

FUTURE NEWS

Volume 8, No. 5

April 2004

NO SECOND BIDDING

“Here is the divine and human united. The command is given to the four angels to hold in check the four winds until they receive His summons. Read the entire chapter. The cry, ‘Hurt not,’ is uttered by the Restorer, the Redeemer.

“Judgment and wrath were to be repressed only for a little space until a certain work was done. The message, the last message of warning and mercy, has been retarded in doing its work by the selfish love of money, the selfish love of ease, and the unfitness of man to do a work that needs to be done. The angel that is to lighten the earth with His glory has waited for human instrumentalities through whom the light of heaven could shine, and they thus cooperate to give, in its sacred, solemn importance, the message which is to decide the destiny of the world.

“But the churches are not awake. New life must enter into the churches. The last work of warning and mercy for a fallen world is being done. None are to be deceived, thinking to lay their individual work on somebody else. When this probationary time shall close, there is no opportunity for those who have received the warning message, the proclamation of pardon and salvation, and have refused—have turned from light and truth and accepted fables—to be justified. There is no second bidding to the marriage feast, no intermediate state when another call will be made to come to the heavenly feast.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 15, 223.

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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.

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 non-profit corporation; funded by readers like you. The cost of this newsletter and audio-tape reaching a home is approximately \$3.50.

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

MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear Brother Jeff,

When I looked at the 8th king of Revelation 17, I wanted first & foremost to know everything Ellen White said on the subject. She never mentions the 8th king or head. I had to look for another clue to connect me. Verse eleven says, “The beast that carrieth her is the 8th.” I know the beast in this chapter is a scarlot colored beast & it carries her. What does Ellen White say about a scarlot colored beast? Nothing!

Next, I checked other characteristics of this beast/head to see if she addressed any of them. The only one I could find that she directly explained was “shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.” In that context she is explaining Revelation eleven and is talking about the French Revolution, in *The Great Controversy*, 268–269. “When they shall have finished [are finishing] their testimony.’ The period when the two witnesses were to prophesy clothed in sackcloth, ended in 1798. As they were approaching the termination of their work in obscurity, war was to be made upon them by the power represented as ‘the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit.’ In many of the nations of Europe the powers that ruled in church and state had for centuries been controlled by Satan through the medium of the papacy. But here is brought to view a new manifestation of satanic power.”

This is atheism. She talks about a new power, then she talks about the nation of France. The atheistic power was not the nation of France, but a new power that came out of France about the time of the French Revolution. The communist manifesto and the first book on marxism was written in the aftermath of the French Revolution.

Revelation 17 says the beast is a scarlot color. Have you ever heard of Red China, Red Russia, etc.? The communist countries don’t use a combination of colors, just red. the beast “was & is not & yet is (a world power controlling several nations). We have had several communist nations that have fallen, but the whole world then adopts communist principles into their government & so in this way it becomes the 8th king or superpower. Let me know what you think of this, after reading the whole reference. Thank you, MW—

Sister MW:

In Bible prophecy context must be considered. What does a “lion” symbolize in Bible prophecy? Satan? Yes, sometimes. Christ? Yes, sometimes. Judah? Yes, sometimes. Babylon? Yes, sometimes. Symbols must be understood by their context.

There are four entities in the book of Revelation that are associated with the “bottomless pit”. Islam comes out of the “bottomless pit” in Revelation nine.

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon. Revelation 9:1, 2, 11.

Atheism comes out of the “bottomless pit” in Revelation eleven.

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. Revelation 11:7.

Satan is thrown into the “bottomless pit” in Revelation twenty.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. Revelation 20:1-3.

And in Revelation seventeen Catholicism ascends from the “bottomless pit”.

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. Revelation 17:8.

Your conclusion would identify Islam, atheistic France, Satan and the papacy as atheism. These are four different entities. Not only do you not consider “context” you also misapply the Spirit of Prophecy. Sister White does not say the “bottomless pit” represents atheism—she says it represents a manifestaion of Satanic power.

“I told him that the Lord had shown me in vision that mesmerism was from the devil, from the bottomless pit, and that it would soon go there, with those who continued to use it.” *Early Writings*, 21.

Atheism in chapter eleven, Islam is chapter nine, Catholicism in chapter seventeen and Statn himself in chapter twenty are all manifestations of Satanic power. The “bottomless pit does not represent atheism, Islam, or Catholicism. It represents a satanic power, and that power must be identified by the context of the passage. In Revelation seventeen the clear context is Catholicism, for in the very verse where the “bottomless pit” is identified, the power which ascends out of it is the power that, “they that dwell on the earth shall wonder [afetr], whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world”. According to John, in chapter thirteen that power is the papacy.

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:3, 8.

If you insist that the “bottomless pit represents atheism and it always does so, then you destroy the foundations of Adventism, for the pioneers identified the power that came from the bottomless it in chapter nine as Islam, and that truth is one of the foundations of Adventism. Jeff

PREPARATIONS, MOVEMENTS, AND EVENTS

“Parents, ask yourselves the solemn question, ‘Have we educated our children to yield to paternal authority, and thus trained them to obey God, to love him, to hold his law as the supreme guide of conduct and life? Have we educated them to be missionaries for Christ? to go about doing good?’

“Believing parents, your children will have to fight decisive battles for the Lord in the day of conflict; and while they win victories for the Prince of Peace, they may be gaining triumphs for themselves. But if they have not been brought up in the fear of the Lord; if they have no knowledge of Christ, no connection with heaven, they will have no moral power, and they will yield to earthly potentates who have assumed to exalt themselves above the God of heaven in establishing a spurious sabbath to take the place of the Sabbath of Jehovah. The tender mercies of this power will be displayed in prison cells and dungeons. **Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth’s history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days.**

“Decisions will be called for and made; **backsliders will either return decidedly to their allegiance to God, or they will be enrolled in the ranks of the enemy:** Satan will have control of all who finally refuse to be controlled by the law of God. He will inspire parents to war against their children, and children to war against their parents,—to betray and deliver those of their own household to enemies. **Coming events are casting their shadows upon our pathway.** Fathers, mothers, I appeal to you to make most earnest efforts now for your children. Give them daily religious instruction. Teach them to love God, and to be true to the principles of right. With lofty, earnest faith, directed by the divine influence of the Holy Spirit, work, work now.

“Do not put it off one day, one hour. Teach your children that the heart must be trained to self-control and self-denial. The motives of the life must be in harmony with the law of God. Never be satisfied to have your children grow up apart from Christ. Never feel at ease while they are cold and indifferent.

“Cry to God day and night. Pray and work for the salvation of the souls of your children. ‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.’ It is the mainspring, the balance wheel of character. Without the fear of the Lord, they will fail of accomplishing the great object of their creation.

“You may be pleased with the brilliant intellect of your child; but unless it is under the control of a sanctified heart, it will work at cross-purposes with God. Nothing but a high sense of the claims of God upon us can give us the proper stability of character, penetration of mind, and depth of understanding, essential to success, both in this world, and in the world to come. Daily communion with God will refine, ennoble, and elevate the entire being. ‘The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes,’ says the psalmist. ‘The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.’ The basis of all true education is found in the fear of the Lord. A soul that is molded by the truth of God will reveal a well-balanced character, ennobled by the grace of God; and such a character is a spectacle for men and angels. Parental duty has been fearfully neglected; but shall this neglect be continued? Shall we not now repent, and as parents take up our God-given life-work? We have no time to lose. Let us redeem the time because the days are evil.

“The law of God is made void in the world, and iniquity prevails; but light is shining from the open door of the temple of God. Open your heart, and let the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shine into your soul, that you may be softened, subdued, and sanctified.

“The enemy of all righteousness is on our track. Satan is marshaling his host; and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us?

“Are we preparing our children for the great crisis? Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries, and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense.” *Review and Herald*, April 23, 1889.

GOD WILL HELP HIS PEOPLE

“When Lot entered Sodom, he fully intended to keep himself free from iniquity and to command his household after him. But he signally failed. The corrupting influences about him had an effect upon his own faith, and his children’s connection with the inhabitants of Sodom bound up his interest in a measure with theirs. The result is before us. Many are still making a similar mistake.

“Let it be your study to select and make your homes as far from Sodom and Gomorrah as you can. Keep out of the large cities. If possible make your homes in the quiet retirement of the country, even if you can never become wealthy by so doing. Locate where there is the best influence.

“I am instructed by the Lord to warn our people not to flock to the cities to find homes for their families. To fathers and to mothers I am instructed to say, Fail not to keep your children within your own premises. Take your families away from the cities is my message. The time has come when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities.

“The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it that may be cultivated.

“Before the overflowing scourge shall come upon the dwellers of the earth, the Lord calls upon all who are Israelites indeed to prepare for that event. To parents He sends the warning cry: Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible.

“Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation, where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh meat, which is so corrupting to the lifeblood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities.” *The Adventist Home*, 139.

Hi Jeff! I really enjoyed your January newsletter and the explanations of Rome being the 8th! I use the NIV study bible and noticed that the text is quite different than what you printed (eg. NIV is missing John standing on the sand of the sea and also the order if 7 heads and 10 horns is reversed).

What do you recommended as a Bible version to use especially in studying Daniel and Revelation? Does the EGW study bible add a lot of info on Daniel and Revelation? Thanks for your important work in these end times.

I recommend the King James Version. The NIV is one of many Catholic Bibles that deny the truth of God’s word in a variety of ways. Jeff.

Dear Jeff:

I have been an Seventh-day Adventist for 43 years and for as long as I can remember, I have always heard that there would be no sex in heaven and that we would be “as the angels”. But, in Samuel Bacchiocchi’s, *End time Issues*, #9, February 25, 1999, he says that things will be just the same as they are here on earth, as far as sex goes!

I know that you are busy, but could you please look at this on his web site and let us know what you think. His web site is: www.biblicalperspectives.com

I really feel that he is not right but I would like to know what you think about this. I have found you to be a real straight shooter as long as we have been studying with your material and we respect your opinion. Thanks for all you and your wife do for spreading The Word of The Lord. Keep looking up, The Lord is coming soon. Thanks, V and BS

“There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth, but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the ‘sure word of prophecy.’ The words of Christ are too plain to be misunderstood. They should forever settle the question of marriages and births in the new earth. Neither those who shall be raised from the dead, nor those who shall be translated without seeing death, will marry or be given in marriage. They will be as the angels of God, members of the royal family.

“I would say to those who hold views contrary to this plain declaration of Christ: Upon such matters silence is eloquence. It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that God has not made known to us in His word. We need not enter into speculation regarding our future state.

“To my ministering brethren I would say, ‘Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.’ Do not bring to the foundation wood, and hay, and stubble--your own surmisings and speculations, which can benefit no one.” *Medical Ministry*, 99–100.

NO DISCORDANT OPINIONS

“God has given us instruction that every child of His has a work to do. To every one is given talents according to his several ability. To minister for Christ it is not necessary for a man to be a preacher. There are many who, though they do not feel that they have been set apart for the special work of preaching, are, nevertheless, ministering for Christ. The Sun of Righteousness shines upon them, and they reveal that they are one with Christ. The Word of God is the man of their counsel. As they study the Scriptures they are enabled to understand what they read. They work in unity with one another. There will be no discordant opinions **among those who are taught by God**. True saints are one in spirit and action. The Holy Spirit binds them together, and all the power of satanic agencies cannot break this union.

“The pure in heart shall see God. The impure cannot see Him. All upon which they look is tarnished for them by their impurity. Those who search the Scriptures with a heart which hungers and thirsts to know God and Jesus Christ will be rewarded. They will understand the words spoken to Daniel, that man of prayer. To Daniel many wonderful things were presented in vision. ‘I heard, but I understood not,’ he said. ‘Then said I, O my lord, what shall be the end of these things?’

“The angel answered: Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days. Daniel 12:4, 10, 13.

“The time has come for Daniel to stand in his lot. The time has come for the light given him to go to the world as never before. **If those for whom the Lord has done so much will walk in the light, their knowledge of Christ and the prophecies relating to Him will be greatly increased as they near the close of this earth’s history.**

“Those who commune with God walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness. They do not dishonor their Redeemer by corrupting their way before God. Heavenly light shines upon them. They are of infinite worth in God’s sight, for they are one with Christ. To them the word of God is of surpassing beauty and loveliness. They see its importance. Truth is unfolded to them. **The doctrine of the incarnation is invested with a soft radiance.** They see that the Scripture is the key which unlocks all mysteries and solves all difficulties. Those who have been unwilling to receive the light and walk in the light will not be able to understand the mystery of godliness, but those who have not hesitated to take up the cross and follow Jesus will see light in God’s light.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 406–407.

WHY ROME SUPPORTS THE UNITED NATIONS

Last year’s debate over the U.S. led military intervention in Iraq left some Catholics wondering why the Church seemed so supportive of the UN. How is it, they asked, that an organization that promotes abortion, artificial birth control and radical feminism is viewed so favorably by the Church?

In fact, the Church has criticized the UN on numerous occasions, particularly on family-related themes. But it also has a long history of support for the organization. John Paul II recently reaffirmed this. “The Holy See,” the Pope said last Saturday in his words of welcome for the visit of Julian Robert Hunte, president of the UN 58th General Assembly, “considers the United Nations organization a significant means for promoting the universal common good.”

The Holy Father’s message for *World Day of Peace* on January 1 laid out in clear terms the Church’s position in favor of international cooperation, including a key role for the UN.

In a broad historical sweep John Paul II noted how over the centuries a body of law and agreements has slowly developed. “Law favors peace,” he wrote in part number 5 of his message. The document also drew attention to the importance of respecting international accords, “especially at times when there is a temptation to appeal to the law of force rather than to the force of law.”

A clue to understanding the Pope’s thinking comes in the following part, which refers to the founding of the UN after World War II. “That war, with the horrors and the appalling violations of human dignity which it occasioned, led to a profound renewal of the international legal order.”

John Paul II developed this point at length in a message published May 8, 1995, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war’s end. “From the cruel contempt for people’s dignity and rights there was also born the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 50th anniversary of the UN, being celebrated this year, should be an occasion for consolidating the international community’s commitment to the service of peace”.

In the years following the UN founding, “the ideas and expectations of the immediate postwar period” were often frustrated due to political divisions, violent conflicts and terrorism, the Pope noted in his *Day of Peace* message. Yet, he insisted that the UN, “even with limitations and delays due in great part to the failures of its members, has made a notable contribution to the promotion of respect for human dignity, the freedom of peoples and the requirements of development, thus preparing the cultural and institutional soil for the building of peace.”

Certainly, the Pope is not unaware of U.N. failings. In fact, the greater part of last Saturday’s remarks made to the General Assembly president focused on the need for reforms. “You have undertaken a restructuring aimed at making the organization function more efficiently,” John Paul II told Hunte in a note of encouragement.

John Paul II also recalled a part of his speech during his October 5, 1995, visit to the UN in New York: "The United Nations organization needs to rise more and more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral center where all the nations of the world feel at home and develop a shared awareness of being, as it were, a family of nations".

This desire for an institution where moral principles can guide international affairs provides a second major clue to understanding why John Paul II and other Vatican figures support the UN.

In his 1995 UN speech, the Pope warned of the dangers of a utilitarian approach to world politics and economics. Such a doctrine "defines morality not in terms of what is good but of what is advantageous," he said. And this approach "threatens the freedom of individuals and nations and obstructs the building of a true culture of freedom".

Utilitarianism, he continued, "often has devastating political consequences, because it inspires an aggressive nationalism on the basis of which the subjugation, for example, of a smaller or weaker nation is claimed to be a good thing solely because it corresponds to the national interest."

John Paul II returned to this theme in his January 13, 1997, address to the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. "What the international community perhaps lacks most of all today is not written conventions or forums for self-expression—there is a profusion of these!—but **a moral law and the courage to abide by it**".

The community of nations, he continued, "must be regulated by a rule of law, valid for all of them without exception." This law "has a strong moral implication," he said. International law, moreover, should be founded on values such as the dignity of the person and the rights of nations. As such, international laws are thus moral principles before they become juridical norms.

John Paul II went on to call for an international order based on moral principles "which are diametrically opposed to that law which would see the stronger, the richer or the bigger imposing on others their cultural models, economic diktats or ideological models."

"For a long time international law has been a law of war and peace," he observed. In the future, "I believe that it is called more and more to become exclusively a law of peace, conceived in justice and solidarity. And in this context morality must inspire law; morality can even assume a preparatory role in the making of law, to the extent that it shows the path of what is right and good."

It was in this sense that the Pope's call for a "new international order," in No. 7 of the World Day of Peace message, must be understood. Baptizing a concept introduced over a decade ago by the first Bush presidency, John Paul II reiterated his call for the UN to become a "moral center" and "a family of nations."

In supporting the UN, John Paul II follows in the footsteps of a predecessor. Paul VI, in a speech before the UN General Assembly on October 4, 1965, stated: "You are establishing here a system of solidarity that will ensure that lofty civilizing goals receive unanimous and orderly support from the whole family of nations, for the good of each and all." Paul VI criticized, however, a negative aspect of the UN, namely, its promotion of artificial birth control.

Such qualified and reasoned support of U.N. programs will likely continue—even if some observers would prefer to give priority to short-term results, instead of the longer-term goals the Holy See is aiming for. *ZENIT.org*

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

LAUS DEO !

In the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington DC, are displayed two words: Laus Deo.

No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less. Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know. I do.

But these words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, un-noticed words Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!" [Laus is Praise be and Deo means God]

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, "Laus Deo....Praise be to God!"

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with it's division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant...a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on.

How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who notice. Praise be to God! Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy.

"One Nation"—I am awed by Washington's prayer for America. Have you never read it? Well now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large." And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo! As you probably guessed, over 92 percent of Americans like the idea that our Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase "under God." It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation, that Washington's America was one of the few countries in all the world established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations.

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God Praise be to God! You may forget the width and height of, "Laus Deo", it's location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget it's meaning, or these words: "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127: 1)

Let us remember to do our part, through prayers and sacrifice, to be the watchmen who stand their guard.

Dear Jeff,

If you've been watching the news lately you know that traditional Christian values are under continual assault everyday in our culture. Even worse, the assault is increasingly coming from our own government!

Most recently, the Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that state sanctioned marriage should be open to homosexuals! I'm sure that you are as outraged as I am over this reprehensible decision! Imagine, four judges ruling that homosexual couples have a constitutional right to marry!

If there was ever a time for action to "Take America Back", it is now!

Your voice needs to be heard! Click here to give your crucial support to the Christian Coalition's efforts to defend America's Godly heritage today!

You and I know that our founding fathers never intended to destroy marriage as a union between a man and a woman. As concerned Christians who cherish marriage as God intended it to be, and certainly as the founders of America intended, we cannot let this abominable decision stand!

This is just one more in a string of rulings from left wing judges who legislate from the bench against the will of the American people! And it must be stopped!

If we are ever going to be able to truly "Take America Back", we must act now! There are three things that we need you to do now to advance this critical campaign:

Send your most generous gift today so that we may spread the word and protect against the erosion of our Godly heritage.

Call your Congressmen and Senators and tell them to support resolutions in the House and Senate that call for a Constitutional Amendment stating that, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor Constitution of any State, nor State or Federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

Secure 10 signatures on our "Let's Take America Back" petition and mail it to the Christian Coalition. Once we get 1 million signatures, we will hand over the petitions to Congress to encourage members to assume their constitutional authority and stop run-away federal judges from legislating from the bench. (Click here to download a printable copy (PDF) of the petition now).

If there was ever a time when your participation counted for America and for our Judeo-Christian values it is now! Please take action today to help "Take America back." And please pray that Godly Americans everywhere will rise to meet this critical challenge!

In His service, Roberta Combs President

P.S. Your Christian Coalition wields a tremendous impact in the halls of Congress. We would not be the powerful voice that we are today without your on-going support. Please click here and help us continue this critical work by making a contribution today! **Christian Coalition of America.** www.cc.org

WHERE BUSH AND THE POPE AGREE, AND DISAGREE

Interview With Journalism Fellow Andrea Kirk

John Paul II and U.S. President George Bush have serious differences over the Iraqi war, but still try to work together on common ends, says a journalism fellow who is writing a book on the subject.

Andrea Kirk, a recipient of the *Phillips Foundation Journalism Fellowship*, shared some of her findings with *ZENIT* after finishing the first installment of her work.

Kirk's research and analysis of the points of convergence and divergence in the social and foreign policy of the Pope and the president will appear as a book in the United States later this year. She is a free-lance writer published by *Inside the Vatican* magazine, *Our Sunday Visitor* and *United Press International*.

Q: The purpose of your fellowship research is to find convergences and divergences between the policies of George W. Bush and John Paul II. Which did you find more of?

Kirk: Generally speaking, the Pope and the president have a great deal of convergence in the area of social policy but quite significant divergence in foreign policy.

This president had a personal conversion to Christ, which is reflected in some of his policies concerning, for example, the faith based initiative and funding for abstinence education in HIV/AIDS prevention.

There is a running theme of behavioral change—not unlike conversion—in many of his social policies, which he has dubbed “compassionate conservatism.”

But some analysts argue that Bush's approach to social policy is a distinctly Protestant one, and would not find much resonance with the Vatican. This theory has yet to be tested, however, because following September 11, President Bush became a self-declared “war president” and the war on terrorism took precedent over these social policy initiatives.

Q: What are the divergences? Kirk: The divergences became apparent in the lead-up to war with Iraq, but were more than just differences over whether or not to invade Iraq.

Many themes in Vatican “foreign policy,” or social teaching on international relations, emerged that demonstrated differences over the role of the United Nations, unilateralism, diplomacy, and just cause in war.

One policy in particular set the two at odds. In the time from the terrorist attacks on the United States to the war in Iraq, the Bush administration adopted a new foreign policy that most Vatican officials found they could not agree with on principle.

Cardinal Ratzinger bluntly stated that preventative war was incompatible with the Catechism, with many Vatican officials suggesting that waging such a war with Iraq would then be illegal.

The Bush administration conducts its foreign policy and diplomacy in a very different style than the Vatican's. Of course, it's inherently problematic to compare a temporal power with a spiritual power. Having said that, however, the two are both working for similar stated ends, in their own, sometimes divergent, ways.

The administration has made an effort since 9/11 to be seen as an advocate of human rights, justice and freedom, particularly for the oppressed citizens of the Hussein regime. It framed the war in those terms by giving it the name Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Vatican, while being a consistent advocate of those ends, has shown its opposition to the means the Bush administration employs. The Pope has expressed it clearly in such statements as “The end never justifies the means” in his 2004 World Day of Peace message or “War is never just another means that one can choose to employ for settling differences between nations” in his address to diplomats in January 2003.

Q: What are relations like between the Bush administration and the Vatican in the postwar situation?

Kirk: The recent visit of Vice President Cheney with the Pope, Cardinal Sodano and Archbishop Lajolo was significant, I think, because Cheney was one of the main architects of the operation in Iraq. The conversation centered on how to build a peaceful society in there, as well as in Israel and Palestine. It's a tangible example of how the Vatican has shifted its mission from war-prevention to peace-building, as it would naturally do considering the aim of the Church's mission is always the welfare of the people. The Vatican and the administration can find some common ground in peace-building because the Church is concerned with, among other issues, securing freedom of religion in the future Iraqi Constitution.

The meeting with the vice president also provided the Pope with an occasion to re-emphasize his belief in the necessity of international cooperation “in the service of peace,” which we can assume implies working with the United Nations.

As I point out in my paper, however, the Vatican has been very critical of the U.N.'s inability to meet the challenge of preventing war through the exercise of its mandate and its resolutions.

Since the World Day of Peace message, the call for a reform of the U.N. has been echoed again and again by Vatican officials, with the intention of strengthening enough to resume its proper role. If it does not, the Bush administration may continue to fight the war on terrorism in its own way, if they retain the White House for another term. Zenit.org

HOLINESS ACCORDING TO JOHN PAUL II

Holiness, the vocation to which mankind is called, means to be consistent in living the Gospel, John Paul II says in a message to bishop-friends of the Focolare Movement.

At the end of today's general audience, held in Paul VI Hall and attended by 9,000 faithful, the Pope took advantage of the occasion to greet a number of cardinals and bishops currently participating in the 28th annual congress of *Bishops, Friends of the Focolares*, being held in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Also present was Chiara Lubich, founder and president of the movement, which organized the congress with the theme *For a People's Holiness*.

It is a theme that underlines "the universal character of the vocation to holiness in the Church," the Holy Father explained in his message. "The Church is profoundly holy and is called to live and to manifest this holiness in each one of her members."

The expression "people's holiness" refers to what is ordinary, "that is, to the need that those who are baptized to live the Gospel with consistency in daily life: in the family, in work activity, and in all relations and occupations," the Pope said.

"It is precisely in the ordinary that the extraordinary should be lived, so that the measure of life will tend to the lofty, namely, to the full maturity of Christ, as the Apostle Paul teaches," he said.

Holiness is a "primary requirement that must be proposed to all members of the people of God," as only "a community radiant with holiness can effectively accomplish the mission that Christ has entrusted to it, that of proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth," John Paul II said.

In this connection, the Blessed Virgin Mary is the "sublime model" to which one must always aspire. "In her is condensed the holiness of the people of God, because in her the perfection of the Christian vocation shines in the greatest humility," the Pope said to the bishops.

The spiritual congress organized by Focolare members will end Friday. It has gathered over 100 bishops from more than 40 countries. Zenit.org

A KINDER, GENTLER SOCIALISM

"The Socialist International claims to be the largest political organization in the world, with more than 150 organizations participating in this recent gathering. Their avowed goal is to create world government under the authority of the United Nations — which, of course, is controlled by socialists. When the Berlin Wall fell, and America celebrated the cold war victory over Communism, few people realized that our enemy had not lost the war. They did not realize that the enemy had simply changed tactics, and had already seduced many Americans into supporting its new, kinder, gentler war plan, disguised as 'sustainable development,' defined by Agenda 21, and sold as the answer to their manufactured image of global environmental degradation — all to be administered by a 'reformed' UN. Bad news from Iraq must never be misinterpreted as anything less than another critical battle to defend this great nation, and the principles of freedom written in the blood of America's youth from Bunker Hill to the Battle of the Bulge, and now in the streets of Baghdad. We can no more turn over Iraq to the UN than to the terrorists. The principles of freedom are at stake. If America is to retain its brand of freedom, endowed by God, then it cannot acquiesce to the UN's brand of freedom, which is granted by an omnipotent socialist global government. For America to keep its God-given freedom, we must defend it to the death, from all threats, whether from terrorists, or from global socialism, or from a bunch of Bush-bashing buzzards." www.federalist.com February 16, 2004.

LITTLE TIN GODS

What does democracy mean if any headstrong minority can violate the laws passed by a majority and enshrined in centuries of legal precedents? . . . The time is long overdue to start impeaching judges who think their job is to veto laws they don't like or condone lawlessness that they agree with. The time is also long overdue to re-examine lifetime appointments of judges, which allows them to act like little tin gods, at the expense of our freedom and the country's elected government." *www.federalist.com*, March 16, 2004.

"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*, p. 592.

CHURCH MOURNS AS VICTIMS ARE IDENTIFIED

Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Spain are mourning the loss of at least two of their fellow believers who are among the nearly 200 killed in coordinated bomb attacks in and around Madrid on March 11.

Church leaders have had reports of 14 members who either are hospitalized with injuries from the bombings, or were treated in the hospital and released. The attack, whose source has not yet been positively identified, is being called one of the worst terrorist attacks in Europe's modern history. *Adventist News Network*, March 17, 2004.

Editor's Note: Another good reason to be out of the cities.

WHY NON-CATHOLICS CANNOT RECEIVE COMMUNION

The decision not to allow non-Catholics to receive Communion is not a whim of the Pope or the bishops, says a German cardinal. "The Eucharist is not a magic practice, which would dispense us from the need for reconciliation among Christians," said Cardinal Joachim Meisner, archbishop of Cologne. "This does not mean that the grace of God does not assist man, but only that he take it seriously."

"In the first place, in the realm of the ecumenical dialogue we must really remove all the differences that separate us," the cardinal said. "Only afterward we will be able to give ourselves the gift of the special Eucharistic Communion."

The cardinal expressed the position of the Church, in regard to a letter published Feb. 11 in the Web page of the Cologne Archdiocese, which requested the "introduction of Communion open to non-Catholics."

"The Eucharist must not be of necessity the sign of a unity achieved, but much more — because as a sacrament it can also lead to unity," stated the letter sent to Cardinal Meisner.

In his reply, the cardinal acknowledges that he experiences "opposing sentiments" when he reads such a letter. On the one hand, he expresses his satisfaction in seeing "the ecumenical commitment and desire for Christian unity" that the author shows.

On the other, he admits feeling "surprised" before yet another proof "of the visible lack of knowledge of the Catholic faith."

"The statements of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland on the understanding of Communion have contributed to this disorientation, in which they request that Catholics allow Communion for faithful of the Reformation," the cardinal said.

The cardinal also mentions the confusion created by two priests who distributed Communion to non-Catholics during a Mass at the Ecumenical Ecclesial Days ("Ökumenischer Kirchentag"), held in Berlin last May 28-June 1.

When it comes to judging these events, the cardinal said "in reality, both priests, by acting according to their own opinion, against ecclesial law and established agreements, have not promoted ecclesial communion, but rather feigned it."

The archbishop of Cologne confirmed that "the Church, from its origins, has been firmly convinced that the common celebration of the Eucharist represents the culmination of ecclesial life," and that the Second Vatican Council proclaimed the Eucharistic sacrifice as "source and culmination of the whole of Christian life."

The cardinal explained an exception to the rule. That exception was expressed by John Paul II in No. 45 of the encyclical "Ecclesia de Eucharistia": to administer the sacrament of Communion "under special circumstances, to individual persons belonging to Churches or Ecclesial Communities not in full communion with the Catholic Church."

"In this case, in fact," the encyclical states, "the intention is to meet a grave spiritual need for the eternal salvation of an individual believer, not to bring about an intercommunion which remains impossible until the visible bonds of ecclesial communion are fully re-established."

The cardinal stressed that "we have not created" the norms and convictions of the Church. "We cannot even change them according to our whim, nor with campaigns to collect signatures," he added. Zenit.org

"The Scriptural ordinance of the Lord's Supper had been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass. Papal priests pretended, by their senseless mummery, to convert the simple bread and wine into the actual 'body and blood of Christ.' --Cardinal Wiseman, *The Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Eucharist, Proved From Scripture*, lecture 8, sec. 3, par. 26. With blasphemous presumption, they openly claimed the power of creating God, the Creator of all things. Christians were required, on pain of death, to avow their faith in this horrible, Heaven-insulting heresy. Multitudes who refused were given to the flames." *The Great Controversy*, 59.

REMOVE THY SHOES

"God does not lead any man to advocate such actions as praying with eyes open. We have not a particle of evidence that this was done by the disciples of Christ. Removing the shoes from the feet when entering the house of worship is not a duty required of us. Anciently those who ministered in sacred office were required, upon entering the sanctuary of God, to remove their sandals, and wash their feet on which dust has accumulated. But there is not the least occasion for this to be done now. If those who claim to believe the sacred truth for this time should go back to the practice of the ceremonial observances required from the Jews, what kind of a representation would be made before angels and before men? We should use the utmost care to cleanse every corner of the heart from sin. Those who, in the place of cleansing the soul-temple, perform outward ceremonies, thinking that these will recommend them to God, will find themselves enshrouded in spiritual darkness, even as were the Jews. To ensure cleanliness God required many ceremonies from ancient Israel. These ceremonies were to illustrate the necessity of carefulness in all their actions, that they might be preserved from all the impurity that it was possible for them to avoid. But these outward ceremonies have not the least bearing upon the people of God at this time. When Christ, our Sin-bearer, died upon the cross, these ceremonies lost their force; for in His death type met antitype. Those who present such tests to the people of God today only confuse the mind. They put outward performances in the place of the precious truth, making works take the place of religion of heart and life." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 3, 56.

Editor's Note: Ceremonies relating to cleanliness and impurity ceased in Christ's antitypical death. Therefore, for us to put away leaven out of our houses now because of its ceremonial impurity is to deny Christ's sacrifice.

POPE LINKS UN REFORM TO FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

John Paul II called for reforms of the United Nations that would make international law a more effective weapon against terrorism.

The struggle against international terrorism was one of the principal issues the Pope addressed Saturday when he received Osman Durak, the new Turkish ambassador to the Holy See.

During the meeting, the Holy Father expressed his closeness to the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Turkey.

"One of the primary means" for securing "world order, and hence for pursuing peace, is international law, which today is called more and more to become a law of peace in justice and solidarity," John Paul II said.

"The deadly scourge of terrorism represents an especially pernicious problem, for it often defies the traditional logic of a legal system set up for regulating relations between sovereign states," he added.

"Within the wider international community, the United Nations has a particular role to play," the Holy Father continued.

"While there is need for a reform which would enable the United Nations organization to function effectively for the pursuit of its own stated ends, this international body still represents the most suitable agency for confronting the grave challenges facing the human family of the 21st century," he said.

John Paul II has been calling for a reform of the United Nations since 1995. In his message for the World Day of Peace this year, he said that the United Nations "needs to rise more and more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral center where all the nations of the world feel at home and develop a shared awareness of being, as it were, a family of nations."

"In the ongoing fight against terrorism, international law is called to develop multilateral legal instruments capable of effectively monitoring, counteracting and preventing this heinous crime," he said. Lastly, the Holy Father applauded "the progress being made in moving towards a just settlement of the Cyprus question," the island in dispute between Turkey and the Greek-speaking population.

"I heartily encourage the parties involved to spare no effort in hastening the reunification and pacification of the island," he concluded.

THE US FINANCIAL ABYSS

"The Federalist stated that the federal Debt is \$7,000,000,000,000. But, the figure of \$7 Trillion is a compilation of what the Feds report as the active deficits. What it does NOT reflect is Social Security proceeds via Treasury Note indebtedness, Medicare and Medicaid. Put those bad boy unfunded debts on the same page, and total Federal indebtedness is a bit closer to \$25,000,000,000,000." www.federalist.com, February 22, 2004 .

"There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them." *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT GOES BEFORE WORLD COURT FOR FIRST TIME

The world court opened a hearing into the legality of Israel's West Bank separation barrier on Monday, a case that brings Israeli policies for the first time before an international tribunal.

The 15 judges in black robes filed into the court to begin the three days of hearings. But much of the action will be outside the historic Peace Palace, where thousands of pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists planned to demonstrate.

The Palestinians were scheduled to open the case Monday, arguing against the barrier and in favor of the court's authority to render an opinion on its legality. They oppose the route of the barrier, which dips deep into the West Bank at points. They say that when completed, the barrier will make it impossible for the Palestinians to establish an independent state.

Israel has submitted written arguments challenging the court's jurisdiction, claiming the court has no authority over the matter, and is not participating in the hearings.

In December, the U.N. General Assembly turned to the world court, the United Nations' highest judicial authority, to issue an advisory opinion on the barrier. Although the court's decision is nonbinding, its rulings are influential.

Fearing clashes outside the building, city officials in the Hague slotted separate times for the protests. Parked nearby the building will be the mangled shell of an Israeli bus, blown up Jan. 29 by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem.

The court will only issue an advisory opinion. But its rulings are influential, and the Palestinians are hoping that a decision will force Israel to remove the barrier.

Though the General Assembly asked for an "urgent" decision, it could take months. On average, the judges need about a year to thrash out their views. *www.usatoday.com* February 22, 2004.

OTHER NATION'S BOMBS

"US commercial reactors typically use 3% enriched uranium-235 (natural uranium contains less than 1% U-235, the fissionable isotope of uranium). US Naval submarine reactors use at least a 90% enriched U-235. This is due to the relatively small size of naval submarine reactors coupled with the high power output requirement. But submarine reactors are way too small for commercial power applications. Nuclear weapons use about a 97%+ enriched U-235. But thermo-nuclear weapons only use a uranium bomb as the driving force to compress hydrogen to the point of fusion. So, based on finding 90% enriched U-235, the question should be 'are the Iranians building a nuclear submarine, or do they really like small, compact reactors? Since a sub-type reactor wouldn't prove sufficient for commercial applications, they must be building a nuclear submarine. That, or they're working their way to 97% for . . . ?" *www.federalist.com*, March 17, 2004.

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. And it shall be as the chased roe. Isaiah 13:13-14.

"In the last scenes of this earth's history war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love Him." *Maranatha*, 174.

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat. Revelation 16:8-9.

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

What has been, What is, and What is to come

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those sayings which are written therein; for the time is at hand.’

“Many have entertained the idea that the book of Revelation is a sealed book, and they will not devote time and study to its mysteries. They say that they are to keep looking to the glories of salvation, and that the mysteries revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos are worthy of less consideration than these.

“But God does not so regard this book. He declares: ‘I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.’

“The book of Revelation opens to the world what has been, what is, and what is to come; it is for our instruction upon whom the ends of the world are come. It should be studied with reverential awe. We are privileged in knowing what is for our learning. But do we treat the word of God with the reverence which is his due, and with the gratitude which God would be pleased to see? ‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.’

“The Lord himself revealed to his servant John the mysteries of the book of Revelation, and he designs that they shall be open to the study of all. In this book are depicted scenes that are now in the past, and some of eternal interest that are taking place around us; other of its prophecies will not receive their complete fulfilment until the close of time, when the last great conflict between the powers of darkness and the Prince of heaven will take place.

“The final struggle will be waged between those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus and that apostate power which will deceive all who dwell upon the earth. ‘And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 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: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God’s people on every side. Intensity is taking possession of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth. And for what?—Games, plays, amusements; men are rushing and crowding, and contending for the mastery.

“That which is common and perishable is absorbing their attention, so that things of eternal interest are scarcely thought of. Human beings, possessed with energy, zeal, and perseverance, will place all their God-given powers in co-operation with Satan’s despotism to make void the law of God. Impostors of every caste and grade will claim to be worthy and true, and there will be a magnifying of the common and impure against the true and the holy. Thus the spurious is accepted, and the true standard of holiness is discarded, as the word of God was discarded by Adam and Eve for the lie of Satan.

“Many have so long chosen their own standard, rejecting the infallible standard that will judge them at the last day, that they are themselves deluded. They misconstrue the teaching of the word of God; and steadfastly setting their face against his commandments, they exalt the precepts of men. The expressions from many professed ministers of the gospel indicate a more than common bitterness against, and contempt for, the law of God. As in David’s day, that law is despised. It is treated as an innovation, and rejected as the rule of life.

“Those who have once been convicted of the truth, but have resisted the Holy Spirit’s influence, walk and work in co-partnership with Satan, the first apostate. Blinded by the sophistry of him who was once found in the heavenly courts, they join his ranks. The apostle Paul, speaking of this says, ‘Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.’ Those who have turned away from a plain, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ will be blinded in a superstitious faith in every kind of apostasy, and will be led into that terrible iniquity which God’s word represents as being drunken with the blood of the saints.

“When this enmity against the law of God becomes so intense, we may know that Satan is imbuing human minds with the same hatred of truth and of the precepts of God as turned the heart of Cain against his brother Abel. In this time of prevailing iniquity it is essential that we individually draw nigh unto God. His voice is heard, saying: ‘Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.’ It is possible for men to go so far in disobedience that it will be necessary for God to arise and let them know that he is God, and that he will interpose, and punish the world for its iniquity.

“The time is now approaching when God will vindicate his honor, and bring this unrighteousness to an end. Of this time the apostle Paul speaks when he says: ‘But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape.’ When the attractions of the horse-race are all-absorbing; when the excitement of the cricket-match runs high; when the fascination of the gambling hall is strong; when parties are indulging in luxurious feasts, and revelry is at its height; when all are forgetful of God and of eternity, and ‘Peace and safety’ is the cry that is heard, ‘then sudden destruction’ will come upon men, ‘and they shall not escape.’

“And will the true child of God be carried away by the prevailing iniquity? Will the chosen of God be tempted by the universal scorn which he sees put upon the law? Will he think less of that law, and give it less honor and obedience?—No; the prevailing apostasy will fill his soul with zeal for the honor of God. He sees that the heavenly universe is stirred with indignation because of the ingratitude of man, for whom the Lord has done so much, and God’s law becomes more precious as it is trampled upon by unholy feet. In proportion as it is ignored and brought into contempt by one class, it will be valued and honored by the other. Those who co-operate with God by obedience will exclaim, with the psalmist: ‘They have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.’

“Jesus, who knew no sin, and in whose mouth no guile was found, came to sow the world with truth. When charged with evil by the Pharisees, he stood up boldly before his accusers, and said, ‘Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?’ The convicting power of God had deeply stirred the hearts of these teachers, but they turned their faces persistently from the light. They resisted the work of the Holy Spirit of God. Sufficient evidence of the divinity of Christ had been given them. More evidence would not have changed the current of their feelings, but would only have hardened them in unbelief.

“Christ declared, ‘If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.’ If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.’ To his disciples he said, ‘If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.’ ‘If ye love me, keep my commandments.’ ‘He that hateth me hateth my Father also.’ ‘He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.’

“We know that the world, sensual and corrupt, love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. Error and false prophets are chosen before the gospel of Christ. But shall we discard the standard of character which the God of heaven has given to our world, and venture to erect a standard of human invention? God desires that his commandment-keeping people shall arise to the emergency, and co-operate with the heavenly agencies in uplifting the standard of righteousness, setting forth to the world the message of heaven.

“Each should feel that it is required of him to consecrate every hour to the service of Christ. The Son of God was given that we might be renewed, refined, elevated, ennobled, that God might see his image restored in the heart of man. But the Lord cannot take away our sin unless we shall co-operate with him in the work. The inquiry of each should be, ‘Am I cleansed from sin? Do I hate sin, and love righteousness? Am I prepared to make any and every sacrifice for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord?’ Professed Christians who have a divided heart will not be in the Lord’s army; for the Lord accepts no such enlistments. This is not a sentimental and spasmodic service. In these times we need an assurance from heaven to enable us to stand firmly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

“The benediction pronounced upon those who keep God’s law is, ‘Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’ ‘And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. . . . Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’” *Review and Herald*, August 31, 1897.