

# Future NEWS

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## WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND THE PILLARS

“God has given me light regarding our periodicals. What is it?—He has said that the dead are to speak. How?—Their works shall follow them. We are to repeat the words of the pioneers in our work, who knew what it cost to search for the truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work. They moved forward step by step under the influence of the Spirit of God. One by one these pioneers are passing away. The word given me is, Let that which these men have written in the past be reproduced. And in *The Signs of the Times* let not the articles be long or the print fine. Do not try to crowd everything into one number of the paper. Let the print be good, and let earnest, living experiences be put into the paper.

“Not long ago I took up a copy of the *Bible Echo*. As I looked it through, I saw an article by Elder Haskell and one by Elder Corliss. As I laid the paper down, I said, These articles must be reproduced. There is truth and power in them. Men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

“Let the truths that are the foundation of our faith be kept before the people. Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They talk science, and the enemy comes in and gives them an abundance of science; but it is not the science of salvation. It is not the science of humility, of consecration, or of the sanctification of the Spirit. We are now to understand what the pillars of our faith are,—the truths that have made us as a people what we are, leading us on step by step.” *Review and Herald*, May 25, 1905.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

**T**he ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

*Future for America* intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

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

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

I recently returned from a three-week prophecy school in Aenon Health Farm in Malaysia. While there we recorded fifty-seven, seventy minute presentations on prophecy that were translated into Chinese. Praise the Lord. These recordings were in audio-cassette, video, and video compact disk. The school itself was a great blessing and from my perspective a tremendous light in that part of the Lord's vineyard. It is the only self-supporting sanitarium in Malaysia.

The school was dedicated on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1999. God brought together a team of seven Seventh Day Adventists lay members with the desire to serve the Lord and to prepare a people for the second coming of Jesus through gospel and medical missionary work. Presently there is a team of eight staff members and fourteen students running the activities. Their work is carried out in four branches of ministry:

Outreach through a live-in health sanitarium work, where the health guests participate in therapeutic health programs.

Food ministry outreach through our health food products (bakery products) for the public, healthy vegetarian cooking classes and occasional "fifty cent lunches" that the local community actively participates in.

A one and a half year, medical missionary course, training students to be medical missionaries and gospel workers. They also hold camp meetings for present truth messages three times a year.

Aenon is a resource center in Asia, producing audio-cassettes, Video CD; and also publishing books. The burden is to reach out to the Buddhists, Taoists, etc. in the Chinese language in Asia, and especially China.

I asked them to identify some of their current needs once I became aware of the lack of finances in the Malaysian field. They need sponsors for students in the one and half year medical missionary training program. The students have heeded the Lord's call and dedicated themselves to the work and education program, but many of them have little financial support available. They are building a reference library, with teaching materials and aids for the students, as well as functioning as a research center for the brethren in Asia. They need to purchase the equipment for producing audio-cassettes and video CD and also for printing books in simplified Chinese and English. They are also trying to upgrade the facilities in Aenon, such as their dormitories and staff quarters. If the Lord impresses you to help with any of these needs, please mark your offering as *Aenon Health Farm*.

While in Aenon I broke away from the schedule there and traveled eight hours by bus to Penang, the city with the largest group of Seventh-day Adventist in Malaysia. (While I was gone Steve Dickie presented his material on the woes, Mohammed and the Moslems.) Penang is the home of a well-known Adventist hospital. That Sabbath and Sunday I spoke eight times at the English church, the Chinese church and the hospital auditorium. The brethren there realized that I needed more time to cover the material, so they have invited me back for two weeks in November. We may also hold meetings one weekend before or after those meetings in Singapore. We solicit your prayers for these meetings.

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In a couple of weeks I will be at a camp meeting in Germany, and then hold a week-long series of meetings in the largest Adventist church in London. Please pray for these meetings. The message we present always causes some type of shaking and we expect there will be more of the same in Germany and England.

We have an invitation to hold a two-week prophecy school in Romania that we have accepted, and those meetings are also proposed for the December/January time period.

Steve Dickie is holding a six-week evangelistic series for the Moslems in Uzbekistan in December and January, and he is hoping I will participate in that effort with him. We have an invitation to attend a camp meeting in Colombia the first two Sabbaths of November and a camp meeting the last two Sabbaths of January in Chile. These three invitations are still a focus of our prayers, as we are waiting for the Lord to open and shut doors, according to His will.

I am also under conviction to turn several of my studies into book form, so they can go where I can't, and so they can be translated into some different languages. We solicit your prayers in these endeavors.

Hi Jeff,

My wife and I are currently working for a ministry in Illinois. Last Sabbath we went to a Bible study with a prominent SDA pastor. The subject was the seven trumpets in Revelation. The pastor gave the trumpets a future application and immediately I thought of Larry Wilson's theology on the subject. He didn't mention Wilson but he was quoting from books by Marvin Moore. I'm not familiar with Marvin Moore, but from what I've heard I don't agree with his line of thinking. I know you are currently doing a series on the three woes—was your intention to refute this popular futuristic view of the trumpets?

If you have any additional information on the subject I would greatly appreciate it.

By the way I'm going back through the Daniel series and am really enjoying it. Tape number ten skips and I'd like a new copy. I recently listened to a tape of yours dealing with Isaiah twenty-two, about Philadelphia and Laodicea. On the tape you mentioned a handout and I would appreciate a copy of that as well. May God bless you for the work that you are doing. Thank you, S&VW

Dear Brother SW:

The presentation on the woes that I am currently doing was not specifically for the purpose of refuting the fanaticism of reapplying the trumpets, but it is a secondary aspect of the study. There are several fanatical ideas blowing through Adventism today that reapply the seals and trumpets, as well as the time prophecies, particularly those in Daniel twelve.

Marvin Moore's prophetic ideas are based on Catholic principles of interpretation, purposely designed by Rome to destroy the ability to identify the pope of Rome as the antichrist of Bible prophecy. What does it say about the journalistic leadership of our church when they allow such a man as this to lead out in our primary outreach magazine? Moore doesn't simply deny a Biblical truth—he denies the very message of the hour, for the third angel's message is a warning against receiving the mark of the antichrist power. In the February, 1997 issue of the *Signs of the Times* magazine the front cover had a picture of the pope with the title, *John Paul's Global Vision*. The article on the pope in the magazine, was written by the well-known, theologian and teacher, Samuele Bacchiocchi. The article gave the type of presentation on the man of sin you would expect to find in a Catholic publication.

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During that time period I would publicly share that magazine to try and emphasize how asleep we are as God's people. In so doing, I had Adventists accuse me of misrepresenting Bacchiocchi's article. Yet in the August issue of the *Signs of the Times*, there was a letter to the editor sent in by a lady. Her letter reads:

"I want to express to you my utter amazement and the pleasure in finding the picture of our wonderful Pope John Paul II on the front cover of your magazine (February 1997) along with **the very favorable article** within. We certainly do appreciate the complimentary acknowledgement of this inspired man. MC, IL"

Those who become confused about the antichrist—will end up on his side.

"Instead of becoming like the world, we are to become more and more distinct from the world. Satan has combined and will continue to combine with the churches in making a masterly effort against the truth of God. Everything that is done by God's people to make inroads upon the world will call forth determined opposition from the powers of darkness. The enemy's last great conflict will be a most determined one. It will be the last battle between the powers of darkness and the powers of light. Every true child of God will fight bravely on the side of Christ. Those who in this great crisis allow themselves to be more on the side of the world than of God, will eventually place themselves wholly on the side of the world. **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.** There is no time now for us to assimilate with the world. Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood. They interpret each other. They give to the world truths which every one should understand. These prophecies are to be witness in the world. By their fulfilment in these last days, they will explain themselves.

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"The Lord is about to punish the world for its iniquity. He is about to punish religious bodies for their rejection of the light and truth which has been given them. The great message, combining the first, second, and third angel's messages, is to be given to the world. This is to be the burden of our work. Those who truly believe in Christ will openly conform to the law of Jehovah. The Sabbath is the sign between God and His people, and we are to make visible our conformity to the law of God by observing the Sabbath. It is to be the mark of distinction between God's chosen people and the world. It means much to be true to God. This embraces health reform. It means that our diet must be simple, that we must be temperate in all things. The many varieties of food so often seen on tables is not necessary, but highly injurious. Mind and body are to be preserved in the best condition of health. Only those who have been trained in the knowledge and fear of God should be chosen to take responsibilities. Those who have been long in the truth, yet who cannot distinguish between the pure principles of righteousness and the principles of evil, whose understanding in regard to justice, mercy, and the love of God is beclouded, should be relieved of responsibility.

"God has important lessons for his people to learn. Had these lessons been learned before, his cause would not be where it is today. One thing must be done. The truth is not to be withheld from ministers or men in positions of responsibility for fear of incurring their displeasure. There are to be connected with our institutions men who with meekness and in wisdom will declare the whole counsel of God. God's wrath is kindled against those who in carnal security and pride have shown contempt for his management. They are endangering the prosperity of the cause.

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“Every false way is a deception, and if sustained, will in the end bring destruction. Thus the Lord permits those who maintain false plans to be destroyed. At the very time when praise and adulation is heard, sudden destruction comes. There are those who, notwithstanding they know of the reproof received by others, because of unfaithfulness, turn away from admonition. These are doubly guilty. They knew the Lord’s will and did it not. Their punishment will be proportionate to their guilt. They would not take heed to the word of the Lord.” *The Kress Collection*, 105–106.

During the time period that Moore ran the article he visited Hope International in Washington State. In an interview with some of the staff there, he stated that his purpose in placing such a glowing article about the pope in the magazine was to remove prejudice from Catholic readers, by uplifting the pope. The idea was that when their resistance to Adventism was removed, Adventists could then teach them who the antichrist is. Yet inspiration says—“Every false way is a deception, and if sustained, will in the end bring destruction”. About a year ago or so, Bacciocchi placed an article on his website suggesting that the Moslem world was the antichrist of Bible prophecy. He received such an avalanche of negative feedback that he removed the article. “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.” These two men are examples of the theological and journalistic leadership of God’s people today.

If we place the seven trumpets in the future, then the foundations of Adventism are destroyed!

In the February 2002, issue of *Future News* we dealt with the false teachings of Marion Berry and others in Adventism who, as she does, reapply prophecy that has already been fulfilled. History and prophecy do repeat, but there is a correct and incorrect way to understand and apply this principle. In the February 2002 issue, we point out that if prophecy is to be repeated, then the characteristics of the prophecy to be repeated must be reflected in the same order, when it comes to pass the second time.

Those who attempt to incorrectly reapply prophecies have one or two options that they must choose. I am not sure how the pastor you refer to deals with this, but the two options are:

1. The pioneer position was incorrect and the new interpretation is the correct fulfillment.
2. The pioneers were correct, but this reapplication is simply a secondary fulfillment.

If you place the trumpets in the future, the only logical and consistent position is that the pioneers were wrong. To uphold the pioneers as correct in their understanding of the trumpets and insist upon a secondary fulfillment is impossible—for the trumpets illustrate a sequence in history that is not finished until the seventh trumpet has been sounded.

In order to have a secondary application of that history, “that history” needs to come to a conclusion first.

I am currently turning some of my studies into books and I have finished the opening chapter to one of those books. I will insert the chapter here, for I believe some of the points will help this discussion.

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## PROPHECY & WAYMARKS

“Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth’s history.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 101–102.

Prophecy is confirmed by “historical events”.

What is a “delineation of events”? Delineation means: to set forth upon a line. A delineation of events would be: historical events, illustrated on a time-line. that leads “down to the close of this earth’s history”.

So the definition of prophecy is: a time-line leading to the end of the world, which is used to identify the fulfillment of inspired predictions by identifying the historical events that have been predicted within the prophecy. But prophecy is not simply a “delineation of events”.

It is a “figurative” delineation of events. Figurative means: representing something else. The historical events that fulfill prophecy—also prefigure other historical events in the future. As an example, the destruction of Jerusalem was a historical event that fulfilled a prophecy concerning the city of Jerusalem and ancient Israel:

Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favour to the young. Deuteronomy 28:45–50.

This passage from Deuteronomy is part of the prophesy against ancient Israel, should they prove to be unfaithful. Their unfaithfulness would bring an “enemy” who would place a yoke of “iron” on their necks—

he would “destroy” them—

he would not be a neighboring country, as he would come “from far” away—

he was associated with the term “eagle”—

he would speak a “tongue” that was unfamiliar to Israel—

it would be a “nation” of “fierce countenance”.

Pagan Rome fulfilled all these characteristics when it conquered ancient Israel. It was the iron kingdom of prophecy that brought Israel into bondage. Ultimately it destroyed Israel, including Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Rome is not a neighbor to Palestine, so it came from far away. One of the symbols used of the standards of pagan Rome was an “eagle”. Pagan Rome spoke Latin, which was a completely different language than is spoken in Israel and the Middle East. Pagan Rome is identified a the “nation of fierce countenance” in the book of Daniel, when Daniel points out the fulfillment of Moses’ prediction in Deuteronomy:

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And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. Daniel 8:23-25.

Daniel is here identifying the characteristics of the fourth kingdom of Bible prophecy—pagan Rome. Some of those characteristics are that it is a “king of fierce countenance”; understanding “dark sentences”; destroys “wonderfully”; and he “shall stand up against the prince of princes”. Pagan Rome is the nation that crucified the “Prince of princes” as they “stood “up against” Him. Their language was “dark” to Israel for they could not understand it. And Pagan Rome destroyed Israel, including Jerusalem in A.D. 70. That destruction was the historical event that fulfilled Moses’ prediction in Deuteronomy twenty-eight. Yet Moses’ prediction had previously been fulfilled in the days of Babylon.

Jeremiah had announced that God’s judgments against Jerusalem were about to be accomplished through Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon.

Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee. Jeremiah 1:14-19.

And sure enough Jeremiah’s prediction came to pass:

And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about. So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. Jeremiah 52:4-5.

Moses’ prediction was fulfilled with Nebuchadrezzar and also with pagan Rome. Yet the destruction of Jerusalem also prefigured the end of the world.

“The Saviour’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God’s mercy and trampled upon His law. Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed during its long centuries of crime. The heart sickens, and the mind grows faint in contemplation.



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“Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the ‘battle of the warrior . . . with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood’ (Isaiah 9:5),—what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule.

“But in that day, as in the time of Jerusalem’s destruction, God’s people will be delivered, everyone that shall be found written among the living. Isaiah 4:3. Christ has declared that He will come the second time to gather His faithful ones to Himself: ‘Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’ Matthew 24:30, 31. Then shall they that obey not the gospel be consumed with the spirit of His mouth and be destroyed with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8. Like Israel of old the wicked destroy themselves; they fall by their iniquity. By a life of sin, they have placed themselves so out of harmony with God, their natures have become so debased with evil, that the manifestation of His glory is to them a consuming fire.” *The Great Controversy*, 36–37.

So we see that the definition of prophecy is: a time-line leading to the end of the world, that is used to identify the fulfillment of inspired predictions, by identifying the historical events that are predicted in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. But because the events are “figurative” they also identify what will take place in the future.

Prophecy is portrayed upon a line, is figurative and is confirmed by historical events.

“We must have a knowledge of the Scriptures, that we may **trace down the lines of prophecy**, and understand the specifications given by the prophets, and by Christ and the apostles; that we may not be ignorant; but be able to see that the day is approaching, so that with increased zeal and effort, we may exhort one another to faithfulness, piety, and holiness.” *Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: Isaiah 28:9-10.

Daniel and John’s prophecies cover the same line of history:

“Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events that are to take place in the last days of this earth’s history. The teachings of this book are definite, not mystical and unintelligible. In it **the same line of prophecy** is taken up as in Daniel. Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 9, 7–8.

The prophetic time lines in the book of Daniel are repeated and taken further in the book of Revelation. The principle of repetition and expansion is found in all the writings of the prophets—not simply in the book of Daniel. The book of Revelation is identifying the things that “will shortly come to pass” at the end of the world. All the prophets were speaking about the end of the world, so the predictions they set forth find their fulfillment at the end of the world.

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. ‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11. ‘Not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.’ 1 Peter 1:12. . . .

“The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 338–339.

If the prophet’s messages are “in force for us”, (“us” being: “this last generation”) then the prophets are all telling the same story—the story of the end of the world. They portray the same story through a variety of methods, but perhaps the most significant of the many methods the Lord uses to convey prophetic truth is in the repetition of history.

“Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated.” *Maranatha*, 30.

One of the reasons we are to understand prophetic history is because prophetic history is what identifies future prophetic fulfillments. We are to show what will be, by showing what has been.

“These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history **the things that have been, and the things that will be.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104–105.

We are to show in the “line of prophetic history” “the things that will be”.

“All that God has in prophetic history specified to be fulfilled in the past has been, and all that is yet to come **in its order** will be. Daniel, God’s prophet, stands in his place. John stands in his place. In the Revelation the Lion of the tribe of Judah has opened to the students of prophecy the book of Daniel, and thus is Daniel standing in his place. He bears his testimony, that which the Lord revealed to him in vision of the great and solemn events which we must know as we stand on the very threshold of their fulfillment.

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. **Those things which have been, will be repeated.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 109.

When prophetic history is fulfilled, it has a specific “order”. Many attempt to use prophetic history to identify events at the end of time, but their portrayal of the events at the end of time does not retain the same order as the history they point to, that supposedly illustrates their prediction. If the order is not the same, then this type of prediction is nothing more than a “private interpretation”.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20.

Historical events that fulfill prophecy are called “waymarks”. Waymarks means: “marks along the way”.

Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities. Jeremiah 31:21.

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There are a limited number of historical events that will fulfill prophecy at the end of the world, and one way or another all the ancient prophets were addressing these waymarks.

“These men of the Old Testament spoke of things transpiring in their day, and Daniel, Isaiah, and Ezekiel not only spoke of things that concerned them as present truth, but **their sights reached down to the future, and to what should occur in these last days.**” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 419–420.

The waymarks show us where we are at in prophetic history.

“The great waymarks of truth, showing us our bearings in prophetic history, are to be carefully guarded, lest they be torn down, and replaced with theories that would bring confusion rather than genuine light. *Selected Messages*, book 2, 101–102.

The waymarks have a specific order:

“The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change **the location of these messages** than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular. The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, **showing their order**, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel’s message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104–105.

The waymarks will come under attack as some attempt to “change the location of these messages”. We are to proclaim “by pen and voice” where these waymarks are located in history, while emphasizing the order that they arrived in history, along with identifying which prophecies were fulfilled at those waymarks. In so doing, we will have the ability to show the people “in the line of prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be”.

“As a people, we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time has not lessened their value. It is the constant effort of the enemy to **remove these truths from their setting**, and to put in their place spurious theories. He will bring in everything that he possibly can to carry out his deceptive designs. But the Lord will raise up men of keen perception, who will give these truths their proper place in the plan of God.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 201.

“The platform of eternal truth” is the “sure pillars of our faith” which are “the principles of truth” that are the “only true foundation”. The setting—gives “these truths their proper place in the plan of God”. Where they are set, is when they arrived into history. There will always be attempts “to remove these truths from their setting”.

## THEIR IMPORT, THEIR TIME, AND PLACE

“While you hold the banner of truth firmly, proclaiming the law of God, let every soul remember that the faith of Jesus is connected with the commandments of God. The third angel is represented as flying through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus’ (Revelation 14:12). The first, second, and third angels’ messages are all linked together. The evidences of the abiding, ever-living truth of these grand messages, that mean so much to us, that have awakened such intense opposition from the religious world, cannot be extinguished. Satan is constantly seeking to cast his hellish shadow about these messages, so that the remnant people of God shall not clearly discern **their import, their time, and place**; but they live, and are to exert their power upon our religious experience while time shall last.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 117.

Satan attempts to destroy the foundations by keeping the importance of these messages from “the remnant people of God” and the importance of these messages has to do with their “time and place”.

“I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, and would give no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—one, two and three—the first, second and third angels’ messages. Said the angel, Woe to him who shall move a block, or stir a pin in these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received. I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. Step by step had God brought them along, until he had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. Then I saw individuals as they approached the platform, before stepping upon it examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the laying of the foundation of the platform. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform and examined it, then found fault with it, declaring it to be laid wrong. I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform, and exhorted others who had stepped off to cease their complaints, for God was the master-builder, and they were fighting against him.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 168.

Brother SW,

Some of the things in this chapter are not relevant to your question, but some points are. Notice the emphasis on retaining the correct “order”. The historical sequence of events is absolutely essential! If we are to show people the historical prophetic waymarks of the arrival of the three angel’s messages into history, we must show that the first angel’s message came first, followed by the second, and later the third. This is not simply to be accurate about history, but it is from that history that we are to show what will be in the future. If your history is out of sequence, your predictions about the future will be out of sequence.

When it comes to the trumpets, you have a completely different dilemma in that they are a sequence of history that is still in the process of unfolding. Correctly understood, the seals, trumpets, and seven churches of Revelation must be considered together. The churches present **the history of God’s people** from the time of the disciples until the end of the world. The seals cover that identical history, but identify **the history of the gospel warfare** during that time. The trumpets identify the same history, but deal with **the providential political manifestations** that were brought about, as God controlled the affairs of men according to His will.

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The history of the churches came to the seventh church of Laodicea and has been put on hold as God waits for His people to prepare their character for the seal of God. The history of the seals came to the seventh and has been put on hold as God waits for His people to prepare their character for the seal of God. The history of the trumpets came up to the seventh and has been put on hold as God waits for His people to prepare their character for the seal of God. The history of the churches, seals and trumpets has all fulfilled their sixth step, and we are now in the time period of the seventh church, seventh seal and seventh trumpet. All three of these histories are interrelated, but more significant to your question, they are all unfinished!

Inspiration teaches that we must protect and retain the specific order of history that prophecy sets forth. You cannot reapply a history that is not yet finished, for it would destroy the sequence of events set forth in that history. If we say, “The pioneer position on the trumpets was correct, but we simply have a secondary application of their understanding”, we must retain the original order of history the pioneers identified. But because the pioneer understanding of the history of the trumpets is still in the process of unfolding, our secondary application could not include the seventh trumpet. The pioneers identify the seventh trumpet, which is also the third woe, as the events symbolized by the seven last plagues and even include the destruction of the wicked at the end of the millennium.

If we are to say the pioneers were incorrect, then we destroy one of the most important prophetic understandings that was established in the Millerite movement! Based upon a time prophecy connected with the sixth trumpet, or second woe, William Miller’s year-day principle was confirmed before the entire world. It was this passage of prophecy that brought the power into the Millerite movement. Certainly the pioneer understanding of the second woe is a “foundational” understanding to Seventh-day Adventists—even if we no longer understand what the pioneer’s believed about the seven trumpets. If there are some pioneer understandings of prophecy which are more important than others—the trumpets are one of them.

“In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown ‘in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;’ and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: ‘Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case.’—Josiah Litch, in *Signs of the Times, and Expositor of Prophecy*, August 1, 1840.

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. **The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement.** Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.” *The Great Controversy*, 334–335.

If you look at the chapter where this passage about Revelation nine is mentioned, you will see it being used as one of the historic waymarks that were fulfilled in the Millerite movement. To reject the pioneer position on the trumpets is to remove a waymark of Adventism. To say you accept the pioneer position, but then to reapply the trumpets is to disregard the pioneer understanding that the trumpets were an unfolding history that continues until the second coming of Christ, including the final destruction of the wicked at the end of the millennium. To profess to accept the pioneers, yet destroy their teaching is simply a play on words—in order to teach your own private interpretation. Notice some thoughts on this subject from the pioneers.

The “woes” were part of the message the Millerites carried to the world.

“The last meeting was deeply interesting. The Lord helped us wonderfully. Our subject was the woe trumpets of Revelation nine, proving in accordance with Mr. Litch’s calculations that the sixth angel ceased to sound, and the second woe passed in August, 1840, with the fall of the Turkish empire, and that the third woe was coming ‘quickly,’ when great voices would be heard in Heaven saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.’”

*The Autobiography of Joseph Bates*, page 285, 1868.

The “woes” were part of Miller’s regular lectures.

“‘God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.’ ‘The second woe is past, and behold the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever,’ Revelation 11:14–15. By these passages we learn that, when the sixth trumpet has done sounding, when the second woe is past, then the third woe comes quickly.

William Miller, *William Miller’s Works*, Volume 2, Lecture 8, 1843.

Notice the historical location of the woes.

“18th verse, ‘And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great, and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.’

“This verse shows us what takes place at the sounding of the seventh trumpet and third woe, which the angel says will come quickly after the French revolution, if I am right in my explanation of the two witnesses. It is morally certain that the word of God is not now in an obscure state; it is not hid from the world, neither is clothed in sackcloth. It is true that many voices have united in the Bible societies to spread the knowledge of the word of God; and that it is translated into about all the known languages in the world. It is almost absolutely certain that the French people are the nation that is compared to Sodom and Egypt, in the passage we have been examining; and likewise the earthquake spoken of is the French revolution. Then if the two witnesses are the Old and New Testament, we are certain the third woe is coming quickly, and the seventh trump must shortly begin to sound, as I have already proved in my lecture on the trumpets, in the year 1839. You have undoubtedly seen, my friends, that we are likewise brought down to the judgment, when God will reward the righteous, and destroy the wicked, who have persecuted the saints and trampled them under foot.”

William Miller, *William Miller’s Works*, Volume 2, Lecture 13, page 202, 1843.

William Miller made his own calculation of the fall of the Ottoman Empire himself, which he later recalculated.

“NOTE—The author wishes to state that Lecture 8 in this work was written twelve years since; and that the authorities he then consulted fixed the rise of the Turkish empire at 1298. He is now satisfied, by the examination of other authorities on the subject, that the foundation of that empire was laid in 1299. Hence the things mentioned in Lecture 7 (p. 109,) relative to persecutions, &c., and to the coming of the third woe, as mentioned in Lecture 13, (p. 202,) which he supposed would take place in 1839, according to the first computation, will not be realized until the year 1840.”

William Miller, *William Miller’s Works*, Volume 2, Lecture 19, page 300, 1843.

The pioneers identified “the third woe” with “the wrath of God”.

“Here we behold another striking evidence that God is the author of the prophecy, Revelation, in the accurate fulfillment of these predictions concerning the treatment of his word. ‘The third woe cometh quickly,’ is the language that follows this prophecy. That woe is now doubtless coming on the earth. National calamities are increasing. ‘Evil is going forth from nation to nation.’ Nations are commencing to understand what is meant by being ‘distressed with perplexity.’ Soon the nations will be angry, and God’s wrath come as marked out under the seventh trumpet. Lord, arouse thy people for the conflict, for it is surely coming, and that speedily.”

J. N. Loughborough, *Review and Herald*, January 21, 1862.

The pioneers place the second woe or the sixth trumpet before 1844.

“Again, the slaying of the witnesses is before the sounding of the seventh trumpet; for after describing this whole scene, he says, ‘The second woe is past, and behold the third woe cometh quickly.’ Then the scenes here described must belong to the sixth trumpet, for if they were a part of the scenes of the seventh trumpet, the third woe would be commenced before the seventh trumpet sounds. But as these scenes connected with the slaying of the witnesses belong to the second woe, they must transpire before the sounding of the seventh trumpet. The seventh trumpet sounds at the time the temple of God in heaven is opened to cleanse it from the sins of God’s people, which is at the end of the 2300 days—1844. This being the case, the slaying of the witnesses would be prior to that date. We understand the slaying of these witnesses was accomplished during the reign of terror in France, when infidelity (a child of the pit) stalked abroad, and a reign of terror ensued, as we shall presently see.”

J. N. Loughborough, *Review and Herald*, January 14, 1862.

The second woe ended August 11, 1840

“Verse 14. The second woe is past; and behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

“The series of seven trumpets is here again resumed. The second woe ended with the sixth trumpet, August 11, 1840; and the third woe occurs under the sounding of the seventh trumpet, which commenced in 1844; and ‘quickly’ is the adverb that is used to warn us of its coming.”

James White, *Review and Herald*, October 28, 1862.

The pioneers reasoned that because the seven last plagues are in the future, so to is the third woe.

“Hence it is that the seven angels are represented as receiving the vials of the wrath of God—the seven last plagues—after the opening of the temple of God in heaven. If we turn to Revelation 11:15–19, we shall find that the opening of the temple in heaven, is an event that transpires under the sounding of the seventh angel. And that account concludes with a brief statement of the events of the seventh vial or last plague. Now if we turn to Chapter 15:5–8; 16:1–21, we shall read an expanded view of the facts stated in Chapter 11:15–19, and shall find that the two accounts conclude in the same manner; viz., with the events of the last plague. These scriptures show that the seven angels do not receive the vials of the wrath of God to pour out upon the earth until the temple of heaven is opened. That temple is opened under the voice of the seventh angel. The third woe is by reason of the voice of the seventh angel. Chapter 13:13; 9:12; 11:14. The seven plagues are poured out under the sounding of that angel; hence the plagues are future, and constitute the third woe. . . .

“Such is a brief view of the dread realities of the seven last plagues—the third woe. How fearful will be the events of that woe! May God count us worthy to escape the things coming on the earth, and to stand before the Son of man. The seven last plagues are poured on the living wicked; but the second part of the penalty affixed to the warning of the third angel, is not inflicted until the end of the thousand years when all the wicked are raised and suffer it together. This part of the penalty we will now consider.

“Another important fact that determines the chronology of the third angel is that the seven last plagues are poured out upon those who reject his warning; the first plague being inflicted upon the very class which the third angel threatens. The seven last plagues are the wine of the wrath of God poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation. We have already seen that they are not inflicted until the work of mercy for man is accomplished. The third angel warns us respecting this outpouring of the exterminating wrath of God, and consequently gives the latest message of mercy. The mystery of God, or work of salvation for sinful men, (Ephesians 3,) is finished in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he begins to sound; (Revelation 10;) and as the third angel has the last warning of mercy before the vials of God’s wrath are poured out, it follows that it must be given in the days when the seventh angel begins to sound.

“It is likewise evident that the conclusion of the work of our great High Priest in the heavenly Sanctuary must also take place in the days when the seventh angel begins to sound; for it is then that the mystery of God is finished. The reason why the third woe, or seven last plagues, does not commence at once when the seventh angel begins to sound, is the fact that a period of days is occupied in finishing the mystery of God. In this period the warning of the third angel is given that every one who has an ear to hear may escape the vials of the wrath of God; and in this period also the Saviour completes his work in the Sanctuary in heaven. This being accomplished, the vials of the wrath of God are poured out upon the defenseless heads of the wicked. We think therefore, that the evidence is conclusive that the present is the time for the warning of the third angel. A false fulfillment of prophecy cannot occur at the time when the true should be expected. It is certain that one of the commandments of God has long been trodden down by the beast, and that in this thing almost the whole world has wondered after the beast. This commandment, as well as all the others, is now being vindicated that the remnant may be prepared for their final conflict with the dragon. May God interest the hearts of all his people in this work.”

J. N. Andrews, *Review and Herald*, April 17, 1855.

The pioneers included the final destruction of the wicked with the third woe.

“When will the mystery of God be finished? Revelation 10:77, seems to be a sufficient answer to this question, ‘But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, WHEN HE SHALL BEGIN TO SOUND, the mystery of God should be finished.’ Then the finishing of the mystery of God occupies a period of time, and that period is at the beginning of the sounding of the seventh angel.

“We have seen that the seventh angel, or third woe, reaches to the second death at the close of the 1000 years of Revelation 20, covering all woe. We have also seen that it begins to sound before immortality is given to the saints, as several events under its sounding takes place while the saints are in their mortal state. Revelation eleven. We think it commenced sounding at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844; and from that point of time to the close of the Third Message, the mystery of God is being finished. Then it will be said, ‘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. And behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.’”

James White, *Review and Herald*, March 27, 1856.

Brother SW:

In conclusion to your question, the pioneer understanding of the trumpets is sound. It is a foundational truth to Adventism. If there were a future application to the trumpets, then the pioneers were incorrect. In this prophetic history there is no room for a primary and secondary fulfillment of prophecy, because the history identified by the trumpets is still ongoing. If the ministry you are working with in Illinois is promoting, or through silence allowing that fanatical message to be proclaimed from their pulpit or presses, the Lord will not endorse their work. Hope this helps— Jeff. Once again:



“I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, and would give no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—one, two and three—the first, second and third angels’ messages. Said the angel, Woe to him who shall move a block, or stir a pin in these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received. I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. Step by step had God brought them along, until he had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. Then I saw individuals as they approached the platform, before stepping upon it examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the laying of the foundation of the platform. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform and examined it, then found fault with it, declaring it to be laid wrong. I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform, and exhorted others who had stepped off to cease their complaints, for God was the master-builder, and they were fighting against him.” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 168.

**“AND THERE SHALL BE PESTILENCES. . .”**

What turned HIV into a holocaust was not just a new infectious agent, but a proliferation of roads, cities, and airports, a breakdown of social traditions, and the advent of blood-banking and needle sharing. Those conditions virtually sealed HIV’s success, and they continue to rocket obscure bugs into every corner of the world.

“The volume and speed of travel are unprecedented,” says Dr. Mary Wilson of *Harvard University Medical School*. “We are interconnected in ways that weren’t true a century ago.”

SARS is only the latest reminder of how powerful those connections can be. The novel coronavirus that causes the syndrome emerged from Guangdong, the same Chinese province that delivers new flu viruses to the world most years. Pigs, ducks, chickens and people live cheek-by-jowl on the district’s primitive farms, exchanging flu and cold germs so rapidly that a single pig can easily incubate human and avian viruses simultaneously. The dual infections can generate hybrids that escape antibodies aimed at the originals, setting off a whole new chain of human infection. The clincher is that these farms sit just a few miles from Guangzhou, a teeming city that mixes people, animals and microbes from the countryside with travelers from around the world. You could hardly design a better system for turning small outbreaks into big ones. *Newsweek*, May 5, 2003.

**ALL 50 STATES WARN OF WEST NILE VIRUS**

West Nile first struck the northern hemisphere in Queens, New York, four years ago and killed four people. This year, all 50 states are warning of an outbreak from any of the 30 mosquito species known to carry it. From 62 severe cases in 1999, confirmed human cases of the virus spread to 39 states in 2002, and it killed 284 people.

No one has caught it yet this year, but since January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported, the virus has shown up in 23 states. It has been found in horses from Alabama and Arkansas to Minnesota and North Dakota, in dozens of dead crows and in a bald eagle near Allentown, Pennsylvania. The *Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection* found infected larva near Pittsburgh. In Louisiana, 52 dead birds have tested positive.

“I would say that these early season reports of West Nile are distressing,” said Michael L. Bunning, an epidemiologist at the *National Center for Infectious Diseases* in Fort Collins, Colo., who tracks the outbreak in birds and animals. “We’re seeing the same level of activity as last year, which is not a good sign. We haven’t seen any sign that things are on a downward cycle.” He added, “It’s just a matter of time before we have the first human case.”

Public health officials say they see little reason to doubt that the virus will kill hundreds of people this year, mostly frail and elderly. Last year, the virus struck the first person, in Washington, D.C., in May and the next two, in Louisiana, in June. Last year 4,156 people, many around Chicago and Cleveland, had confirmed cases.

No West Nile vaccine has been developed for humans, although there is one for horses. The virus cannot be stopped by quarantining people, because birds and mosquitoes that carry it cannot be quarantined. "There are no revolutionary strategies out there that are on the brink of implementation," said Dan O'Leary, an epidemiologist at the infectious disease center. Most species prefer to feed on birds. They contract the virus from the birds and pass it on through their saliva when they next bite a human or an animal. But most people recover without showing symptoms.

West Nile is baffling, officials say, because it has not established predictable patterns. Louisiana began finding infected birds much earlier this year than last, meaning there might be human cases sooner than last year. But none have been reported yet. "What does it show when you cannot predict what is coming?" Louisiana's state epidemiologist, asked. "It shows that you do not understand."

In Louisiana and Mississippi, the virus comes with the rain. Yet it killed eight people in drought-starved Nebraska last year, largely because of mosquitoes that bred in stagnant pools of irrigation ditches. "This year is wet," said a medical entomologist with Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services, so the problem could be worse. "We've got a high population of mosquitoes on the wing right now," he said. "We found our first positive dead bird on May 28, a full month earlier than last year."

To contain the virus, much depends on the resources that communities commit to spraying and lacing ditches and ponds with larvicide; the protective measures people take, like wearing repellants and long sleeves and staying indoors at dusk in infested areas; and the participation of homeowners, whose old rain-filled tires, flower pots and receptacles as small as a soda bottle cap can harbor eggs and their larva.

Even Hawaii, so far immune to the disease, is ready for it this year. On its Web page, the *Hawaii Department of Health* lists pictures of susceptible birds and asks the public to bring in any dead ones. Many states—notably those with the most deaths last year: Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Louisiana—have made West Nile virus their No. 1 public health issue this summer with "Fight the Bite" public information campaigns. States are installing hot lines to call about dead birds, distributing mosquito repellants to tourists and hanging notices on doorknobs.

West Nile virus could follow the course of another mosquito-borne virus. St. Louis encephalitis hit hard in 1975 and then abated. "Usually you have a downturn," the *Centers for Disease Control* said. "We haven't seen that yet with West Nile. We don't know where the top is." *The New York Times*, June 21, 2003.

## **AMERICA'S HOMOSEXUALITY, POLITICAL INQUISITION AND ANCIENT ROME**

"If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to have consensual sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, . . . polygamy, . . . incest, . . . adultery. You have the right to anything." Thus did Senator Rick Santorum express his opinion that the US Supreme Court should not overturn the Texas anti-sodomy laws.

Within hours, Democratic leaders, Big Media and gay-rights groups had demanded that Santorum apologize or be purged from the Republican leadership, in the style of Trent Lott. As with Lott and Jim Moran, these episodes—where politicians are hauled before a modern inquisition, scourged, and ordered to grovel and apologize, or be stretched on the rack—are instructive. For they reveal the real balance of moral power in a society at any given time.

What does the trashing of Santorum tell us? That America is well along into a post-Christian and even anti-Christian era. We are getting close to a religious test for high-office, a test that no believing, practicing Christian is going to be able to pass. Indeed, we are becoming a society where Christians are going to discover that they are strangers in their own country. And as one watches "gay-rights" spokespersons hurling anathemas at conservatives, who are trying inarticulately to explain what they really mean, the America we grew up in is truly dead and gone.

While there can be a reasoned debate about whether the state has business legislating sexual activity, there can be no doubt that any moral system condoning homosexuality must also let other, less widely accepted sexual practices through the door. If that fluid, careless amalgam of values based on feelings and personal logic ever takes precedence, America will suffer the fate of ancient Rome. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 7, 2003.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them]. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. Romans 5:11-12.

## **US SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN ANTI-SODOMY LAW**

In 1986, the Court upheld a Georgia anti-sodomy law, but on the last day of the Court's 2002-2003 term it struck down, by a 6-3 vote, a Texas anti-sodomy law in *Lawrence et al. vs. Texas*. An Emory University legal scholar said the decision is "arguably bigger" than *Roe vs. Wade*, referring to the 1973 Supreme Court decision giving women a right to abortion. Social norms have been transformed over the past two decades. Polls showed that the justices have public opinion behind them: some six out of 10 Americans believe that homosexual sex between consenting adults should be legal. Dissenting Justice Antonin Scalia predicted that the Court's decision would cause "a massive disruption of the current social order" by calling into question the [state] government's right to legislate morality. Other conservatives warned that the Court's decision would undermine [state] laws barring bigamy, incest and prostitution.

The fear of legalized wantonness will quickly become a campaign issue. The White House decided not to file a brief in the case, and Bush's political handlers were fearful of alienating either gay voters or the legion of Christian conservatives who provided Bush with his electoral base in 2000.

For the most part, gay rights will be fought out at the local and state level. The struggle will be protracted and there may be a backlash. The stronger movement, at least for now, appears to be in the other direction. Some 37 states—and the federal government—have adopted *Defense of Marriage Acts*, which define marriage as applying only to a man and a woman, and bar recognition of same-sex marriages from other states.

On June 11, a court in Ontario, Canada, ruled that same-sex marriages are legal (they are also legal in the Netherlands and Belgium). *Newsweek*, July 7, 2003.

## **FALLING LAWS & MORALS**

Once the Supreme Court strikes down Texas' [anti] sodomy law, . . . [accomplished on June 27] there will be no defending laws against polygamy, bigamy, incest (at least, if both parties are adults) or adultery. All will fall before the legal academy's fierce contempt for the religious beliefs of 90 percent of the population. *U.S. News & World Report*, May 5, 2003.

Editor's Note: This sort of moral and cultural falling in society may contribute to a popular Christian backlash to enforce religion—ie. Sunday laws.

## **"MS. ROE" AGAINST ROE VS. WADE**

Jane Roe wants to change history—again. Thirty years after pro-abortion attorneys used Norma McCorvey, then a pregnant 21-year-old carnival barker, to manufacture a constitutional right to abortion, Ms. McCorvey, the "Roe" in *Roe vs. Wade*, is seeking to reopen the case. Under a rule that allows courts to reopen cases when new evidence emerges, she and her attorneys filed a motion with a Dallas district court. She said that the US Supreme Court's 1973 decision is no longer valid because of new scientific and anecdotal evidence that shows that abortion is harmful to women and children. American Center for Law and Justice attorney Jay Sekulow said the motion faces "an uphill challenge," but he added that the motion will serve at least to "educate the public as to how the case was manipulated through the court system." *WORLD*, June 28, 2003.

“History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster.”—General Douglas MacArthur.

### **AMA OK'S CLONED EMBRYO RESEARCH**

Bucking the physicians' motto to “first do no harm” no matter what the potential benefit, and in spite of opposition from the Bush administration and a US House bill passed earlier in the year to ban it, the 260,000-member *American Medical Association* endorsed doing fatal harm to cloned embryos for the sake of medical research. At its annual meeting in Chicago, the organization adopted a policy without debate that calls “therapeutic cloning” ethical. *WORLD*, June 28, 2003.

### **PRINCETON PROFESSOR HONORED FOR ETHICS**

On the culture front, Princeton's Peter Singer, the professor of bioethics at Princeton University who advocates, among other things, killing disabled children up to 28 days after birth, has been honored with the *2003 World Technology Award for Ethics* by the *World Technology Network*. “I am delighted to have been selected by my peers as a winner of the *2003 World Technology Award* in the ethics category,” Singer said in a statement issued by the university. Singer is a leading opponent of what he calls “speciesism,” insisting that animals should be accorded the same value as humans. *The Federalist*, July 18, 2003.

“Thus greater care was shown for a dumb animal than for man, who is made in the image of God. This illustrates the working of all false religions. They originate in man's desire to exalt himself above God, but they result in degrading man below the brute. Every religion that wars against the sovereignty of God defrauds man of the glory which was his at the creation, and which is to be restored to him in Christ.” *The Desire of Ages*, 287.

### **MEN, SEX PILLS, & MONEY**

“Our whole industry is growing steadily because it is becoming mainstream,” said Ken Thomas, director of marketing for *Topco Sales*, a leading maker of vacuum pumps and sex toys. By now, though, sexual accessories have moved out of the shadows and are discussed on cable television shows like “Sex and the City.”

Critical to the success of the herbal-pill makers was the approval of *Pfizer's* Viagra by the *Food and Drug Administration* in 1998, and the mass-marketing campaign for the drug. “Pfizer opened the door by putting erectile dysfunction on prime-time television,” said Malcolm Casselle, chief executive of *Elima Biotronic*, the maker of Opus-X, an herbal concoction that is marketed as increasing sexual pleasure. “You have a marketplace with no credible players—there is all that [e-mail] spam and late-night infomercials,” Mr. Casselle said. “The market is ripe for consolidation, like coffee houses before *Starbucks*.” The total market for all sorts of herbal sexual pills, he estimates, is \$1 billion to \$2 billion a year.

Last year, *CP Direct*, the creator of Longitude, was shut down by the attorney general of Arizona after users complained that they were being charged for reorders they did not want and were not receiving credit for refunds. The company had generated \$74 million in sales, almost all from Longitude, to more than 350,000 customers over two years. *The New York Times*, July 4, 2003.

### **OUR NATIONAL DIFFERENCE**

“The principles enshrined in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence define the American way of life. Without those principles we become just another country, governed by whim and expediency, with no guiding vision beyond the ambitions of the latest politicians in power.” Texas Congressman Ron Paul, *The Federalist Brief*.

“. . . our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness..” *Maranatha*, 216.

## THE VILLAGE COMMISSAR

“We have the legal custody of the children and we will do with them as we see fit. They are minors and they do what we tell them to do.”—Susan Etscovitz, of the *Massachusetts Department of Social Services*, on attempts to take a pair of home-schooled teenagers from their parents, without parental consent, for forced testing of their educational level. *The Federalist Brief*.

## SAMUEL ADAMS ON LIBERTY AND VIRTUE

Adams believed, as we do, that liberty and virtue are inseparable:

“Liberty will not long survive the total extinction of morals.”

And, “As long as the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader. . . . If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great security.”

He would advise,

“Since private and public Vices, are in reality, though not always apparently, so nearly connected, of how much Importance, how necessary is it, that the utmost pains be taken by the public, to have the Principles of Virtue early inculcated on the minds even of children, and the moral sense kept alive, and that the wise institutions of our ancestors for these great purposes be encouraged by the government. For no people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when Knowledge is diffus’d and Virtue is preserv’d. On the contrary, when People are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders.”

He would counsel that religious liberty requires faith-minded (and faithful) defenders, as

“. . . Our enemies have made it an object, to eradicate from the minds of the people in general a sense of true religion and virtue, in hopes thereby the more easily to carry their point of enslaving them.”

And he would caution remembering which are first principles:

“. . . [N]either the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt.” *The Federalist Brief*, Independence Day.

## THE USA PATRIOT ACT

This is a cute little acronym for “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism.” It sounds like something from an Ian Fleming novel [James Bond spy stories], but it is really more like *1984* [by George Orwell]. The law authorized vast new powers for the federal government to investigate, arrest and generally snoop into the private lives of alleged terrorists. Many congressmen who voted for it never bothered (or managed) to read the law through, and just how much power it gives the leviathan state over its citizens is still unclear. Nevertheless, the Bush administration now wants to expand it. This system of government is called “anarcho-tyranny”: a combination of anarchy, in which legitimate government functions—like spying on the bad guys or punishing real criminals—are not performed; and tyranny, in which government performs illegitimate functions—like spying on the good guys or criminalizing innocent conduct, like gun ownership and political dissent. The result of anarcho-tyranny is that government swells in power, criminals are not controlled, and law-abiding citizens wind up being repressed by the state and attacked by thugs.

There is no name, let alone a clever acronym, for the system of government that now seems to be evolving, in which we ignore the major and most obvious threat to national and internal security—the sieve-like borders, through which virtually any criminal or crack-pot on the planet can pass—and instead start restricting the constitutional liberties of American citizens. But it’s clearly one more installment of anarcho-tyranny—in this case, the anarchy comes from thugs who are immigrant criminals and terrorists, while the tyranny comes from the usual suspect—the federal government. *The Conservative Chronicle*, April 30, 2003.

## UNFRIENDLY SKIES

The world is awash in missiles that can shoot down airliners. A fix is probably years away. A thriving black market for some 700,000 surface-to-air missiles has made it relatively cheap for terrorist groups, including al Qaeda and Hezbollah, to stockpile the weapons. Given the large number of missiles available, some experts say, it is astonishing more planes and passengers haven't been shot out of the sky. To date, 24 civilian aircraft have been downed by SAMs, resulting in the deaths of more than 500 people. These heat-seeking missiles and their launchers are dangerous because they're small enough to fit into a car's trunk, weigh just 35 pounds, and require relatively little training to operate. They have a range of about 3 miles and can strike planes flying at up to 15,000 feet. Theoretically, that means they could be successfully fired from anywhere inside a 150-square-mile zone surrounding a commercial airport. Lawmakers want to outfit 6,800 commercial jets—the entire US fleet—with technology to defeat SAMs, but the technology isn't quite ready, and with a price tag of up to \$10 billion, it won't be an easy sell. New York Representative Steve Israel argues that the estimated \$1 million-per-aircraft cost would barely be a dent in the price of a new plane: New Boeing 737's start at \$41 million. "If, God forbid, a commercial airliner is shot out of the sky by a \$5,000 missile," he says, "it would represent the final collapse of America's airline industry." *U.S. News & World Report*, April 28, 2003.

"The youth should seek God more earnestly. The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near! The prophet says: 'Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.'" *Maranatha*, 37.

## BUSH'S GOAL

Bush has laid out an ambitious—almost limitless—goal: to eradicate terrorism by changing hearts and regimes throughout the Axis of Evil, and all of its annexes. . . . he has to hope that his international vision succeeds, for he's staked his presidency on it. *Newsweek*, April 28, 2003.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.  
Revelation 13:11-12.

## AMERICA AT WAR AND PEACE

Because of its massive advantages and extraordinary skill, the American military will win any future war quickly and easily. The regime it is fighting will collapse, leaving disorder and chaos in its wake. For the past three decades America's foreign-affairs budget has been slashed while military spending has remained high. This has starved the civilian agencies of resources and turned them into disgruntled, ineffectual organizations. Meanwhile, the military, the only agency with money, has been pushed into areas well beyond its core competence. The result is that we're untouchable at war but clumsy at peace. *Newsweek*, July 7, 2003.

Editor's note: Now we're beginning to see why the USA needs the UN around; for peacekeeping operations.

## **"FIRE FROM HEAVEN"**

The heads of the different commands have trained forces from all the services to work together, so that Army or Marine commanders on the ground could bring down fire immediately from Air Force or Navy pilots in the sky. *U.S. News & World Report*, April 28, 2003.

## **WE HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO BRING FIREPOWER**

[After a 2AM raid in Iraq] "We want to send a message of 'don't mess with us,' " said Lieutenant Colonel Aubrey Garner, commander of the First Battalion, 68th Armor, which is part of the Fourth Infantry Division. "They will see that we have the flexibility to bring firepower" wherever and whenever, he continued. "The ability is almost magical." *The New York Times*, June 29, 2003.

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13.

## **US ILLUSIONS?**

"Some [Washington hard-liners] argue in effect that America must now run the world with scant regard for friends, foes, or costs. We must rid ourselves of two illusions. Both reflect a set of values that violate American traditions. First, there is the illusion that we can impose our will anywhere we choose, the second is that we can impose our will virtually alone. As the ancients themselves warned long ago: Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make proud." *U.S. News & World Report*, May 5, 2003.

## **THE U.S. FORMULA FOR CONFLICT AND SOCIAL UPHEAVAL**

On a typical day, according to government statistics, US customs processes more than 1.1 million passengers, more than 323,000 vehicles, more than 57,000 trucks/containers, 2,459 aircraft and 580 vessels. There are 301 ports of entry, and the officials who are expected to detain, medically examine or conditionally release people or animals suspected of carrying infectious diseases consist of 43 people in an Atlanta office and 39 in the field. The US government, with its open-borders policy, is going to turn the US into a Third World country, with a few rich people at the top and lots of poor people at the bottom. But not just poor people—poor people of quite different ethnic and racial backgrounds—who will be scrambling and clawing to get at the few crumbs that get bushed off the tables at the top. It won't be a pleasant place to live. It's a formula for conflict and social upheaval. *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 11, 2003.

## **OUR LEADER'S WMD DECEPTIONS**

We do need to have a much better explanation than any we have had. Going to war to abort Husseinism is justified, but we are nevertheless entitled to know: How was intelligence information, presented as conclusive, so apparently illusory? Who was it, on the assembly line between the first man who spotted what he took to be WMD activity in Iraq, and the *Defense Intelligence Agency* and the President, who beamed out to the world not [just] suspicions of WMD activity but affirmations of it. Who screwed up? Who deceived, or was carried away? And what vaccines have our leaders taken to guard against other deceptions of like character? *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 11, 2003.

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

## STEALTH POLITICS

Follow the money. The big corporations hire Indians and Chinese for less than half what they pay their US employees, work them long hours without overtime pay and treat them like indentured servants unable to quit for a better job. The corporations partner with the US government by making political contributions to assure the passage of legislation that legalizes the importation of cheap foreign labor. H-1B visas were created in 1990 to allow corporations to import up to 65,000 foreign skilled workers to fill alleged labor shortages, a claim that was always a fiction and now is nonsense. The corporations had such clout with politicians that in 2000 they got the number of allowable H-1B visas tripled, even while the industry was hiring only 2 percent of software applicants. In a striking example of stealth politics, on October 3, 2000, the House leadership announced that there would be no more votes that evening. Then, after most members had departed, passed the H-1B increase by a voice vote with only about 40 out of 435 members present. Representative Thomas M. Davis, the chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, candidly commented, "This is not a popular bill with the public. . . . This is a very important issue for the high-tech executives who give the money." *The Conservative Chronicle*, June 11, 2003.

## BY POPULAR DEMAND—THE TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

*The Traditional Values Coalition*, founded in 1980 and chaired by the Reverend Lou Sheldon, has 16 current and former Congressmen and Senators on its Congressional Advisory Committee, and plans to "mobilize Christians and pro-family Americans to insist on moral leadership in government. The TVC's grassroots lobbying campaigns, educational programs and courtroom legal actions are aimed at reversing the ACLU's 40-year war on Christianity and giving Christians and pro-family Americans a strong voice in America's government."

"So far, TVC has delivered more than 1,000,000 letters, petitions, post cards, telegrams, faxes and email to Congress urging passage of the *Voluntary prayer in School Prayer Amendment*, as called for by President Bush."

In their Christian Voter Mobilization Operations in 2003," the TVC plans to "register 10,000,000 brand new Christian voters in time for the 2004 Presidential and Congressional elections," and "are now planning construction of America's Christian Heritage Center on three acres of land in Washington, D.C., a few blocks from Congress." *Traditional Values Coalition solicitation letter*, June 2003.

## THE YELLOW TWINKIE ROAD TO SERFDOM

"The anti-obesity campaign might seem preposterous and amusing were it not for the successes of the anti-tobacco campaign premised on the idea that individuals are not responsible for their choices. It's a logical follow-up: Food producers, not people themselves, are responsible for overindulgence. Since we have socialized medicine, obesity adds to the nation's health-care costs through its contribution to obesity-related health problems such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease. According to the food Nazis, that means government has a stake in controlling what we eat. Americans salute the results of the anti-tobacco campaign that brought successful multibillion-dollar suits against tobacco companies and levied steep tobacco taxes. In some jurisdictions, such as New York City, taxes have led to the tripling of cigarette prices, not to mention the creation of black markets. I'm wondering whether my fellow Americans would like the food Nazi campaign to produce the same outcome. In other words, how would we like taxes that create \$10 hamburgers, \$5 cans of beer and \$12 for a pound of Oreo cookies? Maybe as an alternative to taxes, there might be a call for laws similar to what's called the *Dram Shop Act* in some states, which prohibits the sale of alcohol to intoxicated persons. Applied to food, that law might ban the sale of hamburgers and fries to a fat person, or a mandate that scales be placed in front of cash registers where a customer is weighed prior to a sale. Instead of hamburgers and fries, an overweight customer is offered a tasty salad, instead. Instead of suing Nabisco to stop children from eating Oreos, we might have a law requiring proof of age prior to purchase. We could use endangering minors law to exact stiff penalties against parents who gave Oreos to their children. The anti-obesity movement is simply another step down the road to serfdom and, what's worse, Americans are voluntarily assisting the nation's tyrants." *The Federalist Brief*.