

Future NEWS

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CONFEDERACY OF REBELLION

As Noah's descendants increased in number, apostasy soon led to division. Those who desired to forget their Creator, and to cast off the restraint of His law, decided to separate from the worshipers of God. Accordingly they journeyed to the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the river Euphrates. Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower reaching unto heaven—so high that no flood could rise to the top, so massive that nothing could sweep it away. Thus they hoped to make themselves independent of God.

But among the men of Babel there were living some God-fearing men who had been deceived by the pretensions of the ungodly, and drawn into their wicked schemes. These men would not join this confederacy to thwart the purposes of God. They refused to be deceived by the wonderful representations and the grand outlook. For the sake of these faithful ones, the Lord delayed His judgments, and gave the people time to reveal their true character. They heeded not the counsel of the Lord, but carried out their own purposes. The great majority were fully united in their heaven-daring undertaking. Had they been permitted to go on unchecked, they would have demoralized the world by their wonderful plans.

This confederacy was born of rebellion against God. The dwellers on the plains of Shinar established their kingdom for self-exaltation, and not for the glory of God. Had they succeeded, a mighty power would have borne away, banishing righteousness, and inaugurating a new religion. The mixture of certain religious ideas with a mass of erroneous theories would have resulted in closing the door of peace, happiness, and security. These suppositions, erroneous theories, carried out and perfected, would have banished a knowledge of the law of Jehovah from the minds of men, who would not think it necessary to obey the divine statutes. These statutes, which are holy, just, and good, would have been ignored. Determined men, inspired by the first great rebel, would have urged on by him, and would have permitted nothing to interfere with their plans, or to stop them in their evil course. In the place of the divine precepts they would have substituted laws framed in accordance with the desires of their selfish hearts in order that they might carry out their purposes.

But God never leaves the world without witnesses for Him. Those who loved and feared Him at the time of the first great apostasy after the flood, humbled themselves, and cried unto him. "Oh God," they pleaded, "interpose thyself between thy cause and the plans and methods of men and the Lord came down to see the city and the tower (the great idol-building), which the children of men builded." He defeated the purpose of the tower builders, and over-threw the memorial of their rebellion. God bears long with the perversity of men, giving them ample opportunity for repentance; but He marks all their devices to resist the authority of His just and holy law. As an evidence of His displeasure over the building of the tower, he confounded the language of the builders, so that none would understand the words of his fellow-worker. *The Kress Collection*, 1.

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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.

MINISTRY UPDATE

We are currently preparing for several prophecy schools in the next few months. The first begins in November in Malaysia, where the prime minister Mahathir Mohamad just told a summit of Islamic leaders that “Jews rule the world by proxy” and the world’s 1.3 billion Muslims should unite for a “final victory.” His speech at the *Organization of the Islamic Conference* summit, which he was hosting, drew criticism from Jewish leaders, who warned it could spark more violence against Jews. Mahathir—known for his outspoken, anti-Western rhetoric—criticized what he described as Jewish domination of the world and Muslim nations’ inability to adequately respond to it. He also stated, “The Europeans killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million, but today the Jews rule the world by proxy,” opening the meeting of Islamic leaders from 57 nations. “They get others to fight and die for them.” Malaysia, has long been a critic of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories and of US policy in the Middle East, including the war in Iraq and Washington’s strong backing of the Jewish state. Mahathir, 77, who is retiring on October 31, has used almost every international podium to lambaste the West for two decades, winning a reputation as an outspoken champion of Third World causes. “For well over half a century we have fought over Palestine. What have we achieved? Nothing. We are worse off than before,” he said. “If we had paused to think, then we could have devised a plan, a strategy that can win us final victory.” The prime minister, who has turned his country into the world’s 17th-ranked trading nation during his 22 years in power, said Jews “invented socialism, communism, human rights and democracy” to avoid persecution and gain control of the most powerful countries. Mahathir added that “1.3 billion Muslims cannot be defeated by a few million Jews,” but he suggested using political and economic tactics instead of violence.

What strikes me about this prime minister is what was shared with me by the brethren in Malaysia in our recent trip there, concerning his resignation as prime minister. The following news blip from July 2002 emphasizes the unexpectedness of his resignation:

MALAYSIA: DRAMATIC EXIT

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad’s June 22 resignation announcement on national television came as a shock not just to the nation, but even to Mahathir’s closest party and family members. The bizarre display of tears, exhortations, and hysteria that followed led more skeptical Malaysians, as well as international observers, to speculate that perhaps Mahathir, who has always used his flair for dramatics to his political advantage, was simply trying to shore up support for his regime.

They were wrong. On June 25, the *United Malays National Organization* (UMNO) announced that Asia’s longest-serving leader was indeed giving up the helm. According to reports, Mahathir was persuaded, during intense backroom efforts by party leadership, to stay in office until October 2003 instead of immediately resigning. The compromise gives his hand-picked successor, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a 16-month transition period. *World Press Review*.

Though totally unexpected, his resignation after ruling Malaysia for over two decades came immediately after a visit with the pope of Rome! Go figure. After his announcement he then took a two month vacation at none other than the Vatican.

We are certainly in times that are about to try men's souls. Mahathir Mohamad has been perhaps the most outspoken militant critic of Western culture, and one of the main champions of radical Islam in the past two decades, yet it is hard not see some type of connection to Islam's mortal enemy—the papacy. Rome is preparing to strike.

We solicit your prayers for these upcoming meetings. We will hold two prophecy schools in Malaysia, the second just across the border from Singapore, so the Singaporeans can attend a prophecy school as well. The dynamics of the city-state of Singapore make it more realistic to hold a school for their participation outside the city.

From there we are returning to Germany to hold a prophecy school during the Christmas holiday time period, and then in the January time frame we will travel to South America for meetings there.

Our website is just about ready to begin, though I have no firm date to share at this time, but only can say that the work necessary to get our website up and running has been one designed to produce patience.

We have just reprinted *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North* in a revised edition. We are charging \$8.00 plus shipping for the book, but for ten or more it will be \$6.00. There have been definite changes in this edition which I would encourage you to consider, even if you have the original.

I am currently turning several of our studies into booklets and we will keep you informed of these projects as they develop, as many of you have asked that this would be done.

JUNE 22, 2002

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Asia's longest-serving elected leader, has ruled Malaysia for so long that many of his people think he'll die in office rather than quit.

On Saturday, he got close to resigning, changing his mind in less than an hour after tearfully telling the *United Malays National Organisation* (UMNO) he was giving up all party and coalition posts.

Now 76, Mahathir has been prime minister for 21 years, leading a multi-racial coalition that has won every election since independence from Britain in 1957.

Mahathir has cried before at party assemblies and some opposition leaders reckoned the resignation drama was staged.

Recognised as the architect of modern, industrialised Malaysia, Mahathir's recent admissions of failure in his main mission to turn Malays into hard working, go-getters was the only clue that a resignation speech was in the works.

Mahathir has frequently called Malays lazy and ungrateful, saying they have wasted the chances given to them by 33 years of affirmative action policies, but in the last few days his remarks have carried more edge.

If Mahathir had gone through with his decision, it would have come at a time when he was being feted as an influential Muslim moderate in the wake of September 11 attacks on the United States.

In the past two months, he has received thanks from President George W. Bush in Washington for Malaysia's support in the war on terror and **met Pope John Paul at the Vatican** to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Habitually controversial, Mahathir admits "I like to shoot my mouth off."

Earlier, this year he upset Arab delegations at an *Organisation of the Islamic Conference* (OIC) meeting in Kuala Lumpur by labelling as terrorists both the Israeli state and Palestinian suicide bombers.

He has always been a strong voice both among Muslim and developing countries, and next year is due to take over the chairmanship of both the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement.

With 2-½ years of his current term yet to run, he is widely expected to lead UMNO into the next general election. *Reuters*, June 22, 2002.

VISIT TO THE VATICAN

The *International Movement for a Just World* (JUST) welcomes Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's proposed meeting with Pope John Paul at the Vatican early next month. The visit makes sense for a variety of reasons. A small but significant Catholic minority has been part of multi-religious Malaysia for centuries. The Pope will no doubt want to know from the leader of that government how Muslims and Catholics have lived together in relative harmony for such a long time in one of the most complex multi-religious societies in the world.

Protecting the rights of the non-Muslims, as the Pope is aware, is a fundamental principle of the Islamic faith. The Prophet Muhammad (May peace be upon him) himself formulated a treaty—the *Treaty of Najran*—which guaranteed the rights of the Christians living in that part of Arabia in the seventh century. Indeed, for most of Muslim history, Muslim Rulers regarded it as their duty to look after their Christian subjects as illustrated in the Umayyad, Andalusian and Uthmaniyyah empires of the past.

Dr. Mahathir's visit to the Vatican will also be an opportunity to enter into a dialogue with the Pope on not only religious issues but also on common political, economic and social concerns. Both the Prime Minister and the Pope have expressed their views with candour and conviction on a whole range of international issues. It is so important for leaders from different religious backgrounds to talk to one another about critical global challenges that are impacting upon the lives of everyone. May 28, 2002, *muza@po.jaring.my*

What would prompt one of the most aggressive anti-westerners to step down at such a crucial time in the struggle of modern radical Islam, of which he has been a primary leader for two decades?

Future for America,

I thank you for praying for me and my family. May God continue to bless your ministry. Sister in Christ, H.R.

Jeff and Kathy:

Trust this finds both of you in good health and strong in courage. Just want to let you know how much we appreciate your newsletters—keeps us up to date of what is going on.

First of all, did you hear anything about the big meeting at Glacier Point regarding a study of the first 11 chapters of Genesis? Our pastor went. His wife is our Sabbath School teacher and she let us in on some of the details before it happened (sometime in July or August). He was to let us know when he got back but he is busy man and is leaving in a week to go to Russia to teach the ministers there. This was the same place they had the big meeting with Desmond Ford.

Your study on the trumpets is really interesting. A friend we met in Yuma said he was convinced of the Adventists doctrines when a man came to his house in Iowa possibly fifteen years ago and studied with him about the trumpets. Yesterday I read back through your article and marked my Bible and guess what, I am beginning to understand it. Thanks to you and the work the Lord has given to you.

May God continue to bless you in your work. Kathy, you certainly are a very sweet lady and always enjoying chatting with you. Take care of your health. Your family in Christ, E&V—MI

Dear Brother Jeff,

Regarding Malachi 4:6, I can see an application for God's people in turning hearts back to the fundamental teachings of the "church fathers".

However, the "Elijah message" to the world is the proclamation of His Ten Commandment law, as typified by the fifth commandment. It is a message of our heavenly Father's love for His earthly children: "Return to me, and I will bless you, and your children." It is a simple message, to be given His love. Sincerely, K.H.—CO

Future for America,

Keep up the great work for the Lord by the grace He gives you for His honor and glory. You are in our prayers. Jesus be with us always. Write His law on our hearts and show us what His will is, and then give us the desire, heart and grace to do His will and keep his law without compromise. With His love in our hearts and providing us with whatever we need to finish the work He has given us to do. In Jesus, M.J.

LAWFUL TO DEPOSE EMPERORS

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the Protestant churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false sabbath and that they are preparing to enforce it by the very means which she herself employed in by-gone days. Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek the aid of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her. How readily she will come to the help of Protestants in this work it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than the papal leaders how to deal with those who are disobedient to the church?”

“The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests.

“History testifies of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of nations; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people. In the year 1204, Pope Innocent III extracted from Peter II, king of Arragon, the following extraordinary oath: ‘I, Peter, king of Arragonians, profess and promise to be ever faithful and obedient to my lord, Pope Innocent, to his Catholic successors, and the Roman Church, and faithfully to preserve my kingdom in his obedience, defending the Catholic faith, and persecuting heretical pravity.’ --John Dowling, *The History of Romanism*, b. 5, ch. 6, sec. 55. This is in harmony with the claims regarding the power of the Roman pontiff ‘that it is lawful for him to depose emperors’ and ‘that he can absolve subjects from their allegiance to unrighteous rulers.’ --Mosheim, b. 3, cent. 11, pt. 2, ch. 2, sec. 9, note 17.

“And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” *The Great Controversy*, 580–581.

THE CONFEDERACY OF EVIL

“The gospel is now resolutely opposed on every hand. Never was the confederacy of evil greater than at the present time. The spirits of darkness are combining with human agencies to set them firmly against the commandments of God. Traditions and falsehoods are exalted above the Scriptures: reason and science above revelation; human talent above the teachings of the Spirit; forms and ceremonies above the vital power of godliness. We need the divine touch.” *Review and Herald*, March 19, 1895.

UN AS WORLD POLICE ADMINISTRATOR

Unless the US plans to build a colonial bureaucracy of its own, with thousands of civil servants who can help run Iraq, it should use international agencies with expertise and experience. In some areas, the training of police for example, the United Nations has proved to be excellent. In others, such as finding weapons and trying Baathists, it would bring international legitimacy. *Newsweek*, June 2, 2003.

Editor's Note: The "ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet" are about to receive their kingdom.

US STRENGTHENING THE UN

Today a conservative administration is close to asserting that whatever the facts turn out to be regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the enforcement of UN resolutions was a sufficient reason for war. If so, war was waged to strengthen the UN as author and enforcer of international norms of behavior. *Conservative Chronicle*, July 30, 2003.

IRAQ BOMBING UNIFIES UN & US

The bombing prompted countries bitterly divided over the US—led war to say the world was now united in helping Iraq. "Such terrorist incidents cannot break the will of the international community to further intensify its efforts to help the people of Iraq," the 15-member Security Council said.

Britain said it would seek to strengthen the UN's role in Iraq—something the US has so far resisted.

"We've all, whatever our positions were before this, got to come together, and one of the things I will be discussing in New York (home to the Security Council) tomorrow is whether we have a strengthened UN mandate," Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

Last week, the Security Council set aside differences over the US—led invasion that ousted Saddam on April 9 and set up a mission to coordinate its mainly humanitarian effort in Iraq. In New York, flags of the 191 member nations were lowered and the UN flag was flown at half-mast to honor the dead. *Reuters*, August 20, 2003.

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Revelation 17:13.

THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

United Nations, October 16—In a diplomatic victory for the US, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Thursday aimed at attracting more troops and money to stabilize Iraq and putting it on the road to independence. But despite the 15-0 vote, it remained uncertain whether the US would receive any immediate offers of military or financial aid to help stabilize Iraq.

"We have come together to help the Iraqi people and put all of our disagreements of the past in the past," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said after the vote on the US drafted resolution.

Powell said the vote sets the stage for an Iraq donors conference next week in Madrid and would help US officials raise money and make it easier for countries to provide peacekeepers.

He declined to "put any numbers" on how many would be volunteered, however, and acknowledged opposition by some countries to sending forces.

"I don't see this vote as opening the door to troops," he said, adding that he did not expect contributions from Russia, Germany or France but hoped they would be helpful. In a joint statement after the council vote, those three nations said they would not commit troops because the resolution failed to give the UN a bigger role in Iraq's political transition or speed up the transfer of authority to Iraqis.

Therefore, "the conditions are not created for us to envisage any military commitment and no further financial contributions beyond our present engagement," the French-German-Russian statement said.

Still, they said, the final version of the resolution allowed them to adopt it "in the spirit of unity."

U.S. officials had been concerned that after six weeks of intense diplomatic campaigning, the resolution might get only the minimum nine "yes" votes needed for adoption.

In a final day of intense lobbying, led by Powell, Washington picked up support for the resolution from key opponents of the US-led war against Iraq, including France, Russia and Germany.

A day earlier, the three countries had failed to get the US to include a timetable for restoring Iraq's sovereignty in the resolution.

The US also won backing from China and Pakistan, and finally—and most surprisingly—from Syria, the only Arab nation on the Security Council and a staunch opponent of the US-led war. Earlier Thursday, a US official had said an abstention by Syria, rather than a vote against, would be “a huge win.”

The resolution specifically authorizes a multinational force under US command and calls for troop contributions as well as “substantial pledges” from the 191 UN member states at a donors conference in Madrid, Spain, on October 23-24. *MSNBC News Service*.

FRAME THE LAWS OF NATIONS

“All society is ranging into two great classes, the obedient and the disobedient. Among which class shall we be found?

“Those who keep God's commandments, those who live not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, compose the church of the living God. Those who choose to follow Antichrist are subjects of the great apostate. Ranged under the banner of Satan, they break God's law, and lead others to break it. They endeavor so to frame the laws of nations that men shall show their loyalty to earthly governments by trampling upon the laws of God's kingdom.

“**Satan is diverting minds with unimportant questions**, in order that they shall not with clear and distinct vision see matters of vast importance. The enemy is planning to ensnare the world.

“The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, **after the example of the Papacy**. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. **Every nation will be involved**. Of this time John the Revelator declares:

““The merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her; for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow’ Revelation 18:3–7.

““These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful’ Revelation 17:13, 14.

““These have one mind.’ There will be a **universal bond of union**, one great harmony, a **confederacy of Satan's forces**. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the Papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, **all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah**. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Law-giver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 296–297.

SECULAR POPE?

[UN Secretary General Kofi] Annan's supporters are fond of referring to him as the “secular pope,” and the one way in which that does seem apt is that a surprising number of the people who are angry with Annan's institution tend to give him [personally] the benefit of the doubt. *Newsweek*, May 26, 2003.

A FALSE UNITY

The UN is nothing but a convenient tool, or an annoyance to us [the US] and is the only forum smaller countries have. They resent the administration's cavalier attitude toward the world body. *The Conservative Chronicle*, July 23, 2003.

NEVER BE ANY TRUE UNITY

"Jesus has said: 'The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.' **There will never be any true unity between or with those who stand under the banner of Satan.**" *Review and Herald*, July 24, 1894.

FALSE PROPHET'S COCKY ATTITUDE

"Rough road behind. Rough road ahead. Bring it on. . . . [T]he prize we seek, at this time in history, is a way of life. It's called freedom, liberty. Freedom is worth whatever it takes."—General Tommy Franks.

"CentCom will continue to take the fight to the enemy on his ground. . . . [W]e will defeat these terrorists who kill innocents."—General John Abizaid.

"There are some who feel like that conditions are such that they can attack us there. My answer is: Bring them on. We have the force necessary to deal with the situation."—President George Bush *The Federalist Chronicle*, July 9, 2003.

PRIDE IN POWER

A recent Harvard survey of more than 1,200 undergraduates found that 75% believe the military would "do the right thing" either "all of the time" or "most of the time." A quarter-century ago, that same question, addressed to roughly the same age cohort, yielded a positive response among just 20% of those surveyed. *U.S. News & World Report*, June 9, 2003.

CONGRESSMAN INTRODUCES ANTI-UN BILL

Texas Congressman Ron Paul has founded an organization called "The Liberty Committee," and introduced H.R. 1146, the *American Sovereignty Restoration Act* into Congress to "stop once and for all the 'American hating UN' from abusing the US."

"UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana has openly called the United Nations **'the ultimate power.'**"

"The UN is pushing for a Global IRS to keep tabs on every American citizen and his bank account. The UN wants an additional \$400 billion dollars a year in new taxes from you and me."

"The UN is fighting to make America submit to an evil UN Treaty written by radical feminists. This treaty would turn our military in a politically correct experiment of social engineering and gender quotas."

"The UN Court now claims to power to try our military men and women for 'crimes against humanity,' and the UN Court won't give them any of the protections of the *Bill of Rights*."

"And while the UN abuses our sovereignty, it has threatened to strip America's voting power if we don't pay millions of dollars in 'dues' they claim we owe." *The Liberty Committee solicitation letter*, June, 2003.

"We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. . . . The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants." *The Federalist Brief*, June 30, 2003.

DISORDER AND FREEDOM

Freedom's adversaries seek to create chaos and disorder, which can be just as effective as large armies. Disorder weakens resolve and creates doubt. *Conservative Chronicle*, July 30, 2003.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

“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.

CHOCOLATE CORRUPTS ELECTRICITY REGULATION

Electric power industry officials called it a “Night of Chocolate Decadence” when they threw a soiree early this month at the home of one of their lobbyists. The little gathering honored self-described chocoholic Sarah Reyes (D-Fresno), chairwoman of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. But its real point was not dessert. The guests, affiliated with the state’s largest utilities and energy companies, ponied up \$1,000 checks for Reyes’ campaign coffers, *The Times’* Virginia Ellis reported Monday. A bill to re-regulate the electric power industry, strongly opposed by the industry, died days later in the committee that Reyes chairs. *L.A. Times.com*, July 22, 2003.

“And the lamb-like horns, emblems of innocence and gentleness, well represent the character of our government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism. . . . But the enemy of all righteousness has designs upon God’s purpose for this country. He will bring in enterprises that will lead men to forget that there is a God. Worldliness and covetousness, which is idolatry, will prevail through the working of the archdeceiver, till the law of God, in all its bearings, shall be made void.” *Maranatha*, 193.

COURTS, CONSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

In a 6-1 decision, Nevada’s Supreme Court struck down the state’s constitutional requirement of a two-thirds vote from the legislature to increase taxes. When Governor Kenny Guinn (Republican? surely, he jests) could not arm-twist sufficient state representatives to meet the 2/3 requirement, he sued the legislature. The court tossed out the supermajority vote as “mere procedure” that “must yield” for funding for a “basic, substantive right” like public education. Thomas Jefferson warned, “In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.” But what to do when judges refuse to be bound by constitutions? *The Federalist Digest*, July 18, 2003.

“Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 441.

“One thing is certain: those who worked and voted for less government, the very foot soldiers in the conservative revolution, have been deceived. Today, the ideal of limited government has been abandoned by the GOP, and real conservatives find their views no longer matter.” *The Federalist Digest*, July 16, 2003.

POWER OF THE VOTE

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.—Plato

UNCHECKED DEMOCRACY

We have allowed our constitutional republic to deteriorate into a virtually unchecked direct democracy. Today’s political process is nothing more than a street fight between various groups seeking to vote themselves other people’s money. Individual voters tend to support the candidate that promises them the most federal loot in whatever form, rather than the candidate who will uphold the rule of law. *The Federalist Brief*, August 25, 2003.

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, followed always by a dictatorship. The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations has been 200 years.—Alexander Fraser Tyler.

TURNING LAWYERS INTO GOVERNMENT SPIES

When will the first lawyer be arrested, indicted and sent to prison for failing to help the government convict his client? You can bet it will be soon. Once the *Securities and Exchange Commission*, Internal Revenue Service and US *Department of Justice* (sic) complete their assault on the attorney-client privilege, they will rush to make an example of a lawyer, lest any fail to understand that their new role in life is to serve as government informants on their clients.

Just as government bureaucrats used the terrorist attacks of September 11 to assault the *Bill of Rights* and our constitutional protections, they are now using "accounting scandals" and "tax evasion" to assault the attorney-client privilege, a key component of the Anglo-American legal system that enables a defendant, whether guilty or innocent, to mount a defense against the overwhelming power of the state.

Many law-and-order conservatives believe that the function of the justice system is to convict defendants. Many have expressed their distaste of "lawyers who defend criminals." They overlook that it is the jury that determines whether the defendant is a criminal. If we assume that police and prosecutors are always right, there is no point of a trial.

These are the measures of a police state. Look around, fellow Americans, and recognize what the unbridled pursuit of criminals has placed on your "justice system." *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 20, 2003.

"The scenes of the betrayal, the rejection, and the crucifixion of Christ have been re-enacted, and will again be re-enacted on an immense scale." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 1106.

FADING REPUBLICANISM

Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie. . . said in no uncertain terms that "the days of Reaganesque Republican railings against the expansion of federal government are over. No longer does the Republican Party stand for shrinking the federal government, for scaling back its encroachment into the lives of Americans, or for carrying the banner of federalism into the political battles of the day. . . . The party's unofficial but clear message to conservatives is: Where else are you going to go?" *The Federalist Digest*, September 5, 2003.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTIONS

Many governing political leaders take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and then, once in office, proceed to eviscerate that Founding Document by supporting all manner of extra-constitutional actions. Likewise, many governing bishops take an oath to uphold Scripture and then, once in office, proceed to erode that Foundation by supporting all manner of extra-Scriptural actions. *The Federalist Digest*, August 8, 2003.

AMERICA'S MORAL CONFUSION: VATICAN'S MORAL CLARITY

To witness the moral confusion at the Minneapolis convention of the *American Episcopal Church* is to understand which way the wind is blowing. Gay rights has become the civil rights cause du-jour of our cultural elite, and politicians—those most reliable of weather vanes—are signaling recognition of the new correlation of forces. Asked his own views on the morality of homosexuality, the president himself bobbed and weaved, saying, "we are all sinners" and should "respect each individual."

The Vatican, however, seeing the movement gaining ground, has issued a document of moral clarity calling civil unions "gravely immoral" and homosexual acts "deviant," and urging Christian leaders to oppose homosexual marriages and adoptions. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 20, 2003.

Editor's Note: It is becoming easier to see on what basis the Papacy will one day be installed upon the throne of the world as its moral leader.

Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.—Benjamin Franklin.

US CITIZENS CAN BE “ENEMY COMBATANTS”

US District Judge Michael Mukasey in New York has ruled that the president has the power to jail US citizens captured on US soil as enemy combatants. *U.S. News & World Report*, May 12, 2003.

LIBERALISM

The ultimate loyalty of liberalism is not to the concrete realities of human life—one’s people, nation, religion, community and family—but to the Great Abstractions: Equality, Peace, Tolerance, Freedom (sometimes), Progress, Diversity. When your own country doesn’t measure up to them, loyalty to it is—well—negotiable. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 20, 2003.

ENFORCING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

America was colonized by people who came here precisely so they could live pious lives in complete conformity with biblical mandates, and we have strayed shamefully far from that purpose.

If we’re going to be true to that history and to the spirit of the Decalogue, its not enough to post these injunctions in a public place and invite passersby to read them. The state can ill afford to stop at merely displaying the Ten Commandments. It needs to begin enforcing them with all the powers at its disposal. *The Conservative Chronicle*, September 10, 2003.

Editor’s Note: Ominous. . . .

SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN PROGRESSES

Congress took a step Friday toward turning the nation’s capital city into the home of the first federally supported school voucher plan, an idea with implications across the country. The House narrowly endorsed private-school vouchers for poor District of Columbia students Friday, a plan likely to win final approval when the city’s budget comes to a vote next week. The Senate, too, will soon consider a plan to let district students attend private school at public expense. www.bayarea.com/ml/d/cctimes/news/6706960.htm , September 6, 2003.

DOLLAR PROBLEMS

Right now, foreigners hold almost half of US Treasury securities and 10% of US stocks. If they start selling, that could create problems. *WORLD*, May 31, 2003.

“ALARMING” RED GIANT

The Red Chinese may have been “helpful” in bringing the North Koreans to acceptance of six-way talks, but the Red Giant nation is still threat enough on its own demerits. The *Defense Department* has issued its annual analysis of the growing Chinese military threat. This year’s interest focuses on Chinese missile production, which is viewed as alarming, with an intent to keep open a possible takeover of Taiwan by force and surprise. *The Federalist Digest*, August 8, 2003.

And the nations were angry .
. . . Revelation 11:18.

US SUPREME COURT THINKS GLOBALLY

From the Left judiciary, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s address last week to the *American Constitution Society*, a Leftist lawyers lobby, identified an emerging trend in US courts to consider the decisions of foreign courts when making judicial rulings. Ginsburg and the other majority justices cited the decisions of foreign courts in their recent ruling that states may not punish consensual sodomy. Last year, the high court noted international opinion when ruling against the execution of the mentally retarded, and Ginsburg personally cited an international treaty in her position on the University of Michigan race-based admissions case. “Our island or lone ranger mentality is beginning to change,” Ginsburg stated, recently returned from a European conference to discuss the proposed EU Constitution.

Justices “are becoming more open to comparative and international law perspectives,” Ginsburg continued, though her colleague, Justice Antonin Scalia, noted in the same Texas sodomy case that the court should not “impose foreign moods, fads, or fashions on Americans.” *The Federalist Digest*, August 8, 2003.

US SUPREME COURT GOES GLOBAL

The utterings of self-important bureaucrats in the United Nations and Europe could be merely matters for TV humor if it were not that five members of the US Supreme Court take them seriously. To them, globalism means bending the US Constitution to conform to the opinions of foreigners who pompously enunciate new laws and new human rights.

One Justice speculated on ABC News on “the challenge” of whether our US Constitution “fits into the governing documents of other nations.” Where did he get the idea that the US Constitution should fit into the laws of other nations? If a country can’t make its own laws, how can it be a sovereign nation?

The Court has cited other court decisions from India, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights (which invalidated EU countries’ domestic sodomy laws), a former UN high commissioner for human rights, and other UN International Conventions. Instead of condemning the Court’s use of foreign courts to change US laws, A.P. Carlton jr., the president of the *American Bar Association*, opined, “**the concept of fundamental law knows no national boundaries.**”

It is obvious why Democrats filibuster judicial nominees they suspect of being a strict Constitutional constructionist. Democrats love an activist judiciary because court decisions can make fundamental changes against the will of US citizens and their elected representatives. It is also obvious why Democrats like UN treaties. Activist judges can use them to circumvent our Constitution and laws—and diminish US sovereignty. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 20, 2003.

US WORKS TO FEND OFF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The noble-sounding ICC presumes to punish four offenses: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crimes of aggression, although it has yet to define what that is. But since the court opened its doors for business in March this year, all the anxieties about the ICC being used for politically motivated prosecutions and as a global emergency room for international ambulance-chasers have proven to be right. Contrary to Anglo-American judicial tradition, the ICC recognizes no statute of limitations on its jurisdiction, and in typical UN over-reach and pretension, the court claims jurisdiction over countries that are not even signatories.

The ICC is not yet six months old, and it is already being used as a forum for interfering in, and impeding, the legitimate actions of sovereign states. There are more than 500 complaints filed with the court thus far. The flood of anti-American legal activity inspired by the ICC is complicating an already difficult diplomatic environment as the United States tries to respond to challenges in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Liberia—and fights a global war on terrorism.

In order to protect US military commanders from the ICC, the Bush administration has been forced to negotiate bilateral accords with 53 countries (and counting) in which US forces are stationed or deployed, in order to guarantee their immunity from the ICC, and the Bush administration has suspended over \$70 million in aid to 35 countries for refusing to grant ICC immunity to US citizens. And also, as a pre-condition of US participation in the current Liberian peacekeeping mission, the US required that the UN “immunize” American military personnel from prosecution by the ICC.

All of the measures to protect American citizens have been met with extraordinary hostility at the UN, where criticism of the US is unabated. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 20, 2003.

EUROPE MOVES TOWARD ISSUING PASSPORTS WITH DATA CHIPS

European Union governments may soon issue passports containing computer chips embedded with digital fingerprints or eye scans, according to a plan approved by European leaders. The "biometric" data would enable police officers to verify the authenticity of European passports, which have been counterfeited in significant numbers in recent years, officials said at their three-day summit meeting. The chips would also be implanted in visas given to non-citizens of the European Union, making it easier for governments to keep track of foreigners as they travel through borderless Europe.

The plan is just one of a series of agreements announced by European leaders in a package of measures intended to coordinate the European Union's immigration policies. But it could also become one of the most controversial. Privacy advocates oppose the computer chip idea, saying it could lead governments to track individuals more closely with detailed personal information.

An official from the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm, said the union's governments are bound by a timetable set out by the United States government after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Under the United States' *Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002*, countries whose citizens enjoy visa-free travel to the US—as is the case with most if not all of Western Europe—must issue passports with biometric identifiers no later than October 26, 2004.

The US, which does not require its citizens to carry identification cards, has for years used biometric "crossing cards" to help police its border with Mexico. US embassies and consulates in Mexico have issued six million such cards since 1998. The cards include a digital photograph and two electronically collected index fingerprints, which can be checked against a government database of individuals caught violating immigration laws. *The New York Times*, June 20, 2003.

AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF SODOM. . .

"PERCEIVED GENDER" LAW IN CALIFORNIA

California Assembly Bill 196 (Leno) Redefines term *gender* to include "perceived gender." Allows fines up to \$150,000 against employers (religious businesses, Boy Scout councils would be affected) that refuse to hire individuals on the basis of gender as perceived from the "victim's point of view," which could include cross-dressers and transsexuals. Passed Assembly floor on 42-34 vote on April 21st. Passed Senate floor on July-24-03 and then signed by the governor. *Assemblyman Ray Haynes' Monday Morning Memorandum*, September 2, 2003.

For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. Ephesians 5:12.

NEW CALIF. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW WILL IMPACT CHURCHES

California governor Gray Davis also signed AB 196, a new law prohibiting housing and job discrimination against "transgendered" persons. Even those with religious conscience objections to cross-dressing and sex changes are bound by the provisions, including churches. The fine for violating the "anti-discrimination" law is \$150,000. *The Federalist Digest*.

SUPREME COURT DECISION WILL AWAKEN THE SLEEPING GIANT

In a sharply divided opinion, the Supreme Court struck down a Texas law that banned same-sex sodomy. The Court, in a 6-3 opinion, found that the law violated the right to privacy. *Liberty Counsel*, which filed an amicus brief urging the Court to uphold the law, stated that today's decision will awaken the sleeping giant of the majority of Americans who will fight even harder to preserve traditional marriage. Today's decision . . . will galvanize and reinvigorate the majority of Americans who believe in traditional marriage but have ignored the radical agenda of the same-sex marriage movement. From a *Liberty Counsel solicitation letter*, June 26, 2003.

One federal judge has placed the Ten Commandments in a closet. That came after the US Supreme Court recently welcomed everything else out of the closet.—Tony Perkins, president of the *Family Research Council*.

PSYCHIATRIC JUNK SCIENCE

Lest you think the culture war's battle over coerced acceptance of homosexuality is overblown as a threat, the next fight in the political conquest to upend sexual morality is already in opening salvos. Meeting in San Francisco recently, members of the *American Psychiatric Association* entertained a serious discussion over removing pedophilia and other such sexual aberrations (including sadomasochism, exhibitionism, fetishism, transvestism, and voyeurism) from their *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM). Leading the argument to normalize these sexually aberrant "paraphilias," Charles Moser and Peggy Kleinplatz admitted they follow the model of normalizing homosexuality: "The situation of the paraphilias at present parallels that of homosexuality in the early 1970s. Without the support or political astuteness of those who fought for the removal of homosexuality, the paraphilias continue to be listed in the DSM."

Got that? Translation: Child abusers and sadists simply haven't yet had the lobbying savvy and clout of the homosexual agenda activists. Bottom line: Now that the mental-health professions have jettisoned the notion of moral disorders, mental disorders based in moral dysfunctions have to go, too. *The Federalist Digest*, August 8, 2003.

The system of revealed truth which this Book [the Bible] contains is like that of the universe, concealed from common observation yet. . . the centuries have established its Divine origin. —Sir Isaac Newton.

THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Interview With Allan Panozza, September 30, 2003—In "a world that has lost the vision of God," the mission of the *Catholic Charismatic Renewal* is to make the essence of its experience known: knowledge of Jesus Christ. So says Allan Panozza, president of *International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services* (ICCRS).

From September 20–25, more than 1,000 delegates of *Catholic Charismatic Renewal* took part in a retreat here, led by Papal Household preacher Father Raniero Cantalamessa. Cardinal James Francis Stafford and Bishop Stanislaw Rylko, president and secretary, respectively, of the Pontifical Council for the Laity were among the guests at the event called by ICCRS.

Q: From ICCRS' perspective, what is the present situation of *Catholic Charismatic Renewal* in the world?

Panozza: I believe that Charismatic Renewal is a work of God. More than 100 million Catholics have lived through the experience of the effusion or baptism in the Spirit within the Renewal. God's work never fails, and the Spirit of God is at work.

The majority of Catholic Charismatics are in Latin America. It is estimated that around 60 million people are actively involved in Charismatic Renewal in that part of the world. However, in other countries, especially in Africa and Asia, Charismatic Renewal is strong and growing rapidly. In my country, Australia, Charismatic Renewal is very active.

I think the growth of Charismatic Renewal is due to the fact that it arose from the heart of the Church and we believe that heart is Jesus Christ. The most important grace of baptism in the Spirit is that it leads us to a more profound relation with the Lord. Jesus is the living heart of the Church and Charismatic Renewal is at the heart of the Church, where Jesus is.

Charismatic Renewal greatly appreciates the Holy Father. Moreover, ICCRS is working very closely with the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Q: After these days of meeting and retreat with more than 1,000 delegates from all over the world, what challenges do the participants see for Charismatic Renewal in the world and in the Church?

Panozza: I think it is akin to what it was in the early Church, when Jesus worked miracles and the Holy Spirit was felt. Many people did not understand it, and sometimes what is not understood is queried.

One of the problems facing Charismatic Renewal refers to the nature of charisms: because of their spectacular nature, many Catholics do not know what to make of Charismatic Renewal; they are uncertain.

They often ask me: "What does the Church think of Charismatic Renewal?" "What does the Pope think of the Renewal?" "What is ICCRS?"

The Vatican gave ICCRS its statutes in 1993, with a mandate of the Holy See: to serve Charismatic Renewal throughout the world. It is the reason for our existence. We have relations with Charismatic entities in 220 countries.

And although Charismatic Renewal is strong, there is always an element of uncertainty within the Church due to lack of understanding of this "current of grace." This is also true of priests. If a priest realized the power that the effusion of the Spirit has in baptism . . .

I often say to priests: "The best audience you will have are the Charismatics, because they are very open, they are hungry, they love the Church enormously and are very supportive of priests."

The world has lost the vision of God. Because of this, I think that the other great objective of Charismatic Renewal is to bring the world to a knowledge of Jesus. Although this is the Good News, the world to a great extent does not want to know it.

In regard to evangelization, two-thirds of the world have never heard the name of Jesus. We have a great task before us in Charismatic Renewal and in the Church.

Q: Does ICCRS work with the ecclesial movements?

Panozza: The majority of movements have arisen in the Church since *Vatican Council II*, although there are exceptions, as is the case of the Focolare Movement, which started in 1943. Charismatic Renewal has started to work very intensely with the movements to serve the Church.

To my mind, the Catholic flag is flying. We are living at a time when the Catholic Church and the priesthood are under intense attack. And the movements give us a very powerful antidote.

For the past four years, in Australia, my country, we and the *Focolares* have gathered all the movements of the Church at Pentecost. This year, we had 35 different movements cooperating and working together to present each one's view of the charisms, all varied but combined in a Church in action. I think the movements are, in fact, the Church in action.

Q: Does ICCRS have ecumenical perspectives in its work?

Panozza: *Catholic Charismatic Renewal* has been in the vanguard of relations with Pentecostal movements. For the last 19 years we have had annual ecumenical meetings, not only with the principal Movements, but also with Pentecostal denominations for great celebrations on the feast of Pentecost.

Through the Renewal, and especially through love of the Word of God, we have found a common ground to agree on what unites us—which is Jesus—as opposed to what divides us, which is doctrinal. Eventually, when we become centered in Jesus—in God's time, not ours—I think the Church will be one.

According to the documents of Vatican Council II, it is the responsibility of Catholics to take the initiative. We cannot wait for separated brothers to come to us and say: "We want what you have." It must be our initiative, and the Holy Father says so. And, in fact, we do in our Church with those who have lost the faith. First, Jesus must be presented, and then the sacramental life in order to attract them once again to the Church.

Q: What was the atmosphere like in this international retreat of Catholic Charismatic Renewal?

Panozza: More than 1,000 people from 73 countries participated in this meeting. I think that the joy and spirit of unity and love experienced was contagious. And we want to spread this love of Jesus throughout the world. *Zenit.org*

"Spiritualism is about to take the world captive. There are many who think that Spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture; but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of Spiritualism in the future." *Signs of the Times*, May 28, 1894.

POLITICAL ROW SIMMERS IN SLOVAKIA OVER PACT WITH VATICAN

Under pressure from one of its minority coalition partners, the government of Slovakia has agreed to submit for parliamentary approval a pact with the Vatican whereby religious education would be introduced in state schools starting in the earliest years. The agreement on religious instruction, part of a larger package of agreements with the Vatican in the predominantly Roman Catholic country, was to be signed into force before the visit to Slovakia of Pope John Paul II. *ENI*

THE VATICAN AND EUROPE

Rome, October, 2003—European leaders will gather this weekend to renew their discussion of a proposed constitution for the European Union. And Vatican officials are still lobbying energetically for an explicit recognition of the continent's Christian heritage.

The "intergovernment conference" that opens in Rome on October 4 is charged with producing a final draft of the constitution, to be ratified by the member states. For months the Vatican has been urging European leaders to amend the existing draft, in order to recognize the Christian faith.

In recent weeks, as the intergovernment conference has approached, the diplomatic activity of the Holy See has become more discreet, but no less vigorous.

During the months of July and August, Pope John Paul II (bio-news) made a point of emphasizing Europe's Christian heritage during every Sunday audience. He insisted that the political leaders of the European Union must "safeguard an essential part of the spiritual and cultural patrimony." And during his recent public trips to European countries he has emphasized the same line of thought.

The Holy Father has warned that if the European Union is based on nothing more than shared economic interests, it will be a severely weakened body. "Great wealth," he cautioned, "can also cause great poverty." In his apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in Europa*, the Pope sketched a grim picture of a European society that "rejects God," and "has lost the memory of its Christian heritage."

Since mid-September, however, the Holy See has not issued new public statements about the European constitution. The reason for this comparative silence, an informed source reports, is to avoid charges that the Vatican is "interfering" in the decision of the 25 states that will be represented at the intergovernment conference in Rome.

Still, any careful observer can see that the Vatican is still working toward the same diplomatic goal. Nearly every day during the month of September, *L'Osservatore Romano* has repeated the phrase: "Europe is Christian, or it is not Europe." And the Vatican daily has reprinted a series of old addresses by Pope John Paul II on the subject of Europe's spiritual heritage. The latest draft version of the European constitution, in its preamble, offers only a vague reference to "the cultural, religious, and humanist heritage of Europe;" the Christian faith is not specifically mentioned. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls has suggested that the phrase could be altered simply by adding that this heritage is "primarily Christian." He has said that at least 11 European nations have indicated that they would approve such an amendment. However, Italy's President Silvio Berlusconi has revealed that he is far less certain that such an approach would win the necessary support. Berlusconi—who has sided with the Vatican on the issue—indicated that Spain, Ireland, and Poland will join Italy in support of the Vatican's ideas. But he added: "We will represent that request, but realistically I do not think that it will be accepted by 25 countries." *CWNews.com*

VATICAN PAPER ON EUROPE IGNORES INTER-CHURCH LINKS SAYS ECUMENICAL LEADER

The general secretary of the Conference of European Churches, Keith Clements, has warned that a recent Vatican document about the Roman Catholic Church in Europe could prove a setback to ecumenism. Clements was responding to the *Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in Europa* (the Church in Europe), an authoritative statement issued by Pope John Paul II in June. *ENI*

POPE WARNS ANGLICAN LEADER

Vatican, October 6—Pope John Paul II met on Saturday with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and warned him of “new and serious difficulties” in Catholic-Anglican relations.

Archbishop Rowan Williams, the worldwide leader of the Anglican communion, met with the Holy Father for the first time on October 4 at the Vatican. The Pope told the new Anglican leader that despite the firm commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenical progress, recent steps by the Church of England on “essential matters of faith and morals” had created new difficulties. He was obviously referring to the Anglican decisions to ordain women as priests and to ordain openly homosexual bishops.

The Pope thanked Archbishop Williams—the fourth Anglican primate with whom he has met during his pontificate—for the visit, which keeps alive a tradition of meetings between the Bishop of Rome and the Archbishop of Canterbury. That tradition, John Paul observed, dates back to the 6th century, when Pope Gregory the Great named St. Augustine as the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

The relationship between Rome and Canterbury was entirely severed for several centuries, the Pope continued, but its restoration has begun in the past few decades. “As we give thanks for the progress that has already been made,” the Pontiff said, “we must also recognize the new and serious difficulties that have arisen on the path to unity.” He urged the Anglican leader to recognize that in an age dominated by secularism, “the Church must ensure that the deposit of faith is proclaimed in its integrity and preserved from erroneous and misguided interpretations.”

Archbishop Williams, in his turn, praised the Pope for his long years of commitment to “a patient and fraternal dialogue on the Petrine ministry, a sign of generosity and openness.” In a press conference that following his 12-minute private talk with the Holy Father, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the crisis that has arisen within the Anglican communion since the appointment of an openly homosexual bishop in the United States. “We are conscious of the ecumenical implications,” he told reporters in Rome. “During these days in Rome we have listened attentively to what we have been told.” Prior to his meeting with Pope John Paul, Archbishop Williams had received a similar admonition from Cardinal Walter Kasper, the president of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, who had reminded him that the ordination of homosexual bishops posed problems not only for Anglicans, but for the Christian community in general.

The new Archbishop of Canterbury—who was installed in February—has summoned the leaders of the worldwide Anglican communion to a general discussion of the crisis that they face. Several leading Anglican primates, particularly in Africa, have threatened to break with the Church of England over the acceptance of homosexuality.

Shortly before completing his own term as Archbishop of Canterbury, Williams’ predecessor, Dr. George Carey, has warned that disagreements over sexual morality were threatening to sunder the Anglican communion. *CWNNews.com*

SHOULD WORK TOGETHER EVERY TIME

Dr. John Graz, *Public Affairs and Religious Liberty* director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, brought the greetings of 13 million Adventists to the *Lutheran World Federation’s* tenth Assembly held in late July. He said it was a privilege and honor to bring greetings from the world church, whose members hold the work of Martin Luther in high regard. Dr. Graz quoted a statement from Pastor Jan Paulson, president of the world church, in which he said conversations between the two communions “continue to produce positive effects” and “encouragement for those who want to have not only good relations with other Christians, but who believe that we are all Jesus’ disciples and should work together every time.” *Adventist News Network*, August 5, 2003.

Principle Never to Be Sacrificed for Peace.

There always have been and always will be two classes on the earth to the end of time,—the believers in Jesus, and those who reject him. Sinners, however wicked, abominable, and corrupt, by faith in him will be purified, made clean, through the doing of his word. The truth will be a savor of life unto life to those who believe, but the same truth will be to the unbeliever a savor of death unto death. Those who reject Christ and refuse to believe the truth, will be filled with bitterness against those who accept Jesus as a personal Saviour. But those who receive Christ are melted and subdued by the manifestation of his love in his humiliation, suffering, and death in their behalf. They behold him as their substitute and surety, as pledging himself to accomplish their full salvation through a plan that is consistent with the justice of God, and which vindicates the honor of his law. The presentation of the love of God has a convincing power above that of argument, controversy, and debate, and drops the seed of gospel truth in the heart. The fact that Jesus, innocent and pure, should suffer, that God should lay all his wrath upon the head of his dear Son, that the guiltless should bear the punishment of the guilty, the just endure the penalty of sin for the unjust, breaks the heart; and as Jesus is lifted up, conviction strikes to the soul, and the love that prompted the bestowal of the infinite gift of Christ, constrains the sinner to surrender all to God.

But how different is the case of him who refuses to receive the salvation purchased for him at infinite cost. He refuses to look upon the humiliation and love of Jesus. He plainly says, "I will not have this man to reign over me." To all who take this attitude, Jesus says, "I came not to send peace, but a sword." Families must be divided in order that all who call upon the name of the Lord may be saved. All who refuse his infinite love will find Christianity a sword, a disturber of their peace. The light of Christ will cut away the darkness that covers their evil doings, and their corruption, their fraud, and cruelty, will be exposed. Christianity unmask the hypocrisies of Satan, and it is this unmasking of his designs that stirs his bitter hatred against Christ and his followers.

It is impossible for any one to become a true follower of Jesus Christ, without distinguishing himself from the worldly mass of unbelievers. If the world would accept of Jesus, then there would be no sword of dissension; for all would be disciples of Christ and in fellowship one with another, and their unity would be unbroken. But this is not the case. Here and there an individual member of a family is true to the convictions of his conscience, and is compelled to stand alone in his family or in the church to which he belongs, and is finally compelled, because of the course of those with whom he associates, to separate himself from their companionship. The line of demarkation is made distinct. **One stands upon the word of God, the others upon the traditions and sayings of men.**

In one of his confidential talks with his disciples, a short time before his crucifixion, Jesus bequeathed to his followers his legacy of peace. He said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The peace that Christ gave to his disciples, and for which we pray, is the peace that is born of truth, a peace that is not to be quenched because of division. Without may be wars and fightings, jealousies, envies, hatred, strife; but the peace of Christ is not that which the world giveth or taketh away. It could endure amid the hunting of spies and the fiercest opposition of his enemies. His peace was that which was born of love toward those who were plotting for his death. His deep love did not lead him to cry, Peace and safety, when there was no peace for the sinner. Christ did not for an instant seek to purchase peace by a betrayal of sacred trusts. **Peace could not be made by a compromise of principles; and his followers must often proclaim a message that is directly in opposition to the people's sins, prejudices, and customs. They will be called upon to reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine.** The heart of Jesus was overflowing with love to every human being that he had made, and this love should have been discerned by those he came to save, inasmuch as he became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. Christ understands the strength of Satan's temptations; for he was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. But he never lessened the guilt of sin. He was the Saviour, the Redeemer, and came to save his people from their sins.

Jesus could have been at peace with the world only by leaving the transgressors of the law unreprieved, unrebuked. This he could not do; for he was to take away the sins of the world. Those who are faithful sentinels will be charged by the world as being the disturbers of its peace, they will be charged with stirring up strife and with creating divisions. But they will only be bearing the reproach that fell on Christ. Christ denounced unrighteousness, and his very presence was a rebuke to sin. The atmosphere that surrounded his soul was so pure, so elevated, that it placed the hypocritical rabbis, priests, and rulers in their true position, and revealed them in their true character as claiming sanctity, and at the same time misrepresenting God and his truth. In the rich loveliness of the character of Christ, zeal for God was always apparent. His righteousness went before him, and the glory of the Lord was rearward. He hated one thing only, and that was sin. But the world loved sin and hated righteousness, and this was the cause of the hostility of the world to Jesus. If Christ had given license to men to exercise their evil passions, they would have hailed this great miracle-worker with shouts of applause; but when he reproved sin, made open war upon selfishness, oppression, hypocrisy, pride, covetousness, and lust, they said, Away with this fellow, and give us Barabbas.

Jesus has said:””The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” **There will never be any true unity between or with those who stand under the banner of Satan.** The followers of Christ may follow the things that make for peace, they may earnestly desire to overcome the spirit of discord with the spirit of kindness and love, but the enemy will stir up his agents to bring about strife and division. It is **a grave mistake on the part of those who are children of God to seek to bridge the gulf that separates the children of light from the children of darkness by yielding principle, by compromising the truth.** It would be surrendering the peace of Christ in order to make peace or fraternize with the world. The sacrifice is too costly to be made by the children of God to make peace with the world by giving up the principles of truth. Those who have the mind of Christ will let that light shine forth to the world in good works, but that light will bring about a division. Shall the light, therefore, be hid under a bed or under a bushel, because it will mark a distinction between the followers of Christ and the world? It was the purity of the character of Christ that stirred up the enmity of a profligate world. His spotless righteousness was a continual rebuke to their sin and uncleanness; but no principle of truth was compromised by Christ to win the favor of the world. Then **let the followers of Christ settle it in their minds that they will never compromise truth, never yield one iota of principle for the favor of the world.** Let them hold to the peace of Christ. *Review and Herald*, July 24, 1894.

THE ORIGIN OF THE STATE

It is certain that if the two greatest of all the commandments had always been observed by all men, there never could have been a State on the earth.

There would have been society, but no State. The government would have been altogether the government of God; He, the only King, the only Governor, on earth even as in heaven.

There would have been society, but no State. Because, men loving God with all the heart, and all the soul, and all the mind, and all the strength, and their neighbors as themselves, the will of God would have been done on earth even as in heaven. All would have been one united, harmonious, happy, holy family.

There is an essential distinction between society and the State.

“Society is the union which exists between men, without distinction of frontiers--without exterior restraint--and for the sole reason that they are men.

“The civil society or State is an assemblage of men subject to a common authority, to common laws,-- that is to say, a society whose members may be constrained by public force to respect their reciprocal rights. Two necessary elements enter into the idea of the State: **laws and force.**”--Janet, *Elements of Morals*, 143.

This distinction, however, though clear and easily evident, is seldom recognized. Indeed, it is not recognized at all by those who are anxious to secure the union of religion and the State.

But men did not observe these two “first of all the commandments.” They would not love God with all their heart; they would not love their neighbors as themselves. They rejected God as their only ruler, their only sovereign, and became ambitious to rule over one another. And thus originated politics and the State.

The Scripture outlines the story of this: “When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.” “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind.” Romans 1:21-25, 28.

Note that at the first men did know God. But they chose not to glorify Him, not to honor Him, not to give Him the first place in all their thoughts and actions. Knowing God, they did not like to retain Him in their knowledge.

The next step was that they became vain in their own imaginations. They professed themselves to be wise, of themselves. The consequence was that they became fools; and their foolish heart was darkened.

In their vain imaginations they made gods of their own. And then to assist themselves in their worship, they made images of the gods which they had imagined.

The image was always the outward, tangible form of the god which they had already conceived in the imagination. Imagining is simply mental image-ing. The outward form of the god, whether it be the shining sun in the heavens or a hideously-shaped block of wood or stone, is only the outward form of the image-ing that has already been performed in the imagination.

Thus, from the knowledge of the true God, they went to the worship of false gods. From the light, they went into darkness. From righteousness, they went to wickedness.

This is the truth. And the records of the earliest nations witness to it. The earliest records--those of the plain of Shinar—witness that the people at first had a knowledge of the true God. The records of the next two of the earliest nations, Egypt and Assyria, bear witness to this same thing.

In all these places the earliest records testify that the gods were their first rulers and the real kings; while men, in the places of authority, were but the servants, the viceroys, of the gods who were held to be the real kings.

For instance, one of the earliest records from Shinar runs thus: “To [the god] Ninridu, his King, for the preservation of Idadu, viceroy of Ridu, the servant, the delight of Ninridu.” Another: “To [the god] Ninip the King, his King, Gudea, viceroy of [the god] Zirgulla, his house built.” Another: “To Nana, the lady, lady splendid, his lady, Gudea, viceroy of Zirgulla . . . raised.” *Empires of the Bible*, chap. 6, par. 3, 4.

These are not only the earliest of the records that have been found in that land, but they themselves show that they are of the earliest records that were made in that land. And they clearly testify of a time when there were no kings amongst men. The gods were the kings; and the men in authority claimed only to be the viceroys of the gods who were held to be the real kings.

And all this testifies of a time further back, when the people knew and recognized God as the only king and rightful ruler of men. They show also that this knowledge of God was so recent, and still so strong upon the minds of the people, that men who stood in places of authority had not the boldness to assume the title of king, even though they held the power.

The records of Egypt and Assyria testify precisely to these same things. And at that time, also, there was no State. There was society.

There came a time, however, when even this lingering knowledge of God as king and the only rightful ruler, was cut off; and the man himself assumed the full title and prerogatives of king.

The first man to do this was Nimrod. Nimrod was the first man in the world who had the boldness to take to himself the title and prerogative of king, in the face of the yet lingering idea of God as king. And the name which he bears itself testifies to the fact that his action in this was considered by men, and also by the Lord, as precisely the bold thing which is here indicated. The word “Nimrod” “signifies rebellion, supercilious contempt, and is equivalent to ‘the extremely impious rebel.’”

The Bible record of Nimrod is that “he began to be a mighty one in the earth.” Another translation reads: “Cush begat Nimrod, who was the first to be a despot on the earth. He was an overbearing tyrant in Jehovah’s sight; wherefore the saying, Even as Nimrod, the overbearing tyrant in Jehovah’s sight.” Genesis 10:8, 9.

That is, Nimrod was the first one to establish the might, the power, the authority, of human government, in the form of an organized State. He was the first man to assert the power and prerogatives, and assume the title, of king over men. “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

Consequently: “With the setting up of Nimrod’s kingdom, the entire ancient world entered a new historical phase. The oriental tradition which makes that warrior the first man who wore a kingly crown, points to a fact more significant than the assumption of a new ornament of dress, or even the conquest of a province. His reign introduced to the world a new system of relations between the governor and the governed. The authority of former rulers rested upon the feeling of kindred; and the ascendancy of the chief was an image of parental control. Nimrod, on the contrary, was a sovereign of territory, and of men just so far as they were its inhabitants, and irrespective of personal ties. Hitherto there had been tribes—enlarged families—society: now there was a nation, a political community—THE STATE. The political and social history of the world henceforth are distinct, if not divergent.” *Empires of the Bible*, chap. 6, par. 7.

Such was the true origin of the State. The State was, and is, the result of the apostasy of men from God. Such only could possibly be its origin; for if all men had always observed the two “first of all the commandments,” it would have been impossible for there ever to have been any State. There could have been no human authority exercised. All would have been equally subject to God; He would have been the only sovereign.

Before Nimrod there was society. Respect of the rights of persons and of their property was maintained. It was only when the apostasy grew, and men got farther and farther from God, that the monarchical idea was established and personified in Nimrod.

Let no one misunderstand. This is not to say, nor even to imply, that there should now be no human government, that there should be no State, nor even that there should be no monarchy. It is simply to say that which is the truth, that if there never had been any apostasy from God, there never could have been on earth a State, nor any human government.

It is true that these things are the consequences of the apostasy from God. But men having apostatized from God, these things all, even to such monarchy as that of Nimrod or of Nero, became necessary, just in proportion to the degree of apostasy.

It is better that there should be a government, bad as it may be, than that there should be no government at all. Even such a government as Nimrod's or Nero's is better than none at all. But without apostasy there could never have been any human government at all; and without the apostasy having gone to a fearful length, there never could have been any such government as Nimrod's or Nero's.

Nimrod's example was eagerly followed by all the tribes around, until they were all absorbed in it. Society had passed away, and only States remained; and these universally idolatrous. In all that region, only Abraham believed God, even his own parents being idolaters. “They served other gods.” Joshua 24:2.

God chose Abraham then to be the father of all them that believed God; the father of all who will have God alone to be their God. Abraham represented then the religion of God, the beginning of the church of God.

And from that State God separated Abraham. He said to Abraham, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, into a land that I will show thee.” Genesis 12:1.

And in thus separating Abraham from that State, from his country, God taught the people then, and through all time, the separation of religion and the State, the separation of Church and State.

And it must not be forgotten that in the case of Abraham, this universal example, the separation of religion and the State, was the separation of the individual believer from the State. And as Abraham was at that time the church, and he was separated from the State, in this it is plainly taught that the true separation of Church and State is in the separation of the individual church-member from the State. Besides, it is perfectly plain in itself that where the same individual is a member of the Church and of the State at the same time, there is at once in him a union of Church and State. *Christian Patriotism or Religion and the State*, 10–18, Alonzo T. Jones.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS and the United Nations Role

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of timebound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they are now called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a wide range of commitments in human rights, good governance and democracy. At the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, earlier this year, leaders from both developed and developing countries started to match these commitments with resources and action, signalling a global deal in which sustained political and economic reform by developing countries will be matched by direct support from the developed world in the form of aid, trade, debt relief and investment.

The MDGs provide a framework for the entire UN system to work coherently together towards a common end. The UN Development Group (UNDG) will help ensure that the MDGs remain at the centre of those efforts. On the ground in virtually every developing country, the UN is uniquely positioned to advocate for change, connect countries to knowledge and resources, and help coordinate broader efforts at the country level.

The world is making progress toward the MDGs—but it is uneven and too slow. A large majority of nations will reach the MDGs only if they get substantial support—advocacy, expertise and resources—from outside. The challenges for the global community, in both the developed and developing world, are to mobilize financial support and political will, re-engage governments, re-orient development priorities and policies, build capacity and reach out to partners in civil society and the private sector.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked United Nations Development Programme Administrator Mark Malloch Brown, as Chair of the UNDG, to coordinate the MDG campaign and country-level monitoring activities. This means working on four key dimensions: Practical assistance in support of country priorities: The UN is helping to integrate the MDGs into all aspects of its work at the country level, in response to the priorities identified by each country.

UN staff and country teams are working closely with a steadily expanding circle of partners who are supporting developing nations with practical advice and assistance in designing policies and programmes, building capacity and testing innovations, as these countries map out their own paths to reach the Goals. Country-level Monitoring: UN agencies, the OECD Development Assistance Committee and, in many cases, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, are working to support MDG reports for every developing country. These reports, which are in a growing number of cases the product of collaboration between a country's government, the private sector and civil society, highlight where countries are on track to meet the Goals, where urgent efforts are needed, and how money is being spent. Nine MDG reports have been completed, about 40 are expected to be ready by the end of 2002, and nearly every developing country is planning to produce its first by the end of 2004.

IMPLEMENTING THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

United Nations FACT SHEET

Global Monitoring: These country-level reports will complement the UN Secretary-General's global reports on implementing the Millennium Declaration, the first of which will be presented to the General Assembly in October 2002. These global reports include a chapter on the MDGs and summary statistics for all the MDGs, aggregated at the global or regional level. Drawing on inputs from the entire UN family of agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and from the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO and the OECD, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs coordinates data analysis and maintains a comprehensive data basis of global level statistics.

Research leader: Currently being set up is the UN Millennium Research Project, which will generate new research and ideas by mobilizing networks of scholars from developing and developed countries, working with experts from within the UN system. Headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the MDGs, this global effort will help identify what is needed—in terms of policy, expanded capacity, required investments and financing — for countries to meet all the Goals.

Advocate: The UN system and its international and civil society partners are aiming to spearhead a series of awareness-raising Millennium Campaigns within countries, based on national strategies and needs. In the developed countries, the campaigns' primary focus will be on galvanizing public opinion as a means to boost development assistance, trade, debt relief, technology and other support needed to achieve the MDGs. In the developing world, the aim is to build coalitions for action and help governments set priorities, including in their budgets, and use resources more effectively.

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2015

HALVE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

1.2 billion people still live on less than \$1 a day. But 43 countries, with more than 60 per cent of the world's people, have already met or are on track to meet the goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015.

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

113 million children do not attend school, but this goal is within reach; India, for example, should have 95 per cent of its children in school by 2005.

EMPOWER WOMEN AND PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

Two-thirds of the world's illiterates are women, and 80 per cent of its refugees are women and children. Since the 1997 Microcredit Summit, progress has been made in reaching and empowering poor women, nearly 19 million in 2000 alone.

REDUCE UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY BY TWO THIRDS

11 million young children die every year, but that number is down from 15 million in 1980.

REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY BY THREE QUARTERS

In the developing world, the risk of dying in childbirth is one in 48. But virtually all countries now have safe motherhood programmes and are poised for progress

REVERSE THE SPREAD OF DISEASES, ESPECIALLY HIV/AIDS AND MALARIA

Killer diseases have erased a generation of development gains. Countries like Brazil, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda have shown that we can stop HIV in its tracks.

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

More than one billion people still lack access to safe drinking water; however, during the 1990s, nearly one billion people gained access to safe water and as many to sanitation.

CREATE A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT, WITH TARGETS FOR AID, TRADE AND DEBT RELIEF

Too many developing countries are spending more on debt service than on social services. New aid commitments made in the/ first half of 2002 alone, though, will reach an additional \$12 billion per year by 2006.

“‘These have one mind.’ There will be **a universal bond of union**, one great harmony, **a confederacy of Satan’s forces**. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the Papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God’s people, **all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah**. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Law-giver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 297.