

FUTURE NEWS

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THOUGH OLD, THEY ARE EVER NEW

"Ever since the first promise of redemption was spoken in Eden, the life, the character, and the mediatorial work of Christ have been the study of human minds. Yet every mind through whom the Holy Spirit has worked has presented these themes in a light that is fresh and new. The truths of redemption are capable of constant development and expansion. Though old, they are ever new, constantly revealing to the seeker for truth a greater glory and a mightier power.

"In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began 'at Moses and all the prophets' and 'expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.' Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.

"There are those who profess to believe and to teach the truths of the Old Testament, while they reject the New. But in refusing to receive the teachings of Christ, they show that they do not believe that which patriarchs and prophets have spoken. 'Had ye believed Moses,' Christ said, 'ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me.' John 5:46. Hence there is no real power in their teaching of even the Old Testament.

"Many who claim to believe and to teach the gospel are in a similar error. They set aside the Old Testament Scriptures, of which Christ declared, 'They are they which testify of Me.' John 5:39. In rejecting the Old, they virtually reject the New; for both are parts of an inseparable whole. No man can rightly present the law of God without the gospel, or the gospel without the law. The law is the gospel embodied, and the gospel is the law unfolded. The law is the root, the gospel is the fragrant blossom and fruit which it bears." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 128.

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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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MINISTRY UPDATE

Greetings from Washington DC. Kathy and I are here to attend the annual meeting of the *Christian Coalition*. It is my conviction that this organization is the modern-day counterpart of the *National Reform Movement* that Sister White spoke about in the early part of the twentieth century:

“If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, God cannot pour upon them His Spirit. They are unprepared to co-operate with Him. They are not awake to the situation and do not realize the threatened danger. They should feel now, as never before, their need of vigilance and concerted action.

“The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make. When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these efforts. It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people—the very present truth which they needed for this time. Not all our ministers who are giving the third angel’s message really understand what constitutes that message. The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it and have even felt that in so doing they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel’s message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time.

“The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time. The watchmen are asleep. We are years behind. Let the chief watchmen feel the urgent necessity of taking heed to themselves, lest they lose the opportunities given them to see the dangers.

“If the leading men in our conferences do not now accept the message sent them by God, and fall into line for action, the churches will suffer great loss. When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict. But too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: ‘Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm.’ The very hesitancy and uncertainty on his part is crying: “Peace and safety.” Do not get excited. Be not alarmed. There is a great deal more made of this religious amendment question than is demanded. This agitation will all die down.’ Thus he virtually denies the message sent from God, and the warning which was designed to stir the churches fails to do its work. The trumpet of the watchman gives no certain sound, and the people do not prepare for the battle. Let the watchman beware lest, through his hesitancy and delay, souls shall be left to perish, and their blood shall be required at his hand.

“We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land; and, now that the movement is right upon us, we ask: Will our people do their duty in the matter? Can we not assist in lifting the standard and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges? The time is fast approaching when those who choose to obey God rather than man will be made to feel the hand of oppression. Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent while His holy commandments are trodden underfoot?

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.

“God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near. Every passing hour is one of activity in the heavenly courts to make ready a people upon the earth to act a part in the great scenes that are soon to open upon us. These passing moments, that seem of so little value to us, are weighty with eternal interests. They are molding the destiny of souls for everlasting life or eternal death. The words we utter today in the ears of the people, the works we are doing, the spirit of the message we are bearing, will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214–216.

It is obvious that there is an “approaching crisis”. In that crisis “opposition” will be “brought” against us, and if faithful, we “will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which” we “hold will be severely criticized”. How do you and I understand the truth for this period of earth’s history?

As Kathy and I sat on the front row of Friday’s meetings, listening to Congressmen, Senators, evangelical leaders and a Catholic priest, we also listened to an Adventist pastor and his wife who were seated directly behind us. He and his wife were praising the different speakers that spoke against abortion, and against the liberal opponents of family values, and against activist liberal judges. It is one thing to attend a meeting as an observer, and quite another to jump on board with the politics of those who ultimately will use the alliance they have already formed between themselves and Roman Catholics to enforce the mark of the beast upon the citizens of this country and then the world. Sister White was right on the mark when she stated that, “Not all our ministers who are giving the third angel’s message really understand what constitutes that message.”

What constitutes the third angel's message? The third angel's message includes not only the enforcement of Sunday observance, but also the historical events that lead up to the enforcement of Sunday. To observe and report upon these events is to fulfill the responsibility of being a "watchmen" upon the walls of Zion by setting "light" before the "people" which is "the very present truth which" we need at "this time". But God's people cannot join with this movement, even though much of their political positions are morally correct. Satan operates through compromise and by mixing truth with error. The "privileges" of "religious liberty", which Americans have so "long enjoyed", are now being removed. This is where we are in "prophetic history".

"The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible, yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, his servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men." *The Great Controversy*, 588.

We are also at a point where it is simple to see that the restraining influence of the Spirit of God is being removed from the earth, and the USA. At the same time the *Christian Coalition* was meeting to plan its political efforts for this years elections, the fourth hurricane of the year was bearing down on Florida, the state in the previous presidential election that was the epicenter of the most divisive election in history in the year 2000. The election that preceded 9/11.

"While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. **These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.** Destruction will be upon both man and beast. 'The earth mourneth and fadeth away,' 'the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.' Isaiah 24:4, 5." *The Great Controversy*, 589

The blindness of God's people at this time has been identified as a blindness about the meaning and outcome of "the Protestant world" "making concessions to Rome". It is impossible to listen to a meeting of the *Christian Coalition* without hearing in black and white terms that the evangelicals of the United States have made concessions with the power of antichrist. We must not unite with these people, in spite of their concerns about abortion, homosexuality and secularism. We must also recognize that this movement is shouting out to anyone who will hear, that the Sunday law of Bible prophecy is on the immediate horizon.

The Protestants have discarded the Bible and politically joined hands with Rome, and it is time to awaken to our responsibility to individually prepare ourselves and proclaim the final warning message to those around us who have not yet heard the message which Adventism has buried in the ground for far to long.

All the evidence we need to awaken is available. At the identical time the world is being confronted with the descendants of Ishmael, as they fulfill their role in bringing the third woe upon mankind.

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 16:12.

The radical branch of Islam calls the current war **Third** great jihad. They are operating within the framework of a time line which reaches back to the very creation of Islam in the seventh century and are presently attempting to recreate the dynamics which gave rise to the religion in the first two hundred years of its existence. In their analysis of the first, second and third jihad, radical Islam identifies the very history of the first, second and third woe! No religion in history grew as fast as Islam in its infancy, and the reasons for the initial growth of Islam are not hard to explain when you understand what the world was like at the time of Muhammad's death in 632 AD.

The Western Roman Empire was in ruins due to the forces of the first four trumpets of Revelation chapter eight, and the Eastern Empire, based in Constantinople, was trying desperately to keep the power of its early grandeur while transitioning to Christianity as a de facto state religion. The costs to the average person were large as he was being required to meet the constantly rising taxes levied by the state along with the tithes coerced by the Church. What Islam offered was the "carrot or the sword". If you became a convert, your taxes were immediately eliminated, as was your tithes. If you didn't, you faced death. The choice was not hard for most to make, unless you were a very devoted martyr in the making.

At the beginning, even the theology was not too hard for most to swallow, considering that both Jewry and Christianity were given their due by Mohammad. The Koran teaches that there is but one God—Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet, as was Jesus, and the pre-Christian Jewish prophets of the Old Testament.

Islam grew like wild-fire, reaching out from the Saudi Arabian Peninsula in all directions. This early growth is what the Muslims call the **First** great jihad and it met with little resistance until Charles Martel of France, the father of Charlemagne, stopped them in the battle of Tours in France, after they had firmly established Islam on the Iberian Peninsula. This first onslaught against the West continued in various forms and at various times until Islam was finally driven out of Spain in 1492 at the battle of Granada.

The **Second** great jihad came with the Ottoman Turks. This empire succeeded in bringing about the downfall of Constantinople as a Christian stronghold and an end to Roman hegemony in all of its forms. The Ottoman Empire was Islam's most successful expansion of territory even though the religion itself had fractured into warring sects and bitter rivalries with each claiming the ultimate truths in "the ways of the Prophet". By 1683, the Ottomans had suffered a series of defeats on both land and sea and the final, unsuccessful attempt to capture Vienna set the stage for the collapse of any further territorial ambitions and Islam shrunk into various sheikhdoms, emir dominated principalities, and roving tribes of nomads. Then on August 11, 1840, in fulfillment of Revelation chapter nine, verse fifteen the Ottoman Empire came to an end. And in the very history of the four European powers intervention into the affairs of Egypt and the Ottoman Turks we find the historical birth of a sect of Islam known as Wahhabism.

Wahhabism, a sect which came into full bloom under the House of Saud on the Arabian Peninsula shortly before the onset of World War I. It is this Wahhabi version of Islam which now finds adherents in almost all branches and sects, especially the Shiites. Wahhabism calls for the complete and total rejection or destruction of anything and everything which is not based in the original teachings of The Prophet and finds it's most glaring practice in the policies of the Afghani Taliban or the Shiite practices of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. Its Ali Pasha (Field Marshall) is now known as Osama bin Laden, the leader of the Third jihad, who is a proponent of Wahhabism, as were his 9/11 attack teams, 18 of which were also Saudi. The strategy for this "holy war" did not begin with the planning of the destruction of the World Trade Center. It had already begun when the Shah of Iran was toppled in the late 1970's. With the Shah's plans to "westernize" his country, along with his close ties to the US and subdued acceptance of the State of Israel—the Shah was the soft target. With the Shah overthrown, the revolution had a base of operations along with oil wealth to support its grand design. The plan calls for is the replacement of all secular leadership in any country with Muslim majorities. This would include, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, all the Emirates, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia and finally what they call the "occupied territory" of Israel.

As a part of this strategy, forces of the jihad will infiltrate governments and the military as a prelude to taking control, once the secular leadership is ousted or assassinated. Such was the case in Lebanon leading to the Syrian occupation and in Egypt with the murder of Anwar Sadat, along with the multiple attempts on the lives of Hussein in Jordan, Mubarak of Egypt and Musharraf in Pakistan. Pakistan is a particular prize because of its nuclear weapons.

The long-range strategy of the **Third** jihad counts on three strategic goals. First, the US withdrawing from the region just as it did in Southeast Asia, following Vietnam. Second, taking control of the oil wealth in the Muslim countries, which would be upwards to 75% of known reserves; third, using nuclear weapons or other WMDs to annihilate Israel.

In November 1979, the USA was a country going through a religious and political upheaval when a group of Iranian students attacked and seized the American Embassy in Tehran. This seizure was an attack on American soil; it was an attack that held the world's most powerful country hostage and paralyzed a Presidency. The attack on this sovereign US embassy set the stage for events to follow for the next 23 years. The third woe was under way, and God's people were sound asleep.

America was still reeling from the aftermath of the Vietnam experience and had a serious threat from the Soviet Union. Shortly after the Tehran experience, Americans began to be kidnapped and killed throughout the Middle East. America could do little to protect her citizens living and working abroad. The attacks against US soil continued. In April of 1983, a large vehicle packed with high explosives was driven into the US Embassy compound in Beirut. When it exploded, it killed 63 people.

Six months later a large truck heavily laden with over 2500 pounds of TNT smashed through the main gate of the US Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut and 241 US servicemen are killed. Two months later in December 1983, another truck loaded with explosives is driven into the US Embassy in Kuwait.

The following year, in September 1984, another van was driven into the gate of the US Embassy in Beirut. Soon the terrorism spreads to Europe. In April 1985 a bomb explodes in a restaurant frequented by US soldiers in Madrid.

Then in August a Volkswagen loaded with explosives was driven into the main gate of the US Air Force Base at Rhein-Main, 22 were killed. Fifty-nine days later a cruise ship, the Achille Lauro is hijacked and we watched as an American in a wheelchair is singled out of the passenger list and executed. The terrorists then shift their tactics to bombing civilian airliners when they bomb TWA Flight 840 in April of 1986 that killed 4 and the most tragic bombing, Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, killing 259.

The terrorists decided to bring the fight to America in January 1993, when two CIA agents were shot and killed as they entered CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The following month, February 1993, a group of terrorists are arrested after a rented van packed with explosives is driven into the underground parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City. Six people are killed and over 1000 are injured. Still this is a crime and not an act of war?

Then in November 1995 a car bomb exploded at a US military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia killing seven service men and women.

A few months later in June of 1996, another truck bomb explodes only 35 yards from the US military compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It destroyed the Khobar Towers, a US Air Force barracks, killing 19 and injuring over 500.

They move to coordinate their attacks in a simultaneous attack on two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. These attacks were planned with precision. They killed 224. The USS Cole was in Yemen on 12 October 2000, when a small craft pulled along side the ship and exploded killing 17 US Navy Sailors. Attacking a US War Ship is an act of war.

And of course we know the events of 11 September 2001. The modern fulfillment of the National Reform Movement of Sister White's day and age is preparing to take another giant step forward at the coming elections. To this point, Pat Robertson can look back to the formation of the Christian Coalition in 1989, and state that every goal he has set forth has come to pass, and he announced his goals publicly before they were accomplished.

He first wanted to form a grass roots organization that had political representation in every voter district within the United States. This was a lofty goal, for in the history of the Republican and Democratic parties, neither party have ever had representatives in every voting district in the USA. By 1994, Robertson's organization had accomplished his goal.

His next goal was to take control of the Congress of the United States. In 1995, he had accomplished that goal, for he had reached a numerical point in the 1994 elections which has never decreased. That numerical point is that should the men and woman placed in Congress through the support of the Christian Coalition unite with the Catholics in Congress they have the numbers to pass any law they choose to pass, and that includes the numbers to override a presidential veto.

His next goal was the presidency itself. George W. Bush is Robertson's goal. His next target is the judiciary of the United States, and of course this is now one of the main talking points in the political discussion. With this established trend of fulfillments of Robertson's goals should be remembered that he has also stated publicly what the number one purpose, or goal of the Christian Coalition is. The stated goal of this movement according to its founder is to remove the wall of separation of church and state in the constitution, a "wall" which he states never existed in the foundation of this country, and a "wall" that he says was invented by the "liberals" of the United States.

Readers Response

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

It has been a long time since I contacted you last and feel bad about that. Things seem to be going better for us. V. was in heavy depression but looks like he is feeling better some of the times, but we take it day by day. He does a lot of sleeping, not much reading, and not much exercise. But the Lord is teaching me so much, not sure how much to push and how much to just overlook. I also believe that some of his problems stem from the fact that the stroke and the seizure have affected him. Thank you for continuing to send your newsletter and tapes, really means so much.

How long now have we been hearing the message you have been preaching? And I think I am now beginning to put it together so don't give up on us. Some of us just take time to assimilate through our old, tired brains. But I am sure thankful to realize that it is beginning to make sense. I know the church is asleep in the U.S. and wonder what will wake us up. I read that heresy will be brought in and prayfully this will wake some. I continue to pray for you and your work, and for your health, Kathy. Take care, the Lord is in charge but we must do our part making wise decisions. May God continue to bless you in the work; be healthy, be safe and may we continue our friendship in Heaven. We love you both,

E. and V.—Michigan

Jerry Falwell was one of the speakers at the meetings and he recounted the history of the rise of the religious right in America. As he did so he set forth a strong opinion that this coming election will be soundly in favor of their man, George W. Bush. The religious right has now reached a point where their leaders are no longer carefully choosing their statements in order to facilitate political expediencies. They are now becoming confident and boastful.

The movement that accomplishes the Sunday law is here and now flexing its muscles. The Holy Spirit is being withdrawn from the earth. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Starvation is confronting Africa, Haiti and beyond. The third woe is under way. Men are fully pursuing their scientific quests into the realms of genetics, paralleling the last straw of the time period of the antediluvians. Is it not time for God's people to awaken to the realities of prophetic history?

But perhaps I am being an alarmist? Perhaps we are tempted to think—"Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm. Do not get excited. Be not alarmed."

Perhaps.

"Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit." *Prophets and Kings*, 626.

Hi Jeff,

It's J. I was recently doing a study on Daniel chapter 2 and came to the conviction that the ten toes are the ten kings of Revelation 17 alone and not the ten division of the old Roman Empire. Then as I did my research it seems like the Bible and spirit of prophecy agree that it is the ten kings of Revelation 17. Then the Lord led me to look at one of your news letters which was dealing with that subject and I see we have the same view. The iron and clay represents church and state and is relating to the last days. Some of the resistance I met agreed that the ten toes are the ten kings of Revelation 17, but says it's also the papacy in the dark ages riding the ten kings. I don't agree with that. I am currently putting something together to prove that wrong but would be grateful for any info you can put my way. Thanks Jeff. J.—England

I do not believe it is the European kings either. It cannot be. There wasn't ten kings during the Dark Ages, for three had to be removed before the papacy ruled. The two legs represent both division of Rome and the ten toes must appear after both divisions of Rome. Each of Daniel's prophecies identifies Rome in two phases. The two legs, the two diverse kingdoms, the little horn and the king of the north all represent Rome's two phases. I simply choose to not appear very militant on that teaching, because I hate to alienate brethren that still hold that traditional view. Good to hear from you. God bless.
Jeff

THE DRAGON

VATICAN EMPOWERED IN UN

The UNA statement from the Vatican Press Office said that "the Holy See, as a sovereign subject under international law with its own, specific character, wants to maintain an active and effective presence within the United Nations General Assembly July 1 approved a resolution spelling out the Vatican's "rights and privileges of participation" in its work as a UN observer and in conferences sponsored by the UN and its agencies.

An annex to the resolution identified specific rights, such as participation in the general debate held at the opening of each new session of the General Assembly and circulation of Vatican documents "directly, and without intermediary, as official documents of the assembly."

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the UN, said in an interview that the resolution would not necessarily bring major changes in the Vatican's UN activity.

But he said the action July 1 was significant in establishing the permanent observer status on the "solid base" of an explicit decision of the General Assembly, which includes all 191 UN members.

The Vatican has had permanent observer status at the UN since 1964, but it operated under unwritten rules. The archbishop noted the Vatican's status was based on a letter from then Secretary General, U Thant.

The resolution also will simplify the process for the Vatican's UN participation, added Archbishop Migliore.

The resolution sets out some clear procedures for how the Vatican can act within the General Assembly, overcoming certain limits.

For example, there was a rule that before speaking to the assembly the Vatican had to have the consent of each of the five regional groups. Also, the Vatican was not allowed to circulate its own documents and it did not have the right to respond to interventions which referred to the Holy See.

A statement from the *Vatican Press Office* said that “the Holy See, as a sovereign subject under international law with its own, specific character, wants to maintain an active and effective presence within the UN as far as having a right to speak—a right granted to nonmembers—but does not request a right to vote, a right belonging to member states of the UN.”

It added that “inevitably voting and full membership would involve the Holy See in a direct way in questions of political, military and economic order which go beyond its aims.”

The Vatican’s contributions, it said, are of a “religious and moral character,” which will benefit from a greater freedom to address the assembly.

The press office said that, despite some signature campaigns to remove the Holy See from any official participation in the UN, the resolution demonstrates that UN participation is regulated according to “a juridical rather than ideological character.”

“This is a democratic guarantee that allows the participation in debates of all members of the international community who can and frequently do have divergent positions,” but are interested in dialogue, debate and discussion to promote agreement and peace, it said.

In recent years, some nongovernmental groups, upset by the Vatican’s active promotion of pro-life views at UN meetings, have charged that the Vatican’s place at the UN was improper for a religious body, and have sought to get it reduced at least to the consultative status of organizations such as the *World Council of Churches*.

The most widely publicized of those groups has been *Catholics for a Free Choice*, led by Frances Kissling. Her organization, which supports legal abortion, launched a campaign in 1999 to get the UN to end the Vatican’s permanent observer status, but no government expressed support for that effort.

With regard to the newly approved resolution on the Vatican’s observer status, Archbishop Migliore said the president of the General Assembly, Julian Robert Hunte of St. Lucia, volunteered to present it to the UN body.

The nuncio noted that Ambassador Marcello Spatafora of Italy served as facilitator of the resolution, making himself and a legal adviser available to talk with delegates who had questions.

Archbishop Migliore also talked with people about the resolution, but he said delegates with reservations about a measure often find it easier to discuss them with a third party than with the one proposing it.

After six months of background preparation, passage of the resolution took less than 10 minutes.

Invited then to address the General Assembly, Archbishop Migliore expressed thanks for the action, noting that it came as the Vatican was celebrating its 40th year as a permanent observer.

He also declared it was an important step forward that reflected “the lofty values and collective interests shared by the Holy See and the United Nations.”

Both are committed to the same objectives of protecting human rights, defending the dignity of the human person and promoting the common good, he said.

“To achieve these goals, we need an ordered international community built upon the strong edifice of law, a law not of whim and caprice but of principles stemming from the very universality of human nature,” the nuncio said. *Catholic News Service*, July 2, 2004.

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. Revelation 17:16-18.

UN'S ENDLESS BUREAUCRACY

Offering nothing more than endless bureaucracy, the UN Security Council passed a resolution Saturday threatening Sudan with economic sanctions (the horror!) for the genocide occurring in Darfur. The resolution also calls upon Secretary General Kofi Annan to create a commission to decide whether the genocide in Darfur is in fact genocide. Arab militias known as Janjaweed have killed tens of thousands, raped women and girls, destroyed crops, polluted water and forced over one million people from their lands. We didn't need a commission to figure that out. The *US State Department* did not officially recognize the genocide until last week. *The Federalist*, September 24, 2004.

UN ELECTIONS MONITORS?

"The presence of UN elections monitors would serve as a recognition of the serious flaws that exist in our voting system." *National Organization for Women*, President Kim Gandy. *The Federalist*, August 11, 2004.

WHO CONTROLS THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM?

By Victor Thorn

Now that we know the *Federal Reserve* is a privately owned, for-profit corporation, a natural question would be: who owns this company? Peter Kershaw provides the answer in *Economic Solutions* where he lists the ten primary shareholders in the *Federal Reserve* banking system.

1. The Rothschild Family—London
2. The Rothschild Family—Berlin
3. The Lazard Brothers—Paris
4. Israel Seiff—Italy
5. Kuhn-Loeb Company—Germany
6. The Warburgs—Amsterdam
7. The Warburgs—Hamburg
8. Lehman Brothers—New York
9. Goldman & Sachs—New York
10. The Rockefeller Family—New York

Now I don't know about you, but something is terribly wrong with this situation. Namely, don't we live in America? If so, why are seven of the top ten stockholders located in foreign countries? That's 70 percent!

To further convey how screwed-up this system is, Jim Marrs provides the following data in his phenomenal book, *Rule By Secrecy*. He says that the *Federal Reserve Bank of New York*, which undeniably controls the other eleven Federal Reserve branches, is essentially controlled by two financial institutions:

1. *Chase-Manhattan* (controlled by the Rockefellers)—6,389,445 shares—32.3 percent.

2. *Citibank*—4,051,851 shares—20.5 percent.

Thus, these two entities control nearly 53% of the *New York Federal Reserve Bank*. Doesn't that boggle your mind? Now, considering how many trillions of dollars are involved here, and how the bankers are way above our "selected" officials in Washington, D.C., do you think the above-listed banks and families have an inordinate amount of say-so in how our country is being run? The answer is blindingly apparent.

Where does the money come from? We all know that the *Federal Reserve Corporation* prints money—then loans it, at interest, to our government. But wait until you see what a total scam this process is. But before we get to the meat of this issue, let's remember one thing about the very essence of banking—primarily that money should have some type of standard upon which its value is based. In the case of America, we operate on what is called a "gold standard" (i.e. our money is backed by gold).

So, with that in mind, let's look at how money is actually created, and at what cost. If the *Federal Reserve* wants to print 1,000 one-hundred (\$100) bills, their total cost for ink, paper, plates, labor, etc. would be approximately \$23.00 (according to Davy Kidd in *Why A Bankrupt America*). Now, if you do the math, the total cost of 10,000 bills would be \$230.00 ($\$.023 \times 10,000$). But, and here's the catch—10,000 \$100 bills equals \$1,000,000! So, the *Federal Reserve* can "create" a million dollars, then lend it to the US Government (with interest) for a total cost of \$230.00! That's not a bad deal, huh!

The banking industry calls this process "seignorage." I call it outright theft. Why? Well, regardless of the immense profit margin (\$1,000,000 for \$230), plus the huge interest payments, our government then needs to steal the American people's money to payoff their debts via a Mob-like agency called the IRS. So the bankers steal from the government, then the government turns around and steals from the people. I'm no genius, but who do you think is getting screwed in this process? Us, the people at the bottom rung of the ladder.

What's worse is that—now catch your breath—there's no more gold left in Fort Knox! It's all gone. In other words, the gold standard that our financial system was based upon is now an illusion. We can't convert our money into gold—only other currency. The entire underlying basis for our money is now a lie—a sham. The *Federal Reserve* has become so arrogant that they've become a literal money making machine, creating currency out of thin air! So that's where the Fed gets their money—they literally make it, then lend it to us so they can make even more money off of it.

MONEY AS A RELIGION

The above-detailed process has become so ridiculous that William Grieder, former assistant managing editor of the *Washington Post*, wrote a book in 1987 entitled, *Secrets of the Temple: How the Federal Reserve Runs the Country* that details how the Controllers have conditioned us to accept this absurd situation.

"To modern minds," he writes, "it seemed bizarre to think of the *Federal Reserve* as a religious institution. Yet the conspiracy theorists, in their own demented way, were on to something real and significant. The Fed did also function in the realm of religion. Its mysterious powers of money creation, inherited from priestly forebears, shielded a complex bundle of social and psychological meanings. With its own form of secret incantation, the *Federal Reserve* presided over awesome social ritual, transactions so powerful and frightening they seemed to lie beyond common understanding."

Mr. Grieder continues, "Above all, money was a function of faith. It required implicit and universal social consent that was indeed mysterious."

Mr. Grieder continues, "To create money and use it, each one must believe, and everyone must believe. Only then did worthless pieces of paper take on value."

Do you get it? Money is an illusion! Why? Because the gold standard upon which our money is supposed to be based has been eliminated. There's no more gold in Fort Knox. It's all gone! Now, money really is only paper! In the past, money was supposed to represent something of tangible value. Now it's simply paper!

Taken one step further, many of us don't even use paper money any more! Why? Well, here's a scenario. Many places of employment directly deposit their employee's paychecks into the bank. Once the money is there, when bill time comes around, the person in question can write out a stack of checks to pay them. Plus, when they need gasoline they use a credit card; and groceries a debit card. If this person goes out for dinner on Friday night, they can charge the tab on their diner's card. But what about the tip? They simply scribble in the amount at the bottom of the check. So far, the person hasn't spent a single dollar bill. Plus, if you bring electronic banking into the picture, we've virtually eliminated the use for money.

In essence, money has become nothing more than an illusion—an electronic figure or amount on a computer screen. That's it! As time goes on, we have an increasing tendency toward being sucked into this Wizard of Oz vortex of unreality. Think about it. Americans as a whole are carrying more personal debt than in any other time in history. Plus our government keeps going further and further into the hole, with no hope of ever crawling out. But we have less and less actual money! We're being enslaved by the debt of electronic blips on a computer screen! And 70 percent of the banks that control this debt via the Federal Reserve exist in foreign countries! What in God's name is going on? As author William Bramley says, "The result of this whole system is massive debt at every level of society." We're getting screwed in a sickening way, folks, and the people doing it are demented magician-priests that use the illusion of money as their control device. And I hate to say it, but if we allow things to keep going as they are, the situation will only get worse.

“Money will soon depreciate in value very suddenly when the reality of eternal scenes opens to the senses of man.” *Evangelism*, 62.

ISLAM

‘NO-FLY’ LIST STILL LACKING

Three years after 9/11, there is no single terrorism watch list

Three years ago, two suspected terrorists known to the US government breezed through security at Dulles airport and boarded a plane. They had not been put on the government’s “no-fly” list, and that day, they crashed their plane into the Pentagon.

Now, in a report obtained by *NBC News*, a government watchdog warns the problem is still not fixed. The “No-fly” list still includes only suspected terrorists “who pose threats to civil aviation” — not all suspected terrorists.

“It’s just plain wrong,” says 9/11 commissioner Slade Gorton.

He calls the policy outrageous.

“The potential consequences are that terrorists can still get on aircraft in the US,” says Gorton.

On 9/11, only a dozen names were on the “No-fly” list. Now there are about 3,500. But that’s only a fraction of more than 300,000 names on the government’s main list of suspected terrorists and associates.

Counter-terrorism experts insist that all suspected terrorists should be banned from planes.

“They could be couriers or they could be operatives or they could be suicide bombers. It doesn’t matter. You have to keep them all off,” says terrorism expert and *NBC News* analyst Roger Cressey.

The report also criticizes the *Department of Homeland Security* (DHS) for “not playing a lead role” in ending turf battles and not forcing agencies to work together on one of the most important post-9/11 reforms—consolidating all terror watch lists.

Even with a new terrorist tracking center, there still is no single list. Border agents say they sometimes have to check as many as eight databases.

“It’s mind-boggling to me that they have not made more effort to do something that is so fundamental,” says T.J. Bonner, president of the Border Patrol Union.

A *Department of Homeland Security* official acknowledges the “no-fly” list is “imperfect,” and eventually there will be one list. But *Homeland Security* argues the delay in consolidating terror watch lists is mostly the responsibility of the FBI. The FBI says the combined list will be ready by the end of the year. *NBC*, September 23, 2004.

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation. He saw the sea and the waves roaring, and men’s hearts failing them for fear. He beheld the earth moved, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea (which is literally taking place), the water thereof roaring and troubled, and the mountains shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown plagues, pestilence, famine, and death performing their terrible mission.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 445.

“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly.” *The Desire of Ages*, 636.

The False Prophet

A FUNDAMENTAL FLAW IN DIVINING BUSH'S FAITH

The President is ecumenical and embraces many other religions, including Islam I hear the question so often that I'm tired of responding to it: "What about Bush's fundamentalism?" When I'm not providing an answer, I'm reading statements to that effect, like the recent remark from former Vice President Al Gore (interview with the *New Yorker*) who, with wild exaggeration, described the current president's faith as "the American version of the same fundamentalist impulse that we see in Saudi Arabia," a nation where people of minority faiths are executed.

This assessment of Bush comes mainly from foes on the political left, and from secularists. It does not come from conservatives and certainly not from, of all people, Christian fundamentalists. Fundamentalists find the claim laughable. In fact, I get e-mails from them every day, asking questions like: Why does Bush believe that everyone gets into heaven? Why does Bush say that he shares the same God as Muslims? Why does Bush say that people can be good without God?

The fact is that George W. Bush is not a fundamentalist by any definition. Those who level the charge undermine their own credibility in discussing the president's faith. Worse, they stereotype with the broadest brush, and demonstrate an alarming ignorance of basic Christianity.

As someone who studies the faith of our presidents, I can say with complete confidence that I've never encountered a president with a faith as ecumenical as Bush's. His faith is so ecumenical, and so touchy-feely, that it is at times, frankly, kind of sappy. Journalist Joe Klein, a liberal, had several discussions with Bush while he was governor of Texas. He said the governor "never displayed the vaguest hint of dogmatism. . . . Quite the contrary: his faith was humble and, well, soft. . . . He used words like love and heart more than any other presidential candidate I've ever seen." Klein noted "scant evidence" that Bush was a "hard-edged religious determinist."

The Christian gospel—which George W. Bush reads literally each morning and has read in its entirety numerous times—says that of all the gifts God gave humanity, the greatest is love. The greatest commandments of the law, said Jesus Christ, are to love God and love thy neighbor. Christ essentially said that people will know that Christians are Christians by the love Christians show. Bush fully subscribes to this love theology. And it is that love-thy-neighbor mentality that makes Bush tolerant of other faiths.

The pious Protestant has, for instance, embraced Catholics and Jews. He has appointed devout Catholics to key faith-related positions, such as James Towey, a onetime attorney for Mother Teresa, as director of Bush's coveted Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He has immense respect for Pope John Paul II, whom he has called a "great man" and a "hero of history." In his first year in office, Bush noted eight separate Jewish events, including Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah. On December 10, 2001, for the first time in American history, the president lit a Hanukkah menorah at the White House residence as a symbol that the White House is "the people's house" and that it belongs to people of all faiths.

"And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever."

Thomas Jefferson,
Notes on the State of Virginia, Query 18,
1781.

Most interesting, there has never been—in all of American history—a president who has spoken so glowingly of Islam, which Bush calls a “religion of peace.” Bush maintains that the Quran “teaches tolerance,” a claim that some conservative Christians disagree with. Indeed, Billy Graham’s son Franklin once described Islam as “a very evil and wicked religion.” Jerry Vines, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, reportedly labeled Islam’s founder, Muhammad, a “demon-possessed pedophile.” Pat Robertson referred to Muhammad as “an absolutely wild-eyed fanatic” and “a robber and a brigand.” “You read the Quran,” says Robertson, “it says wage war against your enemies. Kill them if you possibly can.”

One Christian who disagrees with these views is the current president, who was reaching out to Muslims before Sept. 11, 2001. For example, to my knowledge, George W. Bush was the first president ever to mention mosques in his inaugural address. Prior to Sept. 11, the Presidential Documents list six Bush references to mosques, five to Islam and three to Muslims. On March 6, 2001, Bush had even commemorated a Muslim holy day: Eid al-Adha. Actually, Bush spoke favorably of Islam prior to his presidency. In his Republican convention address in August 2000, he mentioned mosques, as he did in a March 1999 speech to a Baptist church in Houston. “We’re all God’s children,” said Bush, “and faith supplies what we need to treat each other in a decent and civilized way.”

Bush believes that God wants all humans to be free, claiming: “In every human breast, God has implanted a principle which we call love of freedom.” He does not exclude Muslims from that principle — quite the contrary, as is evident by his incredibly ambitious and idealistic plans for a democratic Iraq, Afghanistan and Middle East generally.

The president has been given due credit for reaching out to Muslims, credit granted by observers like Nicholas Kristof, Bill Keller, Howard Fineman, Jim Hoagland. Kristof wrote in the New York Times: “Mr. Bush displayed real moral leadership after 9/11 when he praised Islam as a ‘religion of peace’ and made it clear that his administration would not demonize it.”

This will shock Bush’s detractors, but it’s true: In many ways, Bush’s brand of Christianity is more liberal than it is conservative, though overall he is probably theologically moderate. Hatred of Bush has precluded his opponents’ ability to make these crucial distinctions, and has led to the creation of numerous myths regarding his faith. To cite just one: No, he has never said that he believed God called on him to remove Saddam Hussein, and such was not one of his motivations for invading Iraq. To the contrary, he has cited his faith as a motivation for his \$15 billion AIDS package, and for his massive expansion of Medicare benefits—two moves that furthered the already huge US budget deficit, but both actions that liberals ought to embrace. He says that his faith has taught him that hate crimes, defacing synagogues and racial prejudice are “evil.”

This man’s faith continues to be badly misinterpreted. Liberals can name a lot of reasons to vote against Bush, but his faith should not be one of them. It is unconventional only in its openness to other faiths. And, no, it is not a fundamentalist faith.

Paul Kengor, a professor of political science at Grove City College in Grove City, Penn., is the author of “God and George W. Bush.” *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 19, 2004.

“Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, 949.

“Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists.” *The Great Controversy*, 589.

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare.” *The Great Controversy*, 581.

The Pioneers

Noah's Time, and Ours

By James White

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Matthew 24:36, 37

The prophetic discourse of Matthew 24 and 25 was given by our Lord in answer to the inquiry of his disciples, "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Chapter 24:3. Here are two questions; one relating to the destruction of Jerusalem; the other to the second coming of Christ. The text relates to the latter.

We solemnly believe that the day and hour, and even the year, of the second advent are purposely hidden. Some of the prophetic periods reach to the time of the end, while others extend still further down very near the end itself, to an event of which we shall speak hereafter, yet none of them reach to the coming of the Son of Man. The prophecies clearly point to the period of the second advent, but do not give the definite time of that event. But many suppose that the text proves that nothing may be known of the period of the second advent. In this they greatly err, as may be seen from the following reasons:

1. Because our Lord, after stating that the sun should be darkened, and that the moon should not give her light, and that the stars should fall from heaven, gives the following forcible parable, and makes the most distinct application of it to this subject. He says: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree. When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Verses 32, 33. No language can be more direct. No proof can be more complete. The most daring unbelief will hardly venture to deny these words of the Son of God, and as-

sert that nothing can be known of the period of his second coming.

2. Because our Lord declares that as the days of Noah were, so should also the coming of the Son of Man be. Said God to Noah, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:3. The period of the flood was given to the patriarch. And under the direct providence of God he prepared the ark and warned the people. So the fulfilling prophecies and the signs distinctly declare that the second coming of Christ is at the doors, and the solemn message has gone forth.

3. Those who claim that the text proves that nothing may be known of the period of the second advent, make it prove too much for their own unbelief. As recorded by Mark, the declaration reads: "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." If the text proves that men will know nothing of the period of the second advent, it also proves that angels will know nothing of it, and also that the Son will know nothing of it, till the event takes place! This position proves too much, therefore proves nothing to the point. Christ will know of the period of his second advent to this world. The holy angels who wait around the throne of Heaven to receive messages relative to the part they act in the salvation of men, will know of the time of this closing event of salvation. And so will the waiting, watching people of God understand.

An old English version of the passage reads, "But that day and hour no man maketh known, neither the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." This is the correct reading, according to several of the ablest critics of the age. The word know is used in the same sense here that it is by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:2: "For I determined not to know [make known] anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." Men will not make known the day and hour, angels will

not make it known, neither will the Son; but the Father will make it known.

Says Campbell, "Macknight argues that the term know is here used as a causative, in the Hebrew sense of the conjugation hiphil, that is, to make known. . . . His [Christ's] answer is just equivalent to saying, The Father will make it known when it pleases him; but he has not authorized man, angel, or the Son, to make it known. Just in this sense Paul uses the term know: 1 Corinthians 2:2: "I came to you making known the testimony of God; for I determined to make known nothing among you but a crucified Christ."

Albert Barnes, in his Notes on the Gospels, says, "Others have said that the verb rendered knoweth means sometimes to make known, or to reveal, and that the passage means, `that day and hour none maketh known, neither the angels, nor the Son, but the Father.' It is true the word has sometimes that meaning, as 1 Corinthians 2:2."

The Father will make known the time. He gave the period of the flood to Noah, which well represents the proclamation of the second advent, given in connection with the evidence of the termination of the periods of Daniel, during the great Advent movement of 1840 - 44.

And when the patriarch's work of warning and building was finished, God said to him, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark." "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights." So when the waiting, watching, weeping, toiling time shall be finished, and the saints shall all be sealed, and shut in with God, then will the voice of the Father from Heaven make known the definite time.

As we look back to the great Advent movement, to the bitter disappointment in 1844, and to the numerous efforts to adjust the prophetic periods by many of the first-day Adventists since that time, and the numerous disappointments which have followed, we can but feel the force of the words of the prophet: "Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth? Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision. For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I am the Lord; I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged; for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 12:22-25.

"I will speak," saith the Lord, "and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass." The voice of God will be heard from on high in the midst of the awful scenes just preceding the second advent. "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air, and there came a great voice out of the temple of Heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done." Revelation 16:17. See also Joel 3:16; Jeremiah 25:30.

The burden of the prophecy of Ezekiel, quoted above, evidently is time. "The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth." God will make this proverb to cease, by speaking himself. In this way the Father will make known the time, a work not given into the hands of men, angels, nor even the Son.

The present is emphatically the waiting, watching time. It is the especial period of the patience of the saints. In definite time we would find relief from the state of suspense to which our present position subjects us. The Lord appeals to us thus: "Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:35-37.

One of the fatal consequences of not watching is distinctly stated in Revelation 3:3. "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour

I will come upon thee." The consequence of not watching will be ignorance of the time. What will be the consequence of watching? The inference is unavoidable, that it will be a knowledge of the time. In answer to the agonizing prayer of the Son of God, "Father, glorify thy name," there came a voice from Heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." The disciples understood these words from Heaven, while the people that stood by said it thundered. John 12:27-29. So will the waiting, watching disciples of Christ understand the voice of God when he shall speak from on high. But the unbelieving world will not understand the voice. "The wicked shall do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

In comparing Noah's days, and ours, the Lord continues: "For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." A picture of the present condition of the mass of mankind is here drawn. How dark the features! The people of the last generation will be like that before the flood, while the ark was preparing. Noah preached and warned them of the coming flood, and they mocked. He built the ark, and they scoffed and jeered. He was a preacher of righteousness. His works were calculated to give edge to, and set home to the heart, what he preached. Every righteous sermon, and every blow struck in building the ark, condemned a careless, scoffing world. As the time drew nearer, the people were more careless, more hardened, more bold and impudent, and their condemnation surer. Noah and his family were alone. And could one family know more than all the world? The ark is a matter of ridicule, and Noah is regarded as a willful bigot.

But the Lord calls Noah into the ark. And by the hand of Providence the beasts are led into the ark; and the Lord shuts Noah in. This is regarded at first by the scoffing multitude as something wonderful; but it is soon explained away by the wiser ones, so as to calm their fears, and they breathe easier.

The day of expectation finally arrives. The sun rises as usual, and the heavens are clear. "Now where is old Noah's flood?" is heard from a thousand impious lips. It is a day of unusual feasting and sports. The farmer is caring for his herds and lands, and the mechanic is pursuing his work of building. On this very day some are being joined in marriage. And while all are looking to long years of future prosperity and happiness, suddenly the heavens gather blackness. Fear fills every heart. The windows of heaven open, and the rain in torrents descends. "The fountains of the great deep are broken up," and here and there come gushing up rivers of waters. The valleys are fast filling up, and thousands are swept away in death. Some flee to the highest points of land; but the water fast follows them up. Men bear their wives and children to the mountains, but are obliged to part with them there to drown, while they climb the highest trees. But soon they, too, are covered with water, so that there is not a resting place for Noah's dove. All are still in death. Horrid death! made still more horrible by being in consequence of slighted mercy! But where is Noah? Ah! safe in the ark, borne upon the billow. Safe from the flood; for God "shut him in."

By most people the evidences of the soon coming of Christ are considered insufficient to base faith upon. But mark: the testimony and acts of one man condemned the people destroyed by the flood. The evidences then were sufficient, otherwise the world would not have been condemned. But evidences a hundred times more convincing come pouring in upon us, that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. We follow down the numerous prophetic chains of Daniel, and of the Revelation, and we find ourselves in every instance standing just before the day of wrath. We see the signs spoken of by prophets, by Christ, and in the epistles, fulfilling, or fulfilled. And at the right time, and in the right manner, to fulfill certain prophecies, a solemn

message arises in different parts of the world: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1. Wherever we look, we see prophecy fulfilling. While the knowledge of God and the spirit of holiness are departing, spiritual wickedness, like a flood, covers the land.

But these evidences are considered insufficient to rest faith upon. Well, what kind of evidence would the unbelieving have? "When the signs of the end," says the skeptic, "are fulfilled, they will be so plain that no one can doubt." But if the signs are of such a nature, and are fulfilled in such a manner as to compel all to believe in the coming of Christ, how can it be as it was in the days of Noah? Men were not then compelled to believe. But eight believing souls were saved, while all the world besides sank in their unbelief beneath the waters of the flood. God has never revealed his truth to man in a manner to compel him to believe. Those who have wished to doubt his word, have found a wide field in which to doubt, and a broad road to perdition. While those who have wished to believe, have ever found everlasting rock on which to rest their faith.

Just before the end, the world will be hardened in sin, and indifferent to the claims of God. Men will be careless about hearing warnings of danger, and blinded by cares, pleasures, and riches. An unbelieving and infidel race will be eating, drinking, marrying, building, planting, and sowing. It is right to eat and drink to sustain nature; but the sin is in excess and gluttony. The marriage covenant is holy; but God's glory is seldom thought of. Building, planting, and sowing, necessary for convenient shelter, food and clothing, are right; but the world has gone wholly after these things, so that men have no time nor disposition to think of God, Heaven, Christ's coming, and the judgment. This world is their god, and all their energies of body and mind bow down to serve it. And the evil day is put far away.

The faithful watchman who sounds the alarm as he sees destruction coming, is held up before the people from the pulpits of our land, and by the religious press, as a "fanatic," a "teacher of dangerous heresies;" while in contrast is set forth a long period of peace and prosperity to the church. So the churches are quieted to sleep. The scoffer continues to scoff, and the mocker mocks on. But their day is coming. Thus saith the prophet of God: "Howl ye, for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt. And they shall be afraid; pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth; they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Isaiah 13:6-9.

Most dreadful day! And is it near? Yes, it hasteth! It hasteth greatly! What a description given by the prophet! Read it, and as you read, try to feel how dreadful will be that day: "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah 1:14-18.

Now we hear the "peace and safety" cry from the pulpit, and all the way along down to the grogshop. "Where is the promise of his coming?" is murmured from the impious lips of a thousand last-day scoffers. But the scene will speedily change. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape." The scoffing of the haughty scoffer will soon be turned to wailing and howling. "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low." Isaiah 2:11, 12. "And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jeremiah 25:33.

The last plagues, in which is filled up the wrath of God, now bottled up in Heaven, waiting for mercy to finish her last pleadings, will be poured out. Unmingled wrath of Jehovah! And not one drop of mercy? Not one! Jesus will lay off his priestly attire, leave the mercy-seat, and put on the garments of vengeance, never more to offer his blood to wash the sinner from his sins. The angels will wipe the last tear shed over sinners, while the mandate resounds through all Heaven, Let them alone. The groaning, weeping, praying church on earth, who in the last message employs every power to sound everywhere the last note of warning, lest the blood of souls be found in her garments, is now free from her burden of labor. The Holy Spirit has written within them these prophetic words of their soon-expected Lord: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11.

Now the ministers of truth have a message to the people, and gladly speak the words of life. They joyfully toil on, suffer on, and spend their energies in preaching to hearts as hard as steel, hoping that a few may be reached, gathered into the truth, and saved. But then they will have no message. Now their prayers and strong cries go up to Heaven in behalf of sinners. Then they will have no spirit of prayer for them. Now the church says to the sinner, Come; and Jesus stands ready to plead his blood in his behalf, that he may be washed from his sin and live. But then salvation's hour will be passed, and the sinner will be shut up in darkness and black despair.

It will be a day of mourning, and lamentation, and famine for hearing the words of the Lord. "I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon the loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:10-12.

Now, the word of the Lord may be heard; but sinners, in and out of the churches, with few exceptions, do not prize it. Then, it will not be heard; fro the watchmen, set to watch and sound the alarm of danger, will be called down from their high stations. Now, the word of the Lord is carried to the sinner, and offered without money or price; but he treats it carelessly, or, may be, drives the humble servant of Christ from his door. But then will he go in search of it. "They shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east," but they cannot hear it. "They shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, but shall not find it." From city to city, from State to State, from one country to another, will they go to find a man commissioned of high Heaven to speak the word of the Lord, but such an one is not to be found. All such will then have finished their high commission. The word of the Lord! The word of the Lord! Where can we hear it? is heard in every land. One general wail - the word of the Lord! goes up to Heaven, but

the heavens are brass. Then will the people turn and rend the false shepherds, who deceived them with the cry of "peace and safety." Children will reproach parents for keeping them back from walking in the truth, and parents their children.

The miser now loves his money, and holds it with an iron grasp. But it will be said in that day, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." James 5:1-3. Now, silver and gold may be used to God's glory, for the advancement of his cause. But in that day, "they shall cast their silver into the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord." Ezekiel 7:19.

"Had the antediluvians believed the warning, and repented of their evil deeds, the Lord would have turned aside His wrath, as He afterward did from Nineveh. But by their obstinate resistance to the reproofs of conscience and the warnings of God's prophet, that generation filled up the measure of their iniquity, and became ripe for destruction." *Conflict and Courage*, 37.

Healthy Living

"If you are called upon to attend a council meeting, ask yourself whether your perceptive faculties are in a proper condition to weigh evidence. If you are not in a proper condition, if your brain is confused, you have no right to take part in the meeting. Are you fractious? Is your temper sweet and fragrant, or is it so disturbed and disagreeable that you will be led to make hasty decisions? Do you feel as though you would like to fight someone? Then do not go to the meeting; for if you go you will surely dishonor God. Take an ax and chop wood or engage in some physical exercise until your spirit is mild and easy to be entreated. Just as surely as your stomach is creating a disturbance in your brain, your words will create a disturbance in the assembly. More trouble is caused by disturbed digestive organs than many realize.

"We ought always to eat the most simple food. Often twice as much food as the system needs is eaten. Then nature has to work hard to get rid of the surplus. Treat your stomach properly, and it will do its best. . . .

"Whether they acknowledge it or not, God lays upon all human beings the duty of taking care of the soul temple. The body is to be kept clean and pure. The soul is to be sanctified and ennobled. Then, God says, I will come unto him and take up My abode with him. We are responsible for our own salvation, and God holds us accountable for the influence we exert on those connected with us. We should stand in such a position, physically and spiritually, that we can recommend the religion of Christ. We are to dedicate our bodies to God.

"God desires His ministers to stand in a high and holy position. Those who open the word of God to others should ask themselves, before they enter the pulpit, whether they have been self-denying, whether their food has been simple, such as the stomach can digest, without beclouding the brain. Please read the first chapter of Second Corinthians. This entire chapter is a lesson for all believers." *Medical Ministry*, 295.

LINDA'S CHEESE DIP

1 brick Mori-nu Tofu
1 t. onion powder
¼ t. garlic powder
1 t. potato flakes
1 T. lemon juice
1 t. parsley flakes
1 ½ t. salt
½ t. dill weed
1 ½ T. sesame seeds
1 can Ro-tel tomatoes
1 sm. jar pimentos
Blend and Dip.
Excellent with tortilla chips.

Plain people ministries

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REACHING THE PLAIN PEOPLE WITH THE PRESENT TRUTH

Plain People Ministries was created in 1985 by Allen & Patti Barnes for the purpose of taking the *Three Angels' Messages* to the Amish, Mennonites, German Baptists and other "plain" groups. This direct mail ministry is designed to reach a people that are generally overlooked in our generation. The plain people do not have television, most do not listen to radio, and chances are slim that they will attend Adventist seminars.

Beginning with a list of 200 addresses, the ministry has steadily grown to include over 7,500 homes. New addresses come to us from various sources, including our readers who will sometimes submit addresses of family and friends. Most, however, come to us from our SDA brethren who have acquired addresses of plain people living near them, and from directories of plain congregations.

WHAT DO WE SEND THEM?

Step by step, we mail out issues of *Messages to Plain People*, articles on faith and doctrine which guide the readers through our wonderful Bible truths. To assure that new readers do not miss anything, we compile enough addresses to launch a new mailing list which will start with the very first issue. Our earlier format was a four page newsletter type tract. In the spring of 2002 we changed to a booklet type tract, still bearing the same name, *Messages to Plain People*. This change was made in order to expedite the work and save precious funds at the same time. For the same mailing cost, we are now able to include two doctrinal articles plus a health article. We desire to reach as many of the plain people as possible by spreading literature among them "like the leaves of autumn."

In addition to *Messages to Plain People*, we also print larger booklets designed to go into further detail on various subjects. These booklets cover such topics as the Sabbath, state of the dead, holiness, salvation by faith, the beast and his mark, and the seventy week and 2300 day prophecies of Daniel. These booklets are listed in the catalog section of *Future News*. New booklets are being written to cover more topics. We have also mailed out over 900 copies of *The Great Controversy*.

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

Plain People Ministries is a non-profit, tax deductible ministry. We appreciate donations to help cover our cost of printing (we have our own printing press) and mailing. Our expenses total about \$15,000 per year, but with a growing mailing list, increased postage rates, and needed equipment costs, we expect to reach expenses of \$20,000 plus in 2005. Outside of a modest stipend we pay our printer (Jason Barnes), no salary, wage or compensation is taken from the ministry. We do hope, with help from people like you, to grow this ministry to the point where we can reach thousands more with the present truth.

Second Advent Hymn's

Number 1

The fields are all white, the harvest is near
The reapers all with their sharp sickles appear,
To reap down the fields and gather in barns,
While th' wild plants of nature are left for to burn

Come then O my soul, and think on that day,
When all things in nature shall cease and decay,
The trumpet shall sound, the angels appear,
To reap down the earth both the wheat and the tares

But hear the sad cry ascending, the sky
Of those in distress who have no where to fly,
They call for the rocks and mountains to fall,
Upon their poor souls for to hid them from thrall.

Twill all be in vain, the mountains must flee,
The rocks fly like hailstones and shall no more be,
The earth it shall shake, the sea shall retire,
And this solid world shall then be all on fire.

Then, O wretched mortals, look up and 'spy
The glorious Redeemer descending the sky,
On chariots of fire, to earth he is bound,
With guards of bright angels attending him down,
But hear the kind judge, that great day alarms,
First gather my children all into my arms,
That seven last plagues be poured out on those
Who've blasphemed my name and my saints have opposed.

Come hither, ye tribes, your sentence receive,
No longer my spirit shall strive and be grieved,
My sentence is right, my judgment is just,
Come hither ye blessed, but depart all ye cursed.

O, sinners take thought, and seek ye the Lord,
I have not been jesting, it is Christ's own word,
That those who've done good, in glory shall stand,
While those who've done evil, shall surely be damned.

So farewell, I leave you pondering your way,
The Lord seal instructions to what I now say,
Your souls to God's throne be poured out in prayer,
That you be prepared to meet Christ in the air.

Signs of the Times, 1840.