

Future NEWS

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LAST-DAY MISSIONARY WORK

“We are nearing the end of this earth’s history, and the different lines of God’s work are to be carried forward with much more self-sacrifice than they have yet been. The work for these last days is not a work for display but of consecrated service; it is a missionary work. Present truth, from the first letter of its alphabet to the last, means missionary effort. The work to be done calls for sacrifice at every step of advance. The workers are to come forth from trial purified and refined, as gold tried in the fire.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 7, 320.

“These last day witnesses are bold soldiers of Jesus Christ. They have tasted of the powers of the world to come. Their feet are not on sliding sand, but on solid rock. They are not easily moved away from the faith once delivered to the saints. These will be strengthened by their Leader to cope with difficulties. They are messengers of righteousness, representatives of Christ, revealing the triumphs of grace.

“From these chosen men of God the truth will shine forth. It will be heard from their lips, reflected in their countenances, and demonstrated in their lives. They will be marked by purity and uncorruptness. The grace of Christ has a refining, ennobling influence on the character. Many men and women of ability, refinement, and education will throw their all on the Lord’s side. Many will part with friends, and will sacrifice every worldly interest in order to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their lives give evidence to the world of the power of Christianity. They witness that the gospel is what it purports to be, the power of God unto salvation. Bright beams of gospel truth are flashed from them upon the path of those who are in darkness. Their unswerving fidelity is registered in the books of heaven.

“Those who walk even as Christ walked, who are patient, gentle, kind, meek, and lowly in heart, those who yoke up with Christ and lift His burdens, who yearn for souls as He yearned for them--these will enter into the joy of their Lord. They will see with Christ the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. Heaven will triumph, for the vacancies made in heaven by the fall of Satan and his angels will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord.” *Reflecting Christ*, 347.

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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.

I leave next Thursday for two camp meetings and one prophecy school in three different cities in Colombia. I return on a Monday and then leave that Wednesday for our first ever camp meeting in England. We solicit your prayers for these meetings.

Our evangelistic series in the Philippines begins on January 19 and continues through February first. At this point we have mailed three thousand dollars, which is half the budget for the series, in order to pay the monthly salary for ten Bible workers to accomplish their advance preparations for the series. We have received another two hundred dollars, so we are still hoping for twenty-eight hundred dollars to accomplish the rest of the financial needs for this particular series. If the Lord impresses you to help along these lines, please mark your donations, *Philippines Evangelism*.

Our visit to the recent Annual Meeting of the Christian Coalition was uneventful, in terms of the Christian Coalition agitating or pushing for a national day of rest. There was nothing of that nature that transpired at the meetings. Originally Sister Vallieres was to attend the meetings, but she had to stay home, so she gave her tickets to Dean and Blanca Ferrell. This is his evaluation of the meetings:

Hi Jeff,

Our plans for this year's Christian Coalition meeting in Washington DC, originally entailed distribution of literature on Friday October 11, at the "Christian Support for Israel Rally" outdoors, in front of the White House. I was not planning to attend other meetings scheduled from the 10th–12th at the Washington Convention center. Those plans changed with the weather, and with the increased activity of the Washington area Sniper attacks.

Since getting hit by a sniper bullet involved odds similar to winning the lottery, I was not afraid of that, but many who were fearful would not venture into the area. The chances of getting hit by rainfall and ruining the literature was astronomically higher than getting struck with a bullet. The Christian Coalition had estimated crowds upwards of 40,000, but due to the previously mentioned circumstances, those crowds did not show. A cell call to a man in the area revealed the crowd to number in the hundreds. I did not attend. (Christian Coalition representatives later informed us that 40 bus loads of people turned around and did not attend the meetings.)

But as Jeff Pippinger called and informed me that Phyllis Vallieres and her husband were not able to attend the convention, my wife and I accepted their tickets to attend on October 12, to hear the speakers.

We were curious as from different quarters, we heard this year the Christian Coalition planned to promote a "national day of rest" using their religio/political clout and leverage toward that end. Others who had investigated this claim had told me that this was a disinformation campaign, apparently designed to undermine the credibility of those who passed the rumor. And it was spread far and wide. I got a newsletter from friends in the Pacific Islands, which reprinted a so called "inter-office memo" sent from Mike Brown (of the Christian Coalition). This memo ended up being printed in Jan Marccussen's newsletter and sent world-wide. Human tendencies to embellish, helped the rumor spread like wildfire. Surely a Sunday law is coming, and these will likely be the people foremost in pushing for it, but let us not be as the boy who cried "Wolf!"

At the convention, what we saw was a lot of well meaning but confused people. They are watching our nation morally and financially disintegrate before their eyes, and they are desperate to stem the evil. A sad commentary is that while they seem to have their focus on Israel, they have not learned from Israel's experience. When God set His people free from bondage, did he do it by getting His people to vote in their hand picked men into the high places of Egyptian public office? Was the Lord's strategy of turning a nation's situation around, one that needed to be accomplished by getting their man at the top?

If so, why did He not use political expediency and take advantage of Moses in the high place he already occupied? Why waste forty years of Moses' precious time with smelly sheep? Why waste time with hard headed Pharaoh, saying to him: "Let My people Go!", when all He would have had to do was to say to meekest of all men "Mose, legislate My people to Go" and it would have been done. No argument. Were it in the Lord's plan, He would have used political expediency and just made Egypt a better place! Why go through 80 years of protracted slavery and insurrections? This is an area where the confused evangelical/Catholic Christian Coalition have not thought much.

The issues they rally behind are mostly good and honorable. They are against abortion, they are against activist judges protecting the wicked, writing laws from the bench and re-interpreting the Constitution to make room for gross immorality. They are against the rampaging homosexual agenda and promote family values. It's all **seems** so "Mom, America and apple pie!" There is more, but time does not allow to go into them all, but who can fault them for **those views**?

Their fatal flaw is that the methods their movement uses is both un-american and antichristian. If their Americanism is measured by the foundational 1st amendment of the constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

They and the politicians they use to violate this portion of the Constitution, are traitors to their oath of office. Their Christianity is measured by Jesus' words in **Mark 12:17**:

And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

They are counting on human institution to accomplish that which only God can perform. This is the essence of Roman Catholicism. a.k.a. Antichrist.

This fatal flaw prevents them from seeing that whenever Church and state have united, they have always made war against God's Truth, His Son and His people. The crucifixion, the inquisitions and the very history behind the settling of the first American colonies testifies to that.

Theologically, what I perceive has contributed to this terrible flaw in their spiritual sight is literalism and dispensational futurism. Embracing these errors has culminated in the modern Secret Rapture theory. The Secret Rapture teaching is a multitude of fables, which has most of Christianity clinging to the divorced nation of Israel as though it were a life-preserver in today's turbulent sea. This misplaced trust is the reason for the theme of this year's meetings and over 200 booths promoting American religio/political linkage to Israel.

In reality, clinging to divorced Israel is less a life-preserver and more a millstone tied around evangelical necks. Islam sees in this unity a growing threat as both Israel and apostate Christianity are looking for the temple to soon be rebuilt on the temple mount. This of course calls for the removal of Islam's third most holy site. They see the U.S. united with its two most worst historical enemies. Zionism and Roman Catholicism. Can anyone deny the confederacy?

With their combined histories, can there be doubt as to why Islam would hate, distrust and even launch terrorist attacks against us?

Why does apostate Protestantism think they must be with Israel (of the flesh, see Romans 9:6–8) as if it were God’s winning team? Why (according to their teachings) do they long to see the temple rebuilt and resume animal sacrifices and see antichrist come to that temple? How do they see a blessing in unification with Israel, when they teach that the Jews will be **LEFT BEHIND** with the wicked and unbelievers at Christ’s Secret Rapture? Why do they see things this way? They are drunk on Babylon’s wine. Can anyone make sense of the ravings of a drunk person? No!

What we can make sense of is Revelation 18:1–4, that teaches us that God still has a people in that fallen, drunken mass of **confusion**. We met and shared prayer, testimony and “present truth” with many of them. The Lord loves them and they mean everything to Him. So ought they not also be of immense value to you and I? If so, shouldn’t we make efforts be there at every large Christian gathering with “present truth” to share? It was a privilege to go there and serve in giving these dear souls what very well might be their last call out of Babylon. Please pray for them and us. May God bless every seed of truth that was planted and bring the increase, to His glory and honor.

Dean Ferrell

Another observation is as follows:

CC HOLDS ROAD TO VICTORY RALLY NO FOCUS ON SUNDAY LAWS—BUT LOTS OF RHETORIC

On October 11 and 12, the Christian Coalition held its “Road to Victory” rally at the Washington Convention Center. The rally included a parade of powerful politicians, including a video greeting from President Bush in which he referred to the Christian Coalition as his “good friends” and spoke of the values he shares with them.

Congressman Dick Armey, majority leader in the House of Representatives, stated “I would not have been elected to Congress in ’84 if the Christian Coalition hadn’t taken a chance on me [and George Bush] would not be the President of the United States” if the Christian Coalition hadn’t supported him.

There were themes that speakers came back to time and time again. Some of the themes were only tangentially related to religious freedom. These included the need for laws that respect human life, the need to act against pornography and gambling, and the importance of supporting Israel (“those that bless Israel are blessed, those that curse Israel are cursed”). There was also a lot of talk about appointing judges that support the Christian Coalition’s agenda, and of the desire of participants to see the Republican party gain a majority in the U.S. Senate.

Many of the speakers railed against the separation of church and state. Joyce Meyer, a popular television preacher whose burgeoning ministry co-sponsored the event, summed up the sentiment stating “separation of church and state is a deception of Satan.” She went on to note that the conference was “bringing the spiritual and political together.” She also condemned sectarianism, noting that “we need to unite [in order to] get a lot done in Washington. There are more of us than there are of them.” She promised listeners that “we are going to have a worldwide revival.”

“The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; [the revival of primitive godliness] and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. *The Great Controversy*, 464.

Senator Inhofe promised the cheering crowd that “we are winning” and noted that the Christian Coalition is fighting in the “holiest of wars. . . . We are a clear majority.”

Congressman Jones, who was the primary force behind the recently defeated “House of Worship Political Speech Act,” stated that he would reintroduce that Act in January, and vowed “we will get it passed.” The Act aims to get politics involved in churches and churches involved in politics.

In conclusion, the rally was a celebration of a union of church and state, the promise of a world-wide religious revival, and an impressive flexing of political muscle fueled by religious fervor. It was hard to sit through many of the speeches without hearing the echoes of prophecy. Office of Legislative Affairs for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Personally, I believe that the Christian Coalition is the modern-day parallel to the National Reform Movement of Sister White’s day, that led the way in pushing for a national Sunday law. Sister White commented on the National Reform Movement, and if we treat her comments as prophecies, then much light can be shed upon Pat Robertson’s organization. We address this prophetically in the series titled, *Those Things Which Have Been, Will be Repeated*.

In context of the movement of her day, Sister White teaches that those within the movement will work in an underhanded way:

“Plans of serious import to the people of God are advancing in an underhand manner among the clergymen of various denominations, and the object of this secret maneuvering is to win popular favor for the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence to obtain a religious amendment to the Constitution, and compel the nation to keep Sunday.” *Review and Herald*, December 24, 1889.

Ron and Pat Goss, who have attended the Coalition meetings for several years now noted that they had never witnessed such a low turnout, yet the Coalition claimed that this was their largest ever turnout. I certainly did not see ten to fifteen thousand and for me, when they make that claim they demonstrate the political philosophy that encourages men to twist the facts in order to uphold or promote their own positions. This is part of their “underhanded manner”, though the dishonesty that they have demonstrated in the past with their voter guides is a much more glaring example of the fulfillment of this characteristic.

I was amazed at how deeply entrenched these people are into the false prophetic interpretation that identifies Israel as God’s people. What did Christ mean when he stated?:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Matthew 23:37–39.

Unfortunately this false idea has made many inroads into Adventism as well.

As Steve Dickie and I spoke about what we were witnessing, one of the more sobering convictions we both felt was the realization of how deeply these people are in darkness.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

Humanly it is difficult to see how the truth will ever be able to break through the many false concepts held by these people. I am not denying the power of God’s word, but simply noting that their false understanding of prophecy, civil responsibility, and Protestantism may be more evidence of how near we are to the close of probation!

And then we should note the Adventist contributions to the meeting. Much excitement was generated within Adventism that at these meetings there would be a push for a national day of rest. The Christian Coalition denied that the infamous “internal memo” from Pastor Mike Brown of the Christian Coalition was legitimate. But against their denials some in Adventism continued to push the story. A couple brothers even prepared and circulated a petition of protest for Congressmen encouraging Adventist to protest the actions that were about to begin at these meetings. Nothing materialized, but how many Congressmen received emails, letters, FAXes and phone calls protesting something that was all fabricated? What did those Congressmen come to understand about Adventists?

A brother who has attended these meetings for years, and has developed a speaking relationship with many of the leaders of the movement was informed by one of their leaders that the Christian Coalition was even considering litigation against those Adventist ministries who led out in this “internal memo” campaign.

As I came to my first meeting on Sabbath an Adventist brother I had never met was unloading his van full of literature to hand out. After he recognized I was also an Adventist he asked me to help him unload his van, which I did. As we exchanged names he stated that he was familiar with the studies I present and he agrees with some parts, but some he disagrees. The way he shared that information led me to believe that he was a Adventist “separationists” that taught that the Adventist church was Babylon. I asked an old friend there, who was also distributing literature if he knew the brother, and he stated that he did. He went onto say that this brother was unbalanced.

That afternoon, during the break, Kathy and I went to set in an area where there was a restaurant, but the chairs were available for anyone in the convention. Our purpose was to strike up a conversation with some of the Coalition people and see if we could not give them an *Illustrated Great Controversy*. We sat down next to a table with eight Coalition attendees. Before I knew it the brother that I helped unload the literature was at the table next to me. He and his wife were going to eat their meal and I thought nothing of it.

I struck up a conversation with another man and before I knew it the literature man was interrupting our conversation and trying to emphasize that the Seventh-day Adventist church was Babylon. I told him he was misrepresenting Ellen White’s words. He told me he had been handing out Spirit of Prophecy books for eighteen years. I made a brief rebuttal to his foolishness and he then stood up and raised his voice for all to hear explaining how the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church had committed this sin and that abomination.

I then told him he was unbalanced and that our little group was hoping to reach some of the attendees, and his loud voice and subject matter was inappropriate. I told him that instead of continuing a discussion with him I would quietly leave. Recognizing this man was unbalanced and that he had a particular burden to correct me, I left the table without seeing that he then approached my wife and Blanca Ferrell with the same nonsense. My wife told him what he was saying and the way he was acting was inappropriate, and that she did not want to speak with him. At that point he told her in especially loud voice, “You can’t handle the rebuke!” This all took place in front of many participants of the Coalition meetings. They all heard and seen every bit of it.

The message is not the condition of God's church. The message has to do with those who are involved with bringing about the Sunday law in the United States. Speaking of the actions that were taking place during her lifetime when the National Reform movement was pushing for a Sunday law Sister White identified what the "present truth" message of our time is. It is not that the Adventist church is Babylon.

"If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, God cannot pour upon them His Spirit. They are unprepared to cooperate 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.'" *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214–215.

The message for the hour is designed to awaken God's people from spiritual death. This awakening takes place through recognizing that those who will push the Sunday law into existence are beginning their work. Its happening today! Identifying any message as the present truth message for our time—including the message about all the sin and problems in God's church is a denial of the real present truth message of the hour. It may not be the "peace and safety" message we hear so often today, but it is still used by Satan to divert attention away from the truth for this time!

The Christian Coalition is about its business cementing the relationship between church and state in this country, and if this truth does not awaken us to the condition that we are in individually, then we are destined to awaken too late to prepare.

“Many souls have been presented before me as being tempted by Satan to deny the faith. Fired by an unsanctified, unholy zeal, they will lead others in strange paths, and under their leadership many will become entangled in the specious snares of the enemy.

“The Lord calls upon His slumbering people to awake out of their sleep. Many who in their ignorance consider themselves to be wise--like the foolish virgins in the parable--do not realize that their lamps are going out. When they awake to their condition it will be too late for them to obtain a fresh supply of oil, and they will be unready to meet the Bridegroom.

“To those who have come to a time of decision, let us say, ‘With humility of heart seek the Lord earnestly.’ The longer you tread the path of doubt and perplexity, the less will you feel the influence of the Spirit of God. If you were to wait until every question had been answered to your complete satisfaction, you would never believe. It is often necessary that faith shall precede evidence.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 9, 206.

When we awake we must begin to warn those around us of these truths. In doing this work we must seek to remove prejudice—not create it:

“Our enemies will make the very most of every unguarded suggestion, and will turn these statements against those who are doing all in their power to remove the prejudice that exists against us as a people.” *The Publishing Work*, 225.

The promotion of a “internal memo” that the *Christian Coalition* publically denied writing, and the organization of a campaign of protest over the stated intents of this “internal memo” to United States Congressmen makes men less willing to listen to those who may be their last hope for salvation.

“Brethren and sisters, do we believe the Word of God, or not? Do we not see the signs fulfilling all around us? Do we realize that we are standing on the very verge of eternity, that we have no time to make crooked paths and blundering movements involving the worth of the soul? When the last call shall be made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye forth to meet him, shall we represent the foolish virgins, who had no oil in their vessels with their lamps? Whatever our line of work, let us remember that we cannot carry it ourselves. Let us be sure that we are making every possible effort to save souls. Self and self-serving have no place now and never had in a true religious experience. Everything we do must be done to the glory of God. Work and pray, and God will cooperate with your efforts.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 30.

Brother Jeff,

I have listened at a distance to a couple of ministries who oppose your material on Daniel eleven. They teach that the “glorious land” of Daniel 11:41 is the same as the “glorious holy mountain” of Daniel 11:45. They teach they both refer to God’s church or His people. They also place great emphasis on the pioneer’s understanding of God’s word. I then listened to your last tape where you cite an article by Hiram Edson where he identifies the “glorious land” of verse forty-one as the United States. You used his reasoning to support your contention that the “glorious land” is the USA. But in the same sentence Hiram Edson also cites verse forty-five’s “glorious holy mountain” as the United States. Did you not recognize Edson’s statement? BC—CA

I did recognize Edson’s use of both verses as he was identifying the United States in Bible prophecy. I related to his study in the following fashion. Edson was digging for deeper prophetic understanding. If you look at the first article in his series you find that it begins with a letter of explanation from James White, who was one of the editors of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* at that time. The other editors listed at that time were Uriah Smith, J. N. Andrews, James White, J. H. Waggoner, R. F. Cottrell and Stephen Pierce. These editors included in the beginning of the first article the following statement:

[The following article was received from Brother Edson some time since; but we have not yet had time to examine it thoroughly. Many of the ideas presented are new, and we think it proper to publish them for the consideration of the brethren, letting the writer remain responsible for the views presented, as he proposes in the following lines to Brother White, which accompanied the article.] *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 3, 1856.

The point I make in all of this is that the editors at that time were a group of men who certainly qualify as some of the most important pioneer minds. They acknowledge that they had not reviewed his material deeply, but evidently they did see enough important truth within the study to pass it on to the readers at large in Adventism. This is the attitude that we should always take with new insight. We are to have a ready mind to search and analyze material and compare it with Inspirations established truths. If we find it to be erroneous, then we treat it as such. But if we find it to be correct, we respond accordingly. But there is a middle ground. If we find that the information is valuable overall, but contains some minor problems, we are to correct those minor problems and move forward. A minor problem is no excuse to throw the baby out with the bath water! Especially if you believe the author or speaker is operating upon holy motivations. If you have no evidence to the contrary, then you must assume the best of motivations of those you hear, and then compare their testimony to inspiration. That is how I related to Edson’s mixing of the “glorious land” and the “glorious holy mountain”.

There is no burden in the entire series that Edson wrote to make any distinction between the “glorious land” and the “glorious holy mountain”. It was not what he was studying. He was studying the role of the United States in Bible prophecy. I sought to address his discrepancy of making no distinction between the the “glorious land” and the “glorious holy mountain” by including the testimony of J. N. Andrews. In Andrew’s work he was specifically addressing the difference between four prophetic items: the sanctuary, the church, the earth, and the “pleasant land”—which is also the “glorious land”.

Bringing Andrew's work together with Edson's study can be understood at least two ways in connection with the testimony of pioneer authors. Either we see the pioneers contradicting each other, and therefore, calling into question their reliability and calling into question the many endorsements of the pioneers by Sister White. Or on the other hand, we can view both these authors work as complimentary of each other, in the sense, that both were working to develop an understanding of Biblical truth, both knowing that truth, especially prophetic truth, "unfolds" as time progresses. Therefore both of these men's testimonies were subject to the Bible as final authority on doctrine. If this was what their attitude was about truth and the search for truth, then their motivations were correct and we have no problem blending both testimonies and allowing the strongest Biblical position to prevail when they present different understandings on a specific subject.

Edson's testimony on the role of the United States in Bible prophecy is perhaps the strongest series of articles you can find on the USA as the nation that arises from the wilderness in Revelation 13. Brothers and Sisters his reasoning on the subject is deep and sound. He does make some miscalculations on some secondary issues in his study—from my perspective, but his identification of the USA as the "glorious land" of Daniel 11:41 is unshakeable.

So is Andrew's Biblical argument on identifying the earth, sanctuary, pleasant land, and church as four distinctly different items in Bible prophecy. When their testimonies are brought together, in spite of some of the minor differences, it removes from the realm of possibility that the "glorious land" of Daniel 11:41 is the Seventh-day Adventist church. And even if those ministries who push this false idea are unwilling to accept the pioneer's work on this issue, at minimum, if they continue in their erroneous positions, they are squarely opposed to the understanding of the pioneers and the Spirit of Prophecies endorsement of those men.

"I have been instructed that we should make prominent the testimony of some of the old workers who are now dead. Let them continue to speak through their articles as found in the early numbers of our papers. These articles should now be reprinted, that there may be a living voice from the Lord's witnesses." *The Publishing Ministry*, 31.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

AND THE DELIVERANCE AND RESTORATION OF THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL FROM THE SEVEN TIMES, OR 2520 YEARS OF ASSYRIAN OR PAGAN AND PAPAL CAPTIVITY CONSIDERED.

[Continued]

It is in this American land that the great body of the Church has chiefly shared her glorious triumph and prosperity since 1798. It is here that the wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad for them, and the desert has rejoiced and blossomed as the rose.

It is here that the loud voice of preparation, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord,' has been chiefly given. From this American land the Advent message has sounded forth to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. This land, and people are recognized by the name of Zion, and Jerusalem, [Isaiah 2:1–3; 40:1, 9; Micah 4:1, 2] of whom it is written, 'The law shall go forth of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' This is now being literally fulfilled in the proclamation of the Third Angel's Message, advocating the perpetuity and obligation of God's ten moral precepts, the constitution and foundation of his moral government.

By consulting Ezekiel 38:8–12, we learn the fact that God’s people in the closing scenes of the present dispensation are found dwelling in a land of un walled villages, having neither bars nor gates, dwelling safely or confidently, (margin,) and that they are a people gathered out of the nations, and out of many people into a land that has always been desolate and waste, that is, an uncultivated, waste, howling wilderness, but is now inhabited by a people gathered out of the nations, and have gotten them goods, and cattle, and gold, and silver, &c. Please read Ezekiel 38:8–12.

We have reached the appointed time when the great body of God’s living, professed people are to be found in such a land as above described; and there is no people or country on the habitable globe at this time that will answer the above description, but the people and country of this American land.

This American land so far as the ancient history of the world is concerned, has been always waste and desolate; an uncultivated, desolate, waste, howling WILDERNESS, unknown to the civilized world until the time of the promise drew nigh, when God was about to fulfill his word, and set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people from the land of their captivity, and bring them into the wilderness of preparation, &c. It was just in due time that God permitted this American continent to be discovered, and without doubt the Lord sent his angel to stir up the spirit of Columbus to engage in the enterprise, and guided his bark across the trackless deep to the discovery of this new world.

The dreadful and terrible beast, [Daniel 7:7, 19] which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet, thought also to cause this American land to feel his iron stamp; but in due time God removed his brazen hoof by bringing back these United States from the sword in the American revolution as predicted Ezekiel 38:8, and thus opened here just in due time an asylum of civil and religious liberty for the remnant of his people to be gathered into.

From the foregoing considerations we learn the important truth that God does literally gather the remnant of his people out of the countries wherein they have been scattered, and does literally bring them from the land of their captivity into a literal wilderness of woods, a place of preparation prior to their entering the land of Israel, the promised eternal inheritance of the earth made new.

It is after Jerusalem’s appointed time which was accomplished A. D. 1798, that in the wilderness the voice of preparation is heard sounding. Read Isaiah 11:1–10. It is also since 1798 that steam engine power has been brought into use and applied in propelling rail-road cars. The prophet Nahum has foretold as recorded in chapter 2:3, 4, that ‘the chariots shall be with flaming torches IN the day of his PREPARATION. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.’

We now behold these chariots streaming through the land in all directions; we hear their loud and shrill whistle, and their loud rolling thunder in the distance, and are thus admonished in thunder tones that the day of GOD’S PREPARATION has arrived, and we are in the wilderness where the loud voice of his preparation is sounding, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God—and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Behold the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold his reward is with him, and his work before him.’ Read Isaiah 11:1–11.

Inasmuch as the remnant were to be gathered out of all places and countries wherein they were scattered, and were to be brought from the land of their captivity into the wilderness of preparation, the question arises, How much territory does the land of their captivity embrace? Answer: It embraces the ancient Assyrian or Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian, and Roman empires: it embraces all territory over which the seven heads of Gentile rule have exercised their supremacy, the land of Canaan not excepted; hence we are driven entirely from the eastern continent to find the wilderness of preparation into which the remnant are gathered to prepare the way of the Lord, and make strait in the desert a highway for our God; and hence we are unavoidably confined to this American continent.

It is written [Daniel 8:9] of the little horn (Rome) that ‘it waxed exceeding great toward the South, (Egypt,) and toward the East, (Palestine is in the East from Rome,) and toward the pleasant land.’ From the reading of this text, the pleasant land lies in a different point of compass from those named, and is necessarily located in the West, and must refer to the wilderness of preparation.

From the above it is clear that this wilderness of preparation is the pleasant land brought to view Daniel 8:9. It is called in chapter 11:41, 45, the glorious land, and the glorious holy mountain, or goodly land, land of delight or ornament, &c. See margin.

In Isaiah 11:11–16, we have the prophetic account of the Lord’s setting his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people from the countries of their dispersion, and to gather and assemble them from the four corners of the earth, and the point of compass toward which they journey, in leaving the land of their captivity is expressly stated in verse 14 to be TOWARD THE WEST. It is also written [chapter 49:19] ‘So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the West, and his glory from the rising of the sun.’ The glory of the coming of the Son of man will be as the lightning shining out of the East even unto the West. Matthew 24:27. When the Lord shall roar like a lion, then the children shall tremble from the West. They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria. Hosea 11:10, 11.

In the Roman empire the last end of Israel’s captivity was accomplished; for the remnant to leave that land of their captivity and journey toward the West, their is no other alternative but for them to cross the broad Atlantic. Zechariah 10, predicts the departure of the scepter of spiritual Egypt, &c., in other words the taking away the dominion of the pope 1798, and also the gathering of the remnant from the land of their captivity into Gilead and Lebanon; i.e., the wilderness of preparation to which the glory of Lebanon, &c., was given. He also testifies that they pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves of the sea; and Isaiah 60: 9, reads, ‘Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God’, &c. For the remnant to leave the Roman empire and journey toward the West, and pass through or across the sea, would bring them to this American continent. This very plain truth must be visible to all.

This gathering of the remnant from the land of their captivity is accomplished by lifting up an ensign for the nations, and by blowing a trumpet for the assembling of the outcasts of Israel. Compare Isaiah 11:11, 12; 43:3, 7.

(To be Continued.) Hiram Edson, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, February 28, 1856, all emphasis in the original.

"OUR ECONOMY WILL SLOWLY SUFFOCATE"

[California governor] Gray Davis and Caltrans officials have repeatedly said that 'California's era of freeway construction is over.' In Caltrans' Vision Plan for the future, none of their stated goals include expanding our state highway system or even adding significant capacity to the existing system. At a recent "smart growth" conference in San Diego, a Caltrans official announced that 'freeways are not the future!' He's right. Rocket cars and teleporting are the future, but these methods are a few years away from development. Trains are the only technology older than the automobile, so how can they be the future? Cars and trucks may not be the future, but they are the present, and if our workers and commodities cannot get from point to point B in a reasonable time due to crowded freeways, our economy will slowly suffocate. California Senator Ray Haynes', *Monday Morning Memorandum*, October 15, 2002.

HINT OF CYBERWAR

A hint of what cyberwar could be like arrived Monday, with an hour long coordinated denial of service attack against all of the Internet's 13 root servers routing e-traffic worldwide. Nine were swamped—seven completely and two intermittently—although cyber defenses got in action soon enough so four remained in normal service, and most users remained unaware of any degradations in performance. Computer security experts agreed this was an extensive attack, with a few deeming it the worst ever. This, from attorney Marc Zwillinger, who investigated similar recent attacks for the Justice Department: "The public harm in this attack was low. What it demonstrates is the potential for further harm." *The Federalist Digest*, October 25, 2002.

LARGEST EVER U.S. MEAT RECALL

Pilgrim's Pride voluntarily recalled 27.4 million pounds of sliced deli poultry [turkey] Sunday over concerns about possible listeria contamination. The parent of Wampler Foods announced its decision after a strain of the potentially fatal bacteria was found at a Wampler plant in suburban Philadelphia. The nationwide recall covers meat processed at the Franconia plant from May 1 through Oct. 11.

The plant, which has about 800 employees, was expected to be closed for at least several days for cleaning and tests.

Earlier this year, a listeria outbreak in eight Northeast states killed at least 20 people and caused 120 illnesses.

Much of the meat involved in the recall already has been eaten, officials said.

The *Wampler* recall comes less than three months after *ConAgra* Beef recalled nearly 19 million pounds of ground beef because of *E. coli* contamination at its plant in Greeley, Colo. Shares of *Pilgrim's Pride* fell nearly 25 percent Monday to close at \$5.28, down \$1.73 on the *New York Stock Exchange*. *Pilgrim's Pride*, based in Pittsburg, Texas, is the nation's second largest poultry seller behind *Tyson Foods*. The company has not yet estimated the cost of the recall, but said the product lines being recalled represent less than 2 percent of company sales. www.nytimes.com, October 14, 2002.

"Is it not time that all should aim to dispense with flesh foods? How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined, and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they take the life of God's creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning, and themselves practice, and teach their children to practice, mercy toward the dumb creatures that God has made and has placed under our dominion." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 380.

"Those who use flesh foods little know what they are eating. Often if they could see the animals when living and know the quality of the meat they eat, they would turn from it with loathing. People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculosis and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 388.

WORLD CHURCH SURVEY SOUNDS "WAKE-UP CALL"

The results of a worldwide survey of local Seventh-day Adventist churches has provided an unprecedented "snap-shot" of how Adventists are witnessing, worshipping, and relating to their communities. Dubbed "a wake-up call for the church," the results have prompted the church's executive committee to recommend that a task force be established to deal with "areas of concern."

Those surveyed scored strongest in the area of doctrinal understanding, where more than 90 percent of respondents indicated they are firmly committed to Adventist teachings. The majority of respondents also testified that they lived joyful lives, had assurance of salvation, and agreed with the church's organizational structure.

"[But] there is room for improvement on nearly all of the objectives," said survey coordinator Dr. Roger Dudley, who is based at the Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. "Areas of concern" include low involvement in daily prayer and Bible study (less than 50 percent), active Christian witness to the community (less than 40 percent), and participation in community service (less than 30 percent).

The task force recommended by the executive committee will be charged with developing a plan to increase the number of church members involved in Bible study and prayer, witnessing, and community service projects. This task force will also be asked to prepare a plan of action to be presented to Spring Meeting in 2003. *Adventist News Network*, October 9, 2002.

"We are living in a special period of this earth's history. A great work must be done in a very short time, and every Christian is to act a part in sustaining this work. God is calling for men who will consecrate themselves to the work of soulsaving. When we begin to comprehend what a sacrifice Christ made in order to save a perishing world, there will be seen a mighty wrestling to save souls. Oh, that all our churches might see and realize the infinite sacrifice of Christ!"

"In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise, and there seemed to be a reformation such as we witnessed in 1844.

"Yet some refused to be converted. They were not willing to walk in God's way, and when, in order that the work of God might be advanced, calls were made for freewill offerings, some clung selfishly to their earthly possessions. These covetous ones became separated from the company of believers.

"The judgments of God are in the earth, and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we must give the message of warning that He has entrusted to us. We must give this message quickly, line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side. The Lord calls upon His people to labor--labor earnestly and wisely--while probation lingers." *Testimonies*, volume 9, 125-126.

This term of the US Congress is rapidly coming to a close with a flourish of legislative activity. A vote is planned this evening on the *House of Worship Political Speech Act*, the legislation aimed at getting politics involved in churches, and churches even more involved in politics. If it passes in the House this evening, it will still have to go through the Senate before coming law, which looks unlikely this term. There is little doubt that this bill will be reintroduced next term, however, and we will continue to monitor it very closely. [For more information on this bill, please visit <http://ola.adventist.org/currentissues.htm>]

We have had great fortunes with the *Workplace Religious Freedom Act* this session, but unless God performs a miracle, we are going to have to wait until next session to get it passed. As you probably know, less than 5% of bills introduced in a given Congress pass in that session. It often takes multiple Congresses before a piece of legislation is enacted. But what a difference good religious liberty protections make once they are in place! The results more than justify the effort. Please keep the *Workplace Religious Freedom Act* in your prayers. We have reason to be optimistic, as our bill gained a lot of influential support this Congress, and thus we have a good momentum behind it. More importantly, I know that we have the prayers of thousands of faithful Seventh-day Adventists behind us. [For more information on this bill, please visit <http://ola.adventist.org/currentissues.htm>]

I recently received a very encouraging letter from Cari Dominquez, Chair of the *US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* (EEOC). In the letter, Chair Dominquez reiterated that the EEOC is dedicated to assisting Sabbath keepers in cases where employers refuse to accommodate our religious convictions. She requested that we let our church members know that if they have a Sabbath problem at work, you should contact the local EEOC office for assistance. You can learn more about the EEOC at: <http://www.eeoc.gov/> In addition, you should know that your Union religious liberty leader also has experience with Sabbath accommodation cases. In fact, our church receives over a thousand requests for help from faithful Seventh-day Adventists each year.

There are a couple of Sunday law rumors that are going around our church, that are worth commenting on. We face two dangers with Sunday laws. The first is that we become blasé about them, believing they will never be enacted. We have the sure word of prophecy that they will be. The second danger is that we believe every sensational claim made regarding Sunday laws. Here are five easy steps that you can take to determine whether a Sunday law report, or any other sensational news regarding legislative developments, is accurate:

1. Always look for a credible reference that you can look up independently. For example, if someone says that there is a bill in the Senate that is designed to implement Sunday laws, don't believe it unless they give you the bill number, or a source from a major, credible news source (e.g., *USA Today*, *Time*, *Washington Post*, etc.), which you can verify independently. When such a source is given:

2. If you have a bill number, it is easy to confirm whether or not the bill that is being cited actually exists. Simply go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c107query.html> where you can search by bill number (it is the second search style listed). You may want to test how this works by entering S. 2572 in, and pressing the "search" button—the *Workplace Religious Freedom Act* will come up. Similarly, simply because an e-mail or article quotes a credible news source, don't assume the quote is accurate, rather check it out for yourself.

3. Consider the credibility of the source of the story.

4. If you hear something very remarkable, go to <http://ola.adventist.org> and see if there is anything on the website about it.

5. Finally, you can always send us an e-mail to confirm the veracity of Sunday law, or other, claims. Our e-mail address is: <http://ola.adventist.org> Office of Legislative Affairs for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CHRISTIAN COALITION OF AMERICA VOTER GUIDES AND SCORE CARDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

WASHINGTON, D.C. OCTOBER 25, 2002—The Christian Coalition of America announced today that voter guides, and score cards are now available online for voters throughout the country, in key races, who are interested in seeing how their Representatives voted on key pro-family issues which have an important impact on our nation. The Christian Coalition will be distributing millions of these scorecards across the nation so that pro-family Americans will know how their federal legislators voted on issues of importance. The scorecards and voter guides may be accessed by registering at <http://www.cc.org>.

Scorecards indicate how legislators, out of a possible score of 100 percent, supported the Christian Coalition's position on key issues during his or her current term in office. Additionally, votes listed in the voting index include announced positions on legislation as recorded in "The Congressional Quarterly." Voter Guides indicate candidate's positions which are obtained from issue surveys sent to them by the Christian Coalition, and returned by the candidate's.

The issues determining a candidate's score included their stand on the following issues: Shays/Meehan Campaign Finance Overhaul; Human Cloning Bill; Domestic Partners Benefits; School Vouchers; Abortion Restrictions; First Amendment Exemption on Campaign Finance; Funding of Foreign Abortions and Foreign Pro-Abortion Propaganda; Death Tax Exemption; Unborn Victims of Violence Act; Income Tax Reduction; Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief; and Faith-based Community Solutions Act.

"Many of the 2002 congressional races are very close and we expect that pro-family issues will continue to be very important to voters as they head to the polling booths," said Roberta Combs, President of the Christian Coalition. **"These races will determine who will control the United States House and Senate, and select Statehouses. We expect that our voter guides will make our constituents more educated on key issues.**

Just as we distributed over 75 Million voter guides, including 5 Million Hispanic voter guides (3 million Hispanic language voter guides in Florida alone) in the 2000 Presidential race, we expect to have a formidable impact on the upcoming races. Americans today care about pro-family issues, and our voter guides tell them where candidates stand on these all-important issues." The Christian Coalition of America is America's largest Christian grassroots organization with more than 2 million supporters. Pat Robertson founded the organization, and remains President Emeritus. The organization's website may be referenced at <http://www.cc.org> Emphasis in the original.

"Many smiled and would not believe when we told them, twenty and thirty years ago, that the Sunday would be urged upon all the world, and a law be made to compel its observance, and force conscience. We see it being fulfilled. All that God has said of the future will surely come to pass; not one thing will fail of all that he has spoken. Protestantism is now reaching hands across the gulf to clasp hands with papacy, and a confederacy is being formed to trample out of sight the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and the man of sin, who, at the instigation of Satan, instituted the spurious sabbath, this child of papacy, will be exalted to take the place of God." {SpTA01b 38.2} *An Appeal to Our Ministers and Conference Committes, 1892.*

DARRELL SCOTT TESTIMONY

Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee. This is part of his statement:

"In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the National Rifle Association. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA-because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death.

"Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual presence's were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs-politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. *LawDr1@attglobal.net*, October 17, 2002.

[Editor's note: Whenever there is some great tragedy the leaders of the people always engage in finger-pointing to find a scapegoat to blame for the trouble.]

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

THE NEW CONSERVATISM

The Bush family has always been a pillar of what conservatives refer to as the "Rockefeller Wing" of the Republican Party. The liberal wing. They are for big government, globalism and imperialism. Bush only seems conservative in comparison with the radical left, which now constitutes the majority in the Democratic Party.

There has been a sea-change in American politics since the end of World War II. Politics has moved massively to the left. Today's nominal conservative would have been a liberal 60 years ago, and today's liberal is in fact a socialist or a communist, in beliefs, if not in name. Americans have been stuck with a choice between advocates of total government and advocates of big government.

Where is George Bush's conservatism? He's taken another massive step in nationalizing the education system, he's busted the budget, he shows unwavering loyalty to the military-industrial complex, his foreign policy is imperialistic, and he is expanding government at the expense of liberty. If he's an example of conservatism then Joseph Stalin was a humanitarian. *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 26, 2002.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Revelation 13:11.

"We must never attempt to use the United Nations as a substitute for clear and resolute U.S. policy." —Barry Goldwater

INFLATING NUMBERS FOR A BETTER EFFECT

The Christian Coalition announced today that over 15,000 people attended the *God Bless America—One Nation Under God, Road to Victory 2002 Conference* which was held at the Washington Convention Center on October 11 and 12 and co-sponsored by Joyce Meyer Ministries.

[Editors note: No one that I spoke with at the meetings believed there was even five thousand in attendance.]

"Among the speakers at the *Road to Victory* conference were: Joyce Meyer, President of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, Roberta Combs, President of the *Christian Coalition of America*, Coalition Founder and President Emeritus Pat Robertson, Rev. James Robison, Dr. E.V. Hill, Ambassador Alan Keyes, Colonel Oliver North, Zig Ziglar, Judge Roy Moore, Pat Boone, David Barton, Armstrong Williams, Don Feder, Phyllis Schlafly, Majority Leader Dick Armey (TX), Majority Whip Tom DeLay (TX), Majority Deputy Whip Roy Blunt (MO), Senator James Inhofe (OK), Senator Sam Brownback (KS), Senator Orrin Hatch (UT), Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis (VA), Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL), Congressman Bob Goodlatte (VA), Congressman Lindsey Graham (SC), Congressman Ernest Istook (OK), Congressman Walter Jones (NC), and Congressman Dave Weldon (FL), and others. . .

President George W. Bush sent a videotaped message Friday, greeting the attendees of the conference, and promising to continue advocating Pro-Christian values, anti-abortion activism, low taxes, limited government and judges who don't legislate. He thanked the members of the Christian Coalition for praying for him and his family and concluded his address with "God Bless the Christian Coalition and May God continue to bless the United States of America."

"Many members of the liberal media inaccurately reported our *Road to Victory* conference as the revival of the Christian Coalition, when in fact we have always been here, this movement is alive, we aren't going anywhere and will continue to affect social change in America," noted Dr. Pat Robertson. . .

"The notion of separating church and state with such policies as disallowing prayer in public schools is a deception from Satan," said Joyce Meyer, President of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, this past weekend at the conference. "If God is in fact separated from the government, then we can never possibly have a godly government. There's no way for America to be good if she's not godly." <http://www.cc.org>.

HOPE, FAITH, AND WORKS.

There has always been, I believe, a spark of true godliness in the world; a few who have had their eye on the promised inheritance; and though sometimes they have been few indeed, God has always had a chosen people who would not deny his name, neither forsake his cause.

That the people of God have to encounter hardships and meet discouragements of a sorrowful kind, God's word plainly testifies. That their reward is not in the present world, but that this is a world of sorrow, the inhabitants of which are subject to pain and death, where a preparation may be made for a better, is equally true, and is found interwoven with the promises and threatenings of the sacred page. And that those alone who prove faithful to the end will receive a crown of life, may also be read from the book of our hope.

The experience of many years has taught the people of God that if they would finally reign with him they must suffer for his cause while they journey through the present world. And those who have professed the Advent faith for the last ten years have not found the way to be easier for them than for those who have been faithful in other days. But in living out what they have believed to be the truth, they have been rejected by their brethren, set at naught by those who profess godliness, but in works deny their faith, have met disappointments, have seen their hope deferred, have been betrayed by false brethren, and have seen the cause of their heavenly Master suffer by reason of unfaithful laborers. This agrees with the suffering part of a true follower of Christ; and I trust the hope of those who are yet faithful also agrees with the rejoicing part, which is, as expressed by the apostle Paul, a crown of life laid up in the everlasting kingdom.

That the people of God have not yet reached their haven of rest, all know. And that yet an important part of the work of those who profess the present truth is to be accomplished, the servants of the Lord daily feel. And a question of some importance I think is, What is yet to be done? The number who profess to believe the Third Angel's Message is large enough to accomplish much. The leading truths they profess now stand the test of the unerring Word, and cannot be refuted by the wise theologians of this age. It seems to me the lack is with those who profess to be laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. That there are faithful ones who are ready to support the cause with their prayers, with their substance, and with the example they daily set, I doubt not. But it is to be feared there are others who are not for the work wholly; and who do much to destroy the work of the Lord in this evil time. Sometimes the truth causes a sound to be heard in the land; the Spirit of the Lord moves upon the hearts of the people, and the truth takes effect; but how soon it dies away! Were half a dozen scattered here and there who could feel the truth, and feel that they were doing work to stand the test of the final day, I believe those who should hear their testimony would fear for the word of the Lord. Union is strength, is sometimes said in truth, and if the servants of the Lord are not united what can be accomplished?

Truth is worth much. If those who profess the present truth are doing the work of the Lord for this time, they occupy an important station. To do the work of the Lord it needs a decision of character which will surmount obstacles.

In days past the resurrection has been the hope of the faithful. And for that hope a great cloud of witnesses have not counted their lives dear, have felt that they were pilgrims and strangers in the world, and have counted no sacrifice too dear that when they found a resting place in the grave, they might have this hope. We who live at the present time see that glorious day but a little way off. We see the christian course almost completed; and by strong proof are compelled to believe that ere many years or even months pass away the righteous of all ages will be gathered to mount Zion.

And if in days past the people of God have wrought righteousness, obtained promises, out of weakness were made strong, stopped the mouths of lions, by faith in God, and in hope of a better resurrection, what may not the people of God hope for now? If the people of God could once say, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, should be able to separate them from the love of God, what shall we not say for his blessed cause who may hope not to see death; but receive everlasting life at the coming of Jesus, and the resurrection of the just?

We will say with them, we are not of those who draw back; for we know that in a little while he that shall come will come and will not tarry. In view of which we are ready to go without the camp bearing the reproach of him who was reproached for us, and who is our hope, remembering that if we do our work faithfully, we shall be admitted to the marriage supper of the Lamb. J. F. Byington, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 21, 1856.

Truth is worth much.