the most important articles to set before the people in order to cover the message without so much repetition?

Do you have e-files on messages you could send to me like you did that one time- and I could post them on the subweb? Have a Blessed Sabbath! P—Canada

Sister P,

Yes, I have heard about Bachiochi's new ideas. To often, it appears to me, that theologians set aside established foundations under the pretense of upholding an incorrect definition of intellectual honesty. I sometimes think theologians will be the most difficult humans for God to save, because they spend their efforts studying about God instead of seeking to know God.

“Jesus chose unlearned fishermen because they had not been schooled in the traditions and erroneous customs of their time. They were men of native ability, and they were humble and teachable,—men whom He could educate for His work. In the common walks of life there is many a man patiently treading the round of daily toil, unconscious that he possesses powers which, if called into action, would raise him to an equality with the world's most honored men. The touch of a skillful hand is needed to arouse those dormant faculties. It was such men that Jesus called to be His colaborers; and He gave them the advantage of association with Himself. Never had the world's great men such a teacher. When the disciples came forth from the Saviour's training, they were no longer ignorant and uncultured. They had become like Him in mind and character, and men took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.” *The Desire of Ages*, 250.

I also struggle with the repetition of my material. But, I am under conviction that the themes we are sharing are present truth, and that they are widely unknown or misunderstood. Because of this, it is difficult for me to move away from the basic truths which we present. It is a personal dilemma I deal with regularly. I am stuck with this situation until the Lord removes the burden I have for the basic principles which I return to so often. If I was to counsel you on which presentation are the most important I would suggest *The Fianl Rise and Fall of the King of the North* as the foundation of our material. This sets forth the basic prophetic understanding that brings all our other materials together, I would follow that by the series titled *Adventism's Parable*, for this brings the prophetic message together with us as God's people. I would then look at *The Judgment of the Living* and *The Purification of God's Church* series. For me it is important to understand what takes place at the Sunday law and how the Sunday law relates to Christ's work in the Most Holy Place. These two series touch on these themes. Hope this helps. Jeff.

Dear Brother Pippenger. I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I write this letter to further request for some medical missionary materials and some tracts on present truth that are unmasking the antichrist, or the man of sin. I also send my sincere gratitude for the books I received from your ministry, God will reward you for your generosity. I live in the city of Ndola which has a population of about 2 million people, but the HIV infection in this city is very high. Almost half of the population is infected, not only AIDS but even some other infection are high. Surely the judgments of God have started to be poured out, as the spirit of God is gradually withdrawn upon this earth. According to *Testimonies*, volume 9, 9–11. We live in the solemn and important days. Whenever we go for canvassing often time we come across people who are afflicted with diseases, hence the work of medical missionary has become important to every follower of Christ, so I am in desperate need of materials on medical missionary. In the world there is prophecy is fast fulfilling, the church has apostatized from the truth, people are accepting wrong teaching such as the papacy is not the man of sin. Could you also send me books on this subject and some tracts to distribute. I will be greatly appreciative. I am also asking for some books on country living. These books or materials I need them very much. In Christ's name, VK—Ndola, Zambia

Dear Kathy. Thank you for the nice materials that you sent me, I cannot even find the language to describe how happy I am to have these material at my finger tips. As a human being I have nothing to reward thee, but the living God has lay up a powerful reward which he will give to each one of us. Please continue with the same spirit of generosity and kindness. My desire it to start a ministry and make sure I serve the Lord with all my strength, mind, soul, and heart. May the Lord continue prospering your ministry as you continue standing and working for him. Yours in the blessed hope. JC—Central Africa

"Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result—intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' and that 'no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.' Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns—in profession pure, gentle, and harmless—that speaks as a dragon." *The Great Controversy*, 442.

CHURCH, STATE 'WALL' NOT IDEA OF JEFFERSON

New research on Thomas Jefferson's "wall of separation" between church and state shows that Jefferson never intended it to be the iron curtain of today, which instead was built on anti-Catholic legal views in the 1940s.

Though the new scholarship has received good reviews for exploding a "Jeffersonian myth" about a wall against religion, others say it is too late to tear down a barrier that Americans feel comfortable with.

"What we have today is not really Jefferson's wall, but Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black's wall," said American University professor Daniel Dreisbach, whose forthcoming book explores how Jefferson coined the "wall" metaphor.

Mr. Dreisbach's arguments parallel those of University of Chicago law professor Philip Hamburger, whose new book also says Justice Black's anti-Catholicism—learned in the Ku Klux Klan—influenced his 1947 ruling that the First Amendment created a "high and impregnable" wall between religion and government. The two authors say the Founders did no such thing and that the "wall of separation" has become a "lazy slogan" for judges and politicians.

In the Supreme Court's 1947 *Everson* decision—prohibiting New Jersey to spend state education funds for religious education—Justice Black cited the phrase "wall of separation between Church & State," from Jefferson's January 1, 1802, letter to a group of Baptists in Massachusetts.

The new scholarship argues that the Virginian used that metaphor in hopes of winning support in New England—then a stronghold of the rival Federalists—rather than as the definitive interpretation of the First Amendment. "Jefferson worked with his New England political advisers on the letter," said Mr. Dreisbach, who five years ago began looking at Jefferson's original draft, the political advice and the electoral setting of the period.

The letter actually "backfired" by alienating the Baptists, he said. "The Baptists advocated disestablishment of the Congregationalists in New England, but they were not for separation of religion from public life."

This political interpretation of Jefferson's "wall" caused a national stir when it was part of a 1998 Library of Congress exhibit, to which Mr. Dreisbach contributed. Historian Robert Alley, who argues that Jefferson wanted a secular public square, rallied other scholars in protest, saying the exhibit "ignores the past 60 years of Supreme Court opinions that analyzed Jefferson's phrase."

With the new books, more emphasis is being thrown on Justice Black's use of Jefferson's phrase. "You can't understand the period when Justice Black was on the court without understanding the fear American elites had of Catholic influence and power," said Mr. Dreisbach, who is not a Catholic.

Alan Wolfe, director of the Boisi Center for Religion and Public Life at Boston College, is impressed by the new findings but doubts they can make a difference.

"I think it is terrific scholarship, but I don't think it can change anything," said Mr. Wolfe, who reviewed the Hamburger book and has surveyed public opinion on politics and religion.

"The 'wall' idea has taken on a life of its own and is part of our custom and law," Mr. Wolfe said. "Americans love God and hate politics, so they ask, 'Why mix the two?'"

He said Catholics today are comfortable with church-state separation, as every religion must be in the United States. "One day, a group of [US] Muslim thinkers will come up with an idea of 'separation' that works for them."

Stanley Katz, a Princeton scholar, said the new data on the "Jeffersonian myth" will have a "profound impact on the current law and politics of church and state."

In the past two years, Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia both have argued that modern anti-Catholicism produced the idea that "sectarian" groups create conflict and must be walled off from public support.

“It was an open secret that ‘sectarian’ was a code for ‘Catholic,’” Justice Thomas wrote in a concurring opinion two years ago. “This doctrine, born of bigotry, should be buried now.”

The term “sectarian” was first used in a federal ruling on church-state issues in 1948. Mr. Dreisbach said public debate on the new scholarship may help reverse the conventional wisdom that society must be secular and religion confined to private opinion. “Religious citizens should be able to compete in the marketplace of ideas on equal terms to other groups,” he said. *The Washington Times*, August 5, 2002.

Editor’s note: A primary Jesuit technique in accomplishing their Satanic work is the re-writing of history.

“There are many who are disposed to attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism in the United States to bigotry or childishness. Such see nothing in the character and attitude of Romanism that is hostile to our free institutions, or find nothing portentous in its growth. Let us, then, first compare some of the fundamental principles of our government with those of the Catholic Church.

“The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberty of conscience. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental. Pope Pius IX, in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: “The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience are a most pestilential error—a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state.” The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, anathematized “those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,” also “all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.”

“The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O’Connor: “Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.” . . .

The archbishop of St. Louis once said: “Heresy and unbelief are crimes; and in Christian countries, as in Italy and Spain, for instance, where all the people are Catholics, and where the Catholic religion is an essential part of the law of the land, they are punished as other crimes.” . . .

“Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an oath of allegiance to the pope, in which occur the following words: ‘Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said lord (the pope), or his aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.’” —Josiah Strong, *Our Country*, ch. 5, pars. 2–4.” *The Great Controversy*, 564–565.

SOCIETY’S STANDARDS

The wave of corporate fraud did not emerge in a vacuum. It’s in part a consequence of a society that refuses to recognize absolute standards of right and wrong. *WORLD*, July 20, 2002.

Editor’s note: This may be the beginning of a conservative backlash that could seek to impose conservative values on the rest of society.

AMORAL LEADERS: PUBLIC DISTRUST

From Christian pollster George Barna: Enron, WorldCom, Martha Stewart, Xerox, Catholic priests, Tyco, Arthur Andersen, Qwest Communications. This is a partial list of candidates for this year’s *Absence of Ethics* award. Without question, the bottom line issue is moral leadership.

What do Americans make of this mess? Confidence in the nation’s leaders has plummeted—regardless of their industry or sector of service. Although the business ethics and leadership problems have dominated the news for weeks, half of the adult public admits to not being familiar with the substance of the problems. Most adults believe that the recent business debacles are a moral problem, not a competence problem.

Americans say the problems would most likely have been avoided if families had done a better job of introducing morals and values to their children. Superior laws, tighter enforcement and better moral education in schools were not deemed to be as useful as family training. How do Americans perceive the ethical crisis of the nation? This is a critical time to take note of a seminal shift in the nation's mood toward leaders. www.barna.org, July 22, 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.

BASELINE BUDGETING—A PRIMER

Government budgeting is an exercise in political rhetoric. Central to the success of the rhetorical exercise is the process that the government uses to prepare its budget, called "baseline" budgeting. Witness how baseline budgeting works in the current debate on California's budget.

Total spending in the 2001–02 budget (which just ended on June 30) was \$76.8 billion. Total spending proposed for the 2002–03 budget adopted by the Senate is \$76.8 billion. Yet, the Senate budget chairman claimed that he had "cut" the budget by \$20 billion. That type of reasoning is the new, New Math, colored by the baseline budgeting system.

Our state budget "deficit" is about \$23.6 billion. For 2001–02 we spent \$76.8 billion and revenues were approximately \$66 billion. That accounts for \$10.8 billion of the current deficit projection. Without the tax increases, 2002–03 revenues are projected to be \$69.6 billion. In order to get the other \$12.8 billion in projected deficit, projected spending would have to be \$82.4 billion. That is the "baseline." Cuts are calculated from that "baseline."

\$82.4 billion is a \$5.6 billion increase in spending from the 2001–02 budget to the 2002–03 budget. If the Governor then proposes a budget for 2002–03 that has the exact same amount of spending as the 2001–02 budget, how can he claim he "cut spending?"

Another example of "baseline budgeting" math was the recent claim that welfare costs have "decreased 9.5%" made by the Governor's office. In 1996–97, total welfare cases were 842,216, and general fund costs for cash welfare payments were \$2.526 billion. Today, the total caseload is 523,718, but total cash payments to recipients is \$2.735 billion, an actual increase of 9.3% (in cash payments alone). When the other welfare services (food stamps, child care, housing, CalWorks, etc.) are added in, the cost balloons to a real 50% increase since welfare reform was enacted. Only in the math of government budgeters can a \$211 million increase in cash be called a 9.5% decrease in the budget. It may sound pretty in print, but it is false in fact. *MONDAY MORNING MEMORANDUM*, Senator Ray Haynes, July 21, 2002.

"If men of wisdom and knowledge, of moderation and temperance, of patience, fortitude and perseverance, of sobriety and true republican simplicity of manners, of zeal for the honour of the Supreme Being and the welfare of the commonwealth; if men possessed of these other excellent qualities are chosen to fill the seats of government, we may expect that our affairs will rest on a solid and permanent foundation."—Samuel Adams, *Federalist*, 19 August 2002.

Dear Jeff. Thank you very much for sending me your three *Future News* newsletters and the tapes on what shall befall thy people. I find them very interesting and very helpful. You also helped me to see the fallacy in applying the three timelines in Daniel 12 to the future. The tape you sent me about two months ago on religious liberty was only partially recorded. Please send me the following tapes. Yours in His Service. God Bless You. JR

Dear Jeff. I haven't sent any money for a while. My husband was not well for several years. I had a hospital bed brought in, brought him home from the hospital and nursing home, and with the aid of a practical nurse we took care of him for the last five weeks of his life. He died at home where he was happy, this spring. If he had lived till July, we would have been married 69 years and his 91st birthday. Sure miss him! Met him when I was 16 and he was 20. I finished High School and got married. Hope to see him again on the Resurrection Day. God bless you in your work. DB

Dear Jeff. Praise and glory to our Father on the highest. Thank you for your sincere ministry through tapes and newsletters. I've been very blessed. I just graduated from LLU last Sunday, and going back to Japan soon. So, I just want to let you know that I won't be able to receive your materials on the same address, but that's okay. My friends will share with me even when I'm far. I also wanted to share this music CD that we could make with divine help for my appreciation as I leave this place. Thank you again. May God continue blessing you. R—CA

Thank you Jeff Pippenger and staff for this informative paper. We enjoy reading it. It is full of vital and new things that we need to know. Keep up the good work. We know the Lord is working with you. D and GH

Hello Jeff. I just received your *Prophetic Time Lines* and read it this AM. Thank you I'll be doing a sermon or two on it. Also received the tapes on *Gideon's Torch* and *The Prophetic Pattern*. Thank you again very much for your sending this reforming and reviving spiritual food. JR

Dear Jeff, thank you so much for your tapes 5 and 6 on Daniel 11. You got as far as verse 40. I am really looking forward to the next ones. Also for May and June newsletters. Could you please send me *The Mystery of the Daily* by John Peters. Also *The Illustrated Guide to Bible Prophecy*. I really appreciate your discussions. They ring of the truth to my hearing. Yours Truly JR

Dear Jeff and Kathy. Thank you so much for your ministry and your faith and commitment to our Savior. I haven't been sending your monthly checks because I was helping a sister in need. I don't believe that she will need so much help as she has in the past so I am delighted to be able to help with the work that you are doing. Your tapes are wonderful. More later. In His name. L

Dear Friends in Christ. Here is just a small gift for July and August. May our Heavenly Father bless you, as you bless others. Soon we will be all with our precious Lord. What a day of rejoicing that will be. In the meantime let us work for Him. With Christian Love RM

JAY LENO SHAPES PUBLIC OPINION

I love these experts on TV. They keep saying that this is just a paper loss. Too bad paper is what money is printed on. . . . Stocks are bad, corporations are corrupt and people are losing jobs. Do you think God might be a little upset about that pledge thing? "Hey, you're all on your own now!" *The Federalist Chronicle*, July 24, 2002.

Editor's note: The popular late-night TV funnyman is setting this nation up to believe that God is punishing the USA by removing our temporal prosperity.

US ECONOMY WEAKENING

US stocks whipped the internationals [stocks] during the dizzy, bubble years, but now a page is being turned. Global investing is going to look good again. The dollar is weakening after several years of super, global strength. *Newsweek*, August 5, 2002.

THE WTO—“ICC”

Since it was formed in 1995, the World Trade Organization has ruled against the United States in almost every [surplus foreign products] anti-dumping case it has reviewed. Just this month, W.T.O. dispute panels rejected two cases that involved penalties against formerly government-owned steel companies.

Most experts predict that the WTO, which serves as an international [commercial] court to settle disputes, will reject the stiff duties Mr. Bush imposed this spring on steel. Mr. Bush imposed the tariffs as “safeguards,” which are permitted under existing trade agreements when countries are confronted with a devastating flood of imports [like the USA presently is].

That’s a hard case to support. Steel imports have been declining for the last several years. Though nobody disputes that American steel companies are in dire straits, with nearly one-third in bankruptcy, foreign rivals argue that the problems lie with the American industry’s failure to restructure and deal with huge pension costs. *The New York Times*, August 18, 2002.

Editor’s note: The soft-underbelly of the US is its already overstretched economy, which is being further threatened by foreign exporters dumping their surplus goods on the US market. Once the US market is broken, there will be a loss of “temporal prosperity.” Subsidies may help keep prices down for awhile, but without stiff “protectionist” tariffs, they’re only prolonging the inevitable. When tariff protections are gone prices for everything in this country will skyrocket. If by then the WTO—“ICC” has already made the US totally dependent on foreign goods, so that we are importing nearly everything, and exporting nearly nothing, our economy could go belly-up.

USA’S FINANCIAL FRAGILITY

The impact of potential acts of terrorism on economic continuity is an element that can only be addressed on the warfront with Jihadistan. The threat of a nuclear detonation in an coastal urban center (or some other WMD assault with similar scope) can reverse an economic trend in a nanosecond—and Iraq’s covert nuclear-arms program is closing in on the provision of such a weapon to al-Qa’ida operatives. *The Federalist Chronicle*, July 26, 2002.

“It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 590.

VOUCHERS AND RELIGION

In Washington D.C., one adult in 20 is said to be HIV positive. New tests among the homosexual population suggest that perhaps twice as many are HIV positive as knew that to be the case as recently as last year. Only the blindest of the blind refuse to see the correlation of such figures with society’s determination to thumb its nose at traditional biblical morality. So religion’s just a marginal issue, is it? No, that game of denial is over. We all know better now. All of life is religious. The US Supreme Court’s voucher decision was clear: We’re not going to pretend any longer, the Court said in effect, that we can erect a meaningful wall between the secular and the religious aspects of public life. It’s not just a decision about education. The implications and reverberations will thunder through society for years to come. *WORLD*, July 20, 2002.

Editor’s note: This may be the beginning of a conservative backlash that could seek to impose conservative values on the rest of society.

FLORIDA COURTS STRIKES DOWN VOUCHERS

A Florida court ruled earlier this week that tuition vouchers for religious schools violate the state constitutional ban on funding of religious institutions. This comes just weeks after the US Supreme Court upheld a similar voucher program in Ohio, under the Federal constitution. The Florida decision signals that neither the legal nor the political battles over vouchers are over. California's constitution has a ban on using public funds for religious institutions, similar to the one in Florida.

Vouchers have done poorly at the ballot box, having been soundly defeated in Michigan and California, in ballot initiatives in 2000. What is largely absent from the public debate are legislative proposals for an alternative to vouchers—tax credits—which have some important policy advantages over vouchers. Tax credits have been implemented in Arizona, and a bill has been introduced in California. None of these measures are likely to get much attention until and unless the economy improves at the state and local level. No government funds are likely to be allocated to public education alternatives.

Given the current political and economic climate, the real significance of the voucher debate has to do with the erosion of our First Amendment freedoms. The Supreme Court has abandoned historic constitutional principles of separation of church and state, in favor of a spurious form of neutrality. This “neutrality” theory replaces the principle that government has no jurisdiction over religion, with a principle of equal aid to all religion. Now, government has jurisdiction over religion, which, in the Adventist prophetic understanding, will one day be extended to Sunday observance. Moreover, the principle of “facial neutrality” adopted by the Supreme Court means that “neutrality” need be only on paper, or on its face, not in practice or reality. Thus, a Sunday law can easily be constructed to satisfy this new theory of “neutrality,” in spite of the fact that it would have a dramatic discriminatory impact on Sabbath observers. *Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty*, August 6, 2002.

Dear Brother in Christ,

We thank you for your desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, for through you He has mercifully shed light on those of us who wish to prepare for the coming crisis. We pray He will grant you strength as you pursue His will. Our question today is one which we have never heard (except from a long deceased friend) or seen addressed anywhere in our pursuit of end-time prophecies. It has to do with Daniel 12:5–7. We question whether or not this has to do with the “time, times and an half” mentioned previously in Daniel. We are under the impression it has to do with the time of trouble concerning the plagues. Any light the Lord can shed on this subject through you would be greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ, L&CB

Dear L&CH,

Uriah Smith presents the pioneer position on this question as follows:

“The question, ‘How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?’ undoubtedly has reference to all that has previously been mentioned including the standing up of Michael, the time of trouble, the deliverance of God’s people, and the special and antecedent resurrection of verse 2. And the answer seems to be given in two divisions: First, a specific prophetic period is marked off; and, secondly, an indefinite period follows before the conclusion of all these things is reached; just as we have it in chapter 8:13, 14. When the question was asked, ‘How long the vision . . . to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?’ the answer mentioned a definite period of 2300 days, and then an indefinite period of the cleansing of the sanctuary. So in the text before us, there is given the period of a time, times, and a half, or 1260 years, and then an indefinite period for the continuance of the scattering of the power of the holy people, before the consummation.

“The 1260 years mark the period of papal supremacy. Why is this period here introduced? Probably because this power is the one which does more than any other in the world’s history toward scattering the power of the holy people, or oppressing the church of God. But what shall we understand by the expression, ‘Shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people’? A literal translation of the Septuagint seems to present it in a clearer light: ‘When he shall have finished the scattering of the power of the holy people.’ To whom does the pronoun he refer? According to the wording of the scripture, the antecedent would at first sight seem to be ‘Him that liveth forever,’ or Jehovah; but, as an eminent expositor of the prophecies judiciously remarks, in considering the pronouns of the Bible we are to interpret them according to the facts of the case; and hence must frequently refer them to an antecedent understood, rather than to some noun which is expressed. So, here, the little horn, or man of sin, having been introduced by the particular mention of the time of his supremacy, namely, 1260 years, may be the power referred to by the pronoun he. For 1260 years he had grievously oppressed the church, or scattered its power. After his supremacy is taken away, his disposition toward the truth and its advocates still remains, and his power is still felt to a certain extent, and he continues his work of oppression just as far as he is able, till when? Till the last of the events brought to view in verse 1, the deliverance of God’s people, every one that is found written in the book. Being thus delivered, persecuting powers are no longer able to oppress them; their power is no longer scattered; the end of the wonders described in this great prophecy is reached; and all its predictions are accomplished.

“Or, we may, without particularly altering the sense, refer the pronoun he to the one mentioned in the oath of verse 7, as ‘Him that liveth forever;’ that is, God, since he employed the agency of earthly powers in chastising and disciplining his people, and in that sense may be said himself to scatter their power. By his prophet he said concerning the kingdom of Israel, ‘I will overturn, overturn, overturn it, . . . until He come whose right it is.’ Ezekiel21:27. And again, ‘Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.’ Luke21:24. Of like import is the prophecy of Daniel 8:13: ‘How long the vision . . . to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?’ Who gives them to this condition? God. Why? To discipline; to ‘purify and make white’ his people. How long? Till the sanctuary is cleansed.” *Daniel and the Revelation*, 337-340.

I agree with Smith’s position. The 1260, 1290, and 1335 of Daniel 12 are foundations truths that were correctly understood by the pioneers as being fulfilled by 1844. The 1260 is identifying the time period the papacy ruled the world—538 to 1798; the 1290 is identifying the time when the pagan powers of the former Roman empire had reached a point where they could no longer resist the papacy, so they therefore became her champion. This period begins in 508 and continues to 1798. The 1335 is identifying when God was once again going to bring about a denominated people to fully represent Himslef and His truths before the world. This time period beginning in 508 and extending to 1843—the fulfillment of the “midnight cry” and the marriage. We cover these truths in our series titled *The Prophetic Time* series. Sister White also speaks of the scattering, and notes that it was completed prior to the 1844 time period, thus denying the “times, time, and a half” as still in the future:

“September 23, the Lord showed me that He had stretched out His hand the second time to recover the remnant of His people, and that efforts must be redoubled in this gathering time. In the scattering, Israel was smitten and torn, but now in the gathering time God will heal and bind up His people. In the scattering, efforts made to spread the truth had but little effect, accomplished but little or nothing; but in the gathering, when God has set His hand to gather His people, efforts to spread the truth will have their designed effect. All should be united and zealous in the work.” *Early Writings*, 75.

Brother Jeff. I meant to share this with you. It is an interesting verse from the English translation of the Syrian Peshitta.

But you, O Daniel, seal these words and be silent, and seal this book even to the time of the end; many shall want to know the end, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4.

AN EMAIL INQUIRY

Dear Jeff. My husband was in San Antonio, Texas a while back and received some information that does not match up with what I have been taught all my life. He got this information at a big thing that the Texas Conference was putting on. I have always been taught that the purification of the church comes at the Sunday Law. The information that he got says that it comes before the Sunday Law and that the 144,00 are then developed and that all Seventh-day Adventists who are not in the 144,000 will be literally slaughtered at the time before the Sunday Law. I am very confused by all of this and I have not ever heard you preach anything that did not sound exactly right so I am sending you a check tomorrow for the *Purification Series*. Thank you for all you and your staff are doing for the Lord, Bless you all.
VS

Sister VS,

The main error that leads to applying the prophecies in the fashion you identified is in attempting to apply the prophecies at the end in a literal fashion.

The primary group in Adventism who use this false prophetic technique, particularly in reference to Ezekiel, is the Shepherd's Rod and their various branch offs, (there have been several since Victor Hoteff [not sure of the spelling of his name] started pushing these concepts). They are not the only ones to apply the prophecies literally, but they emphasize the purification of the church as a literal event. Victor Hoteff was not simply an erroneous teacher—he was a false prophet. He claimed the position of a prophet. He made several predictions that never came to pass, and he openly opposed some parts of Scripture and some passages from the Spirit of Prophecy. It's unfortunate that the Texas Conference would promote such error. They should look at the work that was done by a couple General Conference committees that addressed Hoteff's ideas. They were clear that his prophetic analysis was erroneous, and they did their work for the purpose of identifying the churches position in relation to Hoteff's nonsense. That was years ago, so perhaps the left hand no longer knows or remembers the work of the right hand?

I will mail you a *Purification* set with notes today, but I will also send you *The Judgment of the Living* series, where this subject is also addressed. God Bless you. Jeff

Dear Jeff, Thanks for such a rapid reply to my questions about Ezekiel 9. We can hardly wait to get the notes and tapes. I will mail you a check tomorrow. It is a shame that the conferences don't pay more attention to the things being handed out at their gatherings. What you said in your email to me makes sense to me and is what I have always heard. I feel alot better now! Can't wait to get your tape and letter every month. My friend L (she lives in Indiana) gets it too and we get on the free long distance cell phone and go over it from front to back each month! Keep up the good work, Brother Jeff. Your friend in Christ, V

**BUT SUCH IS THE IRRESISTIBLE NATURE OF TRUTH, THAT ALL
IT ASKS, AND ALL IT WANTS, IS THE LIBERTY OF
APPEARING.—THOMAS PAINE**

Hi! I just saw a video at a meeting tonight about molecular-biology scientists discussing intelligent design theory. Very interesting stuff! Super animations too! The newest hot idea is “irreducible complexity,” which means when they’ve studied down to the smallest thing they can find, it’s still so complex that it obviously needed a “designer.” That’s what happened as the scientists studied smaller and smaller living systems hoping to find the point of the origin of life (hoping to find a random event that would support the spontaneous evolution of life from non-living matter), but when they got down to the end of the trail they didn’t find the “beginning” of life, but rather, DNA going around in a self-replicating circle. So, when they expected to find the smallest, simplest building-block of life, here is this enormously complex DNA continuously reinventing itself with the help of other mind-bogglingly complex cellular machinery! So, these big-shot scientists who write the textbooks for the universities have HAD to admit the existence of “intelligent design”—with the obvious implications about a metaphysical *Designer*, just in order to be honest about what they’re discovering! Wow! The video is called, “Unlocking the Mystery of Life”, and it’s by *Illustra Media*. I’m going to order a copy from their website, www.illustramedia.com. You should too! God Bless!

Dear Brother Pippenger,

Please receive greetings from Luis and I hoping that your trip back home was a pleasant one. We continue to share the light that you were able to share with us at the Pearl River Church, praying that God can continue working thru you and your wife in waking our brothers and sisters from the sleep that we are in.

I just want to send you a quick E-mail asking for information on how to obtain some books in Spanish, specially the Daniel and Revelation commentary, which I believe you mentioned that it is available in Spanish.

I have the notes for the *Those Things Which Have Been, Will be Repeated Series* which we decided to get on the last day of your meeting, but you did not have the tapes with you. Your wife mentioned that she would leave it with Pastor N. Could you please let me know if you were able to leave this series for us? If not then please let me know how much the final cost would be including shipping.

Also, how can we subscribe to the *Future of America* magazine. We would be interested in receiving it. May God richly bless you and your family. Your sister in Christ, LR, NY

Hi Jeff, Can you tell me when Satan will masquerade as Christ and show me the texts from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy that give this information? Will this happen before probation closes? Thanks. K

Dear K,

Sister White uses Barabas to symbolize Satan:

“The scenes of the betrayal, rejection, and crucifixion of Christ have been reenacted, and will again be reenacted on an immense scale. People will be filled with the attributes of Satan. The delusions of the arch-enemy of God and man will have great power. Those who have given their affections to any leader but Christ will find themselves under the control, body, soul, and spirit of an infatuation that is so entrancing that under its power souls turn away from hearing the truth to believe a lie. They are ensnared and taken, and by their every action, they cry, ‘Release unto us Barabbas, but crucify Christ.’ . . .

“Those who choose Satan as their ruler will reveal the spirit of their chosen master, who caused the fall of our first parents. By rejecting the divine Son of God, the personification of the only true God, who possessed goodness, mercy, and untiring love, whose heart was ever touched with human woe, and accepting a murderer in His place, the people showed what human nature can and will do, when the restraining Spirit of God is removed, and men are under the great apostate. Just to that degree that light is refused and rejected will there be misconception and misunderstanding. Those who reject Christ and choose Barabbas will work under a ruinous deception. Misrepresentation, the bearing of false witness, will grow under open rebellion.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 416.

The world chooses Satan when, “the delusions of the archenemy of God and man will have great power”. This is during the personation of Christ by Satan:

“When Jesus was on earth, Satan led the people to reject the Son of God, and to choose Barabbas, who in character represented Satan, the god of this world. The Lord Jesus Christ came to dispute the usurpation of Satan in the kingdoms of the world. The conflict is not yet ended; and as we draw near the close of time, the battle waxes more intense. As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a human being, but he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world that has rejected the truth will receive him as the Lord of lords and King of kings. He will exercise his power, and work upon the human imagination. He will corrupt both the minds and the bodies of men, and will work through the children of disobedience, fascinating and charming, as does a serpent. What a spectacle will the world be for heavenly intelligences! What a spectacle for God, the Creator of the world, to behold!

“The form Satan assumed in Eden when leading our first parents to transgress, was of a character to bewilder and confuse the mind. He will work in as subtle a manner as we near the end of earth’s history. All his deceiving power will be brought to bear upon human subjects, to complete the work of deluding the human family. So deceptive will be his working, that men will do as they did in the days of Christ; and when asked, Whom shall I release unto you, Christ or Barabbas? the almost universal cry will be, Barabbas, Barabbas! And when the question is asked, ‘What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?’ the cry again will be, ‘Crucify him!’” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 5, 1106.

The personation of Christ by Satan takes place immediately after the Sunday law in the United States. This is identified in Revelation 13:11–13:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 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. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

The USA speaks as a dragon at the Sunday law and then Satan joins forces with the USA in forcing the rest of the countries of the world to do the same. Sister White confirms this alliance by identifying who it is that calls fire down from heaven:

“Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.” *The Great Controversy*, 612.

Sister White also places Satan’s personation after the Sunday law in the USA:

By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. 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.

Satan is allowed to test the world through his deceptions until human probation closes:

"None need be deceived. The law of God is as sacred as His throne, and by it every man who cometh into the world is to be judged. There is no other standard by which to test character. 'If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.' Now, shall the case be decided according to the Word of God, or shall man's pretensions be credited? Christ says, 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' If those through whom cures are performed, are disposed, on account of these manifestations, to excuse their neglect of the law of God, and continue in disobedience, though they have power to any and every extent, it does not follow that they have the great power of God. On the contrary, it is the miracle-working power of the great deceiver. He is a transgressor of the moral law, and employs every device that he can master to blind men to its true character. We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And **he will continue these wonders until the close of probation**, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 50-51.

There is much more information on this subject in our study titled *The Crowning Act*. Jeff.

NEW MORALITY DE-CHRISTIANIZING THE USA

Both autocratically through the courts, and democratically through the ballot box, Amercia is being de-Christianized; becoming a pagan country. As Vaclav Havel said, what we seem to be trying to create "the first atheistic civilization in the history of mankind." In the culture war for the soul of America . . . there seems no doubt who is winning. But as every Western nation that has embraced the Sexual Revolution and New Morality has begun to die—not one any longer has a birth rate that will enable it to survive in its present form through mid-century—a new question arises. Is the new morality itself the drug invented by anti-Christians to bring about the assisted suicide of the Christian West they have always detested? Today's children are going to find out. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 1, 2002.

Editor's note: It is possible that, in the wake of one or more disastrous terrorist-attacks, a pro-Christian backlash may occur in order to bring this country back to God.

UN'S INTERNATIONAL COURT OF INJUSTICE

When the United Nations received the 60 ratifications necessary to implement the ICC, the ratifications were made to Hans Corell, the UN's undersecretary-general for legal affairs, who said, "A page in the history of humankind is being turned." Corell's declaration received thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

For those who say that the court does not violate national sovereignty, let them look at Slovenia, which ratified the treaty on December 31. Slovenia was forced to amend its constitution, change its penal code, alter its criminal procedure code and conform its law on police forces to adhere to the ICC before the UN would accept its ratification. Like many countries, Portugal was forced to adopt a constitutional amendment. and although Poland's criminal code already has provisions dealing with genocide, crimes against humanity, aggression and war crimes, it must conform them to ICC authority.

How do ICC proponents square that with Article III, Section I of the US Constitution, which reads, "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish"? On issues where it alleges jurisdiction, the ICC treaty will claim authority over the Supreme Court, subjugating its decisions to ICC review.

The ICC treaty also lacks constitutional safeguards, like the right to confront one's accusers; due process; trial by jury; and a public and speedy trial by an impartial jury. *The Conservative Chronicle*, April 24, 2002.

REAL TARGET OF ICC IS US SOVEREIGNTY

Americans seem unable to understand that there exists today in the dreams of internationalists and globalists a plan for a world government, the rise of which requires an end to the independence, sovereignty and liberty of the country we love and to which we have sworn allegiance.

Now the institutions of world government—the UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank, World Court, and ICC—were created for high-sounding goals: World peace, to facilitate free trade, to rebuild war-torn Europe, to ensure justice is done to the Pol Pots, the Idi Amins and their victims. But as each of these global institutions grows, it [also] evolves, and assumes more and more power. None is ever shut down, none ever disappears, they are all made to accrete power and last forever. *The Conservative Chronicle*, April 24, 2002.

“First the United States forms an image to the beast, then the entire world does so. The world therefore must form and empower a world government which supercedes the sovereignty of nations in order to fulfill the definition of the image of the beast.” *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*, 98.

EVANGELISM OF JEWS NOT NECESSARY, SAY US CATHOLICS

Roman Catholic leaders in the US declared last week that they will no longer target Jews for conversion to Catholicism. According to a document released jointly by the Catholics and a major US Jewish organization, the Old Testament covenant between God and the Jewish people is “eternally valid.” The Bishops conclude in their portion of the statement that there is no need for Jews to embrace Christianity in order to receive salvation.

While saying that they would not discourage individual Jews from joining the Catholic Church, the bishops said that “proselytizing campaigns are not compatible with the respect with which we hold Judaism.” The document says that while the Catholic Church regards the “saving act of Christ as central to the process of human salvation for all, it also acknowledges that Jews already dwell in a saving covenant with God.”

The statement, entitled *Reflections on Mission and Covenant*, was released August 12 by the *National Council of Synagogues*—one of the largest Jewish groups in the United States—and the *Inter-religious Affairs Committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops*. The two groups have met twice a year over the past 20 years to discuss issues of mutual interest.

According to a Catholic spokesperson, last week’s statement comes as a natural step in a progression of statements and actions of the church since the Second Vatican Council in 1965. With this statement, the US Catholic Church becomes the first national Catholic administration to openly renounce evangelistic efforts to convert Jews to the Catholic faith.

To see the joint Catholic, Jewish document go to: www.nccbuscc.org/comm/archives/2002/02-154.htm#reflections, *Adventist News Network*, August 20, 2002.

EMAIL FROM WC

Brother Jeff. Why is it that Israel is not included in Adventist prophecy? I think she has a role. Pope John Paul II bears the number 666. Do you think Sunday law will be implemented in his time?

Dear WC,

Israel has a role in Adventist prophecy, for Adventism is modern Israel:

“For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.” *Evangelism*, 696.

Seventh-day Adventists are “the Lord’s professed people” and are modern Israel. Ancient Israel was cut off:

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Daniel 9:24.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! Behold, **your house is left unto you desolate**. Matthew 23: 37–38.

“The city of Jerusalem is no longer a sacred place. The curse of God is upon it because of the rejection and crucifixion of Christ. A dark blot of guilt rests upon it, and never again will it be a sacred place until it has been cleansed by the purifying fires of heaven. At the time when this sin-cursed earth is purified from every stain of sin, Christ will again stand upon the Mount of Olives. As His feet rest upon it, it will part asunder, and become a great plain, prepared for the city of God.” *Review and Herald*, July 30, 1901.

Jews in the world today have opportunity to receive salvation, but the Israel of endtime Bible prophecy is modern Israel—the Seventh-day Adventist church. To read literal Israel into endtime Bible prophecy is to use the prophetic technique of interpretation invented by the Catholic church for the primary purpose of destroying the Protestant Reformers ability to identify the pope as the antichrist of Bible prophecy. Pope John Paul II could be the pope when the Sunday law arrives based upon the fact that the only thing left to happen before the Sunday law arrives is for God’s people to prepare their characters for the test. Character is this issue that is the deciding factor of when the Sunday law arrives:

“When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’ Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. Revelation 7:2–3.

Hi Jeff: I just finished off reading your newsletter (May, second part) dealing with the Uriah Smiths' book and some of the issue that Pastor Lin addressed in Daniel 11. Thank you for making it clear to me in regard the understanding of the pioneers view of Daniel 11:31–36. I have gone through all your tapes and must say I find it fascinating how things are falling into place as Daniel 11:41–45 are about to take place. May God arouse his people in seeing what is about to take place as we go out and proclaim the three angels message just as John the Baptist prepared the way of the coming of our Lord so we to are to prepare for the coming of Jesus. I can see more and more why sister White said that the prophecies of old were more for our time. It is said when we see among our people that start to change the historical and early pioneers view of Daniel and Revelation.

I was wondering how your ministry was in Asia as both me and my wife had the pleasure of sharing our believes with some Muslim students when we lived in Ontario. I remember how they were fascinated about the gift of prophecy and our view of sister White as a prophet. They were both medical students and we had the opportunity to share *Council on Diets and Foods* with one of them. He later said this woman must have been inspired as the things that she described is something we are just founding out today. So I believe that the Muslims would be open to our end time message.

In conclusion, I was wondering how you see the Muslim world fit in Daniel and Revelation. Does China (i.e. atheistic communist) have any roll to play in the end time other than we know that the whole world will follow the Papacy (final healing of the political wound).

Thank you again for your ministry and may God continue to bless your work and it is my prayer that we continue, as the Bereans, to study daily God's word to better understand his will for us as well as to show us the things that are about to take place. Just like the apostles when Jesus told them of the destruction of Jerusalem so that when that prophecy was about to take place they recognized it and obeyed His word by fleeing to the mountains (leaving the city). M—Canada

Dear M,

We have travelled to Asia several times, but work with the Moslem people is a new prospect for us. The Moslem world is as the pioneers understood it, plus a bit more. The Molsems are identified under the fifth and sixth trumpets of Revelation 9. The pioneers understood the trumpets to represent judgments that were brought against Rome and the fifth and sixth were the judgments brought against papal Rome. The book of Revelation is placed in the context of the Sanctuary and it should be understood that the trumpet was one of the furnishings of the sanctuary.

A brief study of the trumpets in the sanctuary confirms that they were used in association with judgment, so the pioneers correctly applied the trumpets in terms of the sanctuary setting, but the trumpets were also used to illustrate deliverance. Part of the story of the Moslems in Revealtion 9, that was largely or totally missed by the pioneers, was the truth that the Moslem world, while bringing judgment to papal Rome, was simultaneously providing an environment for the success of the Protestant Reformation. While bringing judgment, they were also providing deliverance historically for those who were opposing Catholicism within Europe. In this context we can see that the descendants of Ishmael, (the Moslem world) is today the catalyst for bringing together the one-world government of Bible prophecy in fulfillment of the prophecy of Ishmael's descendents:

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

But at the same time the Moslem world is uniting the world in prearation for the Sunday law persecution, we should expect their influence of to provide some type of environment which opens the way for the furtherance of the later rain message, as it goes forth in a loud cry.

Concerning your question about China, I see it as fully impacted by the latter rain message, for the promise is that many shall come from the land of Sinnim, which was Isaiah's way of saying China:

Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Isaiah 49:12.

But in terms of prophetic symbolism I believe China is outside the scope of prophetic identification. By that I mean that the end time scenario in Bible prophecy is developed from the ancient geographical area where the Old Testament is set. The local persons, places, geographies, histories, ect. that are recorded are pointing forward to the end of the world with an application of those local persons, places, ect. as having a worldwide application. The Lord chose a specific area to represent the entire world at the end of time. When using this principle at the end of the world Sister White identifies a specific geographical area to apply Bible prophecy. She calls this Christendom. She teaches that it is within Christendom where Bible prophecy will be acted out. This does not mean the entire world is not impacted by the gospel, it simply means that when seeking to align the symbols of end-time Bible Prophecy correctly, we should look for fulfillment within the geographical area known as Christendom. China is outside this area, as is India and the Far East, ect.. Primarily Christendom is Europe and the Americas.

"The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. . . .

"In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved.

"All Christendom will be divided into two great classes—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.

"As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration.

"As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places." *Last Day Events*, 131.

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. Daniel 11:41.

Dear Brother Pippenger; I have noticed that Hartland is putting out studies on Daniel 11 and I wondered if you knew whether they are in agreement with yours? I haven't seen them and don't want to send for them if they are yet another way-off view. I am finding it sad that there seems to be fifty different ideas going on in Adventism and most will not even look at another view. It is interesting though that I do see a trend of people turning their eyes to these prophecies. I believe an awakening is coming, but why is there no unanimity? The Spirit won't teach 50 different versions of something? Do you see any sign of increasing unity in these prophecy views? I have such a burden to see Adventists come together on sound, solid prophecy! I just had to remove the links to my website from other websites I do, because of people complaining to the web owners about the views of: "Guess what—the glorious land"! It seems people hit that truth and that's the end of it. When I studied this truth through I found the position you present is correct. I searched the Spirit of Prophecy recently and although there are many places where she refers to God's people as "holy mountain" or the "Lord's mountain", NEVER once did I find a reference calling God's people the "glorious land". God Bless. PT

“In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers. But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of the nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.” Jeremiah 3:18–19.

“When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for His people, that they might worship Him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ,—when that land shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God’s law,—it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed.” *Signs of the Times*, June 12, 1893.

“The Lord has done more for the United States than any other country upon which the sun shines. Here He provided an asylum for His people, where they could worship Him according to the dictates of conscience. Here Christianity has progressed in its purity. The life-giving doctrine of the one Mediator between God and man has been freely taught. God designed that this country should ever remain free for all people to worship Him in accordance with the dictates of conscience. He designed that its civil institutions, in their expansive productions, should represent the freedom of gospel privileges.” *Maranatha*, 193.

“America, . . . where the greatest light from heaven has been shining upon the people, can become the place of greatest peril and darkness because the people do not continue to practice the truth and walk in the light.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 387.

“The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and ‘national apostasy’ will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin.” *Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

“Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will by a national act give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism. With rapid steps are we already approaching this period.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 410.

William Miller comments on the United States this way:

“In 1813, I received a Captain’s commission in the US service, and continued in the army until peace was declared. While there, many occurrences served to weaken my confidence in the correctness of Deistical principles.

“I was led frequently to compare this country to the children of Israel, before whom God drove out the inhabitants of their land. It seemed to me that the Supreme Being must have watched over the interests of this country in an especial manner, and delivered us from the hands of our enemies.

“I was particularly impressed with this view when I was in battle of Plattsburg, when with 1500 regulars, and about 4000 volunteers, we defeated the British, who were 15,000 strong; we being also successful at the same time in an engagement with the British fleet on the lake. At the commencement of the battle, we looked upon our defeat as almost certain, and yet we were victorious. So surprising a result against such odds, did seem to me like the work of a mightier power than man.” *Mr. Miller’s Apology and Defence*, 1–2.