

Future News

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I WILL COME AGAIN

A little time is given that the inhabitants of the world may hear the warning, and that those who will may prepare for the coming of the great king. We must not be like the foolish virgins. They did not provide oil for their lamps, and at the very time when the cry was raised, 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh,' their lights burned dim and went out. Are there not many who are pursuing the same unwise course? They profess to be followers of Jesus, but they are making no preparation for his glorious appearing and kingdom. They go on, taken up with the affairs of this world, and have no realization of the great events about to come to pass.

"Christ warned us in view of this very time that we should not be engrossed in the cares of the world, to the neglect of eternal interests; but how many of us allow the things of this life to interpose between our souls and the great gift of Heaven. How few are living for the glory of God and the good of humanity. How few are telling their children of the love of Christ, of the mansions of Heaven, of the necessity of faith and obedience. How few are warning their friends and neighbors of the fast-hastening Judgment. My heart is pained with the thought of the ingratitude of man to his Maker, and the indifference of souls to their dearly-purchased salvation. We are warned that if we do not watch and pray, the day of final reckoning will overtake us as a thief in the night, and our portion will be appointed with the hypocrites and unbelievers. 'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day.' There is every provision made that we may have the light, and there will be no excuse in the day of God if we are overtaken in our sins. Sorrow and woe await those who do not heed the instructions of the word of life; but what joy is in store for those who have made preparation for the coming of their Lord! They will be changed from mortality to immortality. They will see the King in his beauty, and reflect his image. They will be caught up to be forever with the Lord." *The Signs of the Times*, January 27, 1888.

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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.

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Readers' Response

Jeff,

I have always been a bit perplexed whenever anti-SDA fanatics (The SDA church is Babylon) use the following Ellen White quote:

"That these men should stand in a sacred place, to be as the voice of God to the people, as we once believed the General Conference to be—that is past." *Last Day Events*, 50.

I knew that Ellen White did not keep that opinion all the rest of her life and now I have finally found the statement that balances out her earlier one:

"At times, when a small group of men entrusted with the general management of the work have, in the name of the General Conference, sought to carry out unwise plans and to restrict God's work, I have said that I could no longer regard the voice of the General Conference, represented by these few men, as the voice of God. But this is not saying that the decisions of a General Conference composed of an assembly of duly appointed, representative men from all parts of the field should not be respected. God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority. The error that some are in danger of committing is in giving to the mind and judgment of one man, or of a small group of men, the full measure of authority and influence that God has vested in His church in the judgment and voice of the General Conference assembled to plan for the prosperity and advancement of His work." *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, 260.

But you all knew this already, right? Blessings!
PR—CA

Dear Future for America:

I have a prayer request.

I want to know God's will for my near future, and am requesting prayer, but first here is an update on my life. My goal for the few remaining years of my life is to be able to support a few humble ministries in their efforts to warn the world of last day events and at the same time provide a living for myself. I am okay to stay here and continue on, except that I am not much help financially to the cause of God. In the past I have sold my properties and have given generously to His work, but properties are all gone except for the one I now live in.

My heart is not set on things of this world anymore. My furniture, all my belongings, my keepsakes, have lost their value to me. This became very noticeable when I started spending all my time in studying the Bible and especially the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. I could say all my spare time, but that is not the truth. My spare time is now the time I try to do the needed chores and odds and ends around this place! It used to be the other way around, trying to find spare time to study, and of course we know what happens then: we never seem to find the spare time. The old devil loves how we have turned things backwards and upside down.

I began my studies in earnest because I want to know truth for myself, not just accept hand me down interpretation from others. I don't want to be deceived, or deceive others. I was also motivated because some Adventist friends here believe Turkey to be the king of the north. That got me to searching, and I am having so much fun. I love it.

"The books of Daniel and the Revelation should be bound together and published. A few explanations of certain portions might be added, but I am not sure that these would be needed." *Publishing Ministry*, 98.

This tells me that Uriah Smith's book is important for us to study from these last days. I know he doesn't have it all correct, but Ellen White would never endorse a book that would lead us to lose our salvation. The history Smith outlines in Daniel 11 is more important than we realize.

I had never studied Daniel 11 to get acquainted with that history. Now I have come to realize that if we just do what Ellen White said to do, which was: "put the books of Daniel and Revelation side by side with few comments" and then line them up "line upon line" (354 hits in the CD Rom), and to remember a few other things she wrote such as: "From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation," the plain truth will expose false theories and error whether done deliberately or unconsciously. We need not be deceived!

As I drive the bus down the road I see people scurrying to and fro with the cares of this life. I feel so sorry for them. SDAs are doing the same thing. The cares of this life are most important, which is what caused the first and second angels

messages back in 1840-1844 to be lightly esteemed by many, and also it was the reason the five foolish virgins did not have oil in their lamps. Secular life has taken over but that is going to change, soon all minds will be directed towards religion when government will try to force it upon us.

This morning on the news I heard it reported that John McCain has said that we need a Christian president. I hear a talk show personality from the Knoxville radio station (I set my alarm to awake to his news program) each morning complain about the sorry condition of the morality in this country. If we know *The Great Controversy*, that is one of the things that will bring about a Sunday Law. That time is upon us, people are getting sick and tired of murders, rapes and especially the horrible acts committed by people against the innocent. Read the chapter titled "The Impending Conflict" in *The Great Controversy* and see that these words are in process of being fulfilled right now.

As I study, the Lord opens my mind to my own character and its defects of the present and the past. Woe to me! Just recently the Holy Spirit helped me understand my "rebellion" against Him because I was willfully not obeying how He told us to eat. I never thought of myself as rebellious. I have always hated and despised rebellion but now I see I was rebellious, and I am certainly making much better choices. To be rebellious is to be lost and to be a soldier in Satan's army.

Since we all know what the Spirit of Prophecy has to say on many subjects, any part of our life that is contrary to those instructions is willful disobedience; which is rebellion (as bad a witchcraft). Woe, woe, woe.

Are you rebellious?

We are told to be "out of the cities." If we choose not to "at this time," when we all know "it is time," is that rebellion?

Back to my prayer request: Please pray for the Lord to do His will with my life. I have a special fleece I have sent up to him (unspoken). I need direction in my life for the near future. Both girls will be gone this coming year (married!). What should I do? Stay here? Move? I am afraid to make a decision without his specific go ahead. I want to earn extra money to give to His work; otherwise I would be content to remain here,

but to remain here in my current occupation means remaining poor, only able to give tithe. Thank you, L—TN

Jeff:

I believe that you teach that pagan Rome gave its seat to the papacy in AD 330. In Uriah Smith's Daniel and Revelation he says that Constantine moved the capitol of Rome from the city of Rome to Constantinople but he does not mention the Papacy in the transaction. So how can you say he gave his seat to the Papacy? I am not saying you are wrong, just needed to know where you are coming from. Thanks! AF—

Brother AF:

There is a lot of reasoning involved. It was here that pagan Rome left a power vacuum in the city which the papacy quickly took advantage of. It is here that the 360 year time prophecy of Daniel 11:24 is fulfilled. Rome, whether pagan or papal only, ruled supremely when it governed from the city of Rome. This is what verse 24 of Daniel 11 is teaching about pagan Rome. The next power, papal Rome, would also rule supremely only as it ruled from and controlled the city of Rome. Identifying 330 as the point when pagan Rome vacates the city is also identifying when it gave the city to the next power to rule, although there were other issues that needed to be fulfilled before the actual ruling of papal Rome would begin.

A "seat" in prophecy is the center from which a power rules. Papal Rome (the beast) rules only from the city of Rome. The USA (false prophet) rules only from the USA. But the dragon (paganism) rules from different points as it moves through history. Its movement through history is a subject of prophecy. First it ruled from the plains of Shinar, then in Babylon (the city/state). At the fall of Babylon the Chaldeans fled to Pergamos, (where Satan's seat is located). When pagan Rome conquered Pergamos it brought the Chaldean religious elite from

there to the city of Rome and gave them a place in the Pantheon temple. When pagan Rome moved out of the city the Chaldeans remained and brought about a metamorphosis by taking control of the compromised Christian church that was centered in the city of Rome.

It was at that point that you can argue that prophetically the papacy became the king of the north, for the rule is that the power that controls Babylon is the king of the north. When the Chaldean religious leaders were moved to the city of Rome, and then the city was left to the control of the papal church, the papal church then became the power that controlled spiritual Babylon.

It is true that the pioneers did not place the emphasis that I do on the power, seat, and great authority, but what I say about these three prophetic issues is in agreement with them. The pioneers teach that the authority was given to papal Rome in Justinian's decree, but the papacy was not able to wield the power until the Goths were driven from the city of Rome in 538. Their emphasis is on 538. I highlight each of the three events: the power, seat, and great authority because all three are repeated at the end of the world. The papacy was given the moral seat of authority over Protestant America in 1842. Protestant America gave its military power to the papacy in the Ronald Reagan years. And the great authority is given to the papal power when the ten kings of Revelation 17 "agree" to give their kingdom to the papacy. The ten kings is the United Nations, but the controlling influence is once again Protestant America, or apostate Protestantism, or the false prophet. The false prophet gives its seat (1842), its power (1984), and civil authority (yet future) to the papacy; just as pagan Rome gave its seat to the papacy in the year 330, its power in 496, and its civil authority in 533.

There are several issues connected with this conclusion, but it is sound, and in agreement with the pioneers, even though they did not emphasize things the same for they were at a different vantage point in history. Hope this challenges your study. God Bless. Jeff

Brother Jeff,

In my research I have found a statement I thought you might find interesting:

"Ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the National Security Archive and its research partners in East and Central Europe today released previously secret documents from behind the Iron Curtain detailing the ultimately futile scramble by the Communist parties of the region to stay in power in 1989—evidence which explains in the actual words of Communist leaders now for the first time in English how the system imposed by Stalin's armies gave way in the face of popular protest, largely without violent repression.

The documents include verbatim transcripts of such historic meetings as the Polish Communist party's leadership on the day after Solidarity swept the June 1989 elections, Solidarity leader Walesa's talk in Warsaw with German chancellor Kohl on the day the Berlin Wall was to fall, Soviet leader Gorbachev's meetings with Hungarian communist reformers, and the Czechoslovak Communist Party's central committee's rationale for not calling in the troops in the face of mass protests in November 1989...."

I went to the document #57 and read. You need to scroll down about 3/4 of the way to find it:

"Com S. Ciosek—I don't understand the reasons for the defeat [elections in Poland]....On this matter seek urgent talks with the opposition (Commission for an Understanding) and with the Church. Guilt is on our side. We trusted the Church, and they have turned out to be Jesuits. We overestimated our possibilities and have turned out to be deprived of the base. We have to keep in mind that very soon various claims and pressures will be rising like an avalanche—e.g. against the mass media. Radical changes must take place in the party."

The entire #57 document at this link:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/19991105/Doc-57.htm>

Current Events

Robert Pierson's Final Address

On October 15, 1978 elder Robert Pierson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, gave his last address to the Annual Council of the General Conference.

An Earnest Appeal from the Retiring President of the General Conference presented to Annual Council on October 15, 1978:

"This will be the last time that in my present role I shall stand before the world leaders of my church, your church, our church, and I have a few words to leave with you.

I take my thoughts from something that Elder and Mrs. Ralph Neall have written describing how typically a sect evolves into a church. They say a sect is often begun by a charismatic leader with tremendous drive and commitment and that it arises as a protest against worldliness and formalism in a church.

It is generally embraced by the poor. The rich would lose too much by joining it, since it is unpopular, despised, and persecuted by society in general. It has definite beliefs firmly held by zealous members.

Each member makes a personal decision to join it and knows what he believes. There is little organization or property, and there are few buildings. The group has strict standards and controls on behavior.

Preachers, often without education, arise by inner compulsion. There is little concern about public relations.

And then it passes on to the second generation. With growth there comes a need for organization and buildings.

As a result of industry and frugality, members become prosperous. As prosperity increases, persecution begins to wane. Children born into the movement do not have to make personal decisions to join it. They do not necessarily know what they believe. They do not need to hammer out their own positions. These have been worked out for them. Preachers arise more by selection and by apprenticeship to older workers than by direct inner compulsion.

In the third generation, organization develops and institutions are established. The need is seen for schools to pass on the faith of the fathers. Colleges are established. Members have to be exhorted to live up to the standards, while at the same time the standards of membership are being lowered. The group becomes lax about disfellowshipping non-practicing members. Missionary zeal cools off. There is more concern over public relations. Leaders study methods of propagating their faith, sometimes employing extrinsic rewards as motivation for service by members. Youth question why they are different from others, and intermarry with those not of their faith.

In the fourth generation there is much machinery; the number of administrators increases while the number of workers at the grass-roots becomes proportionately less. Great church councils are held to define doctrine. More schools, universities and seminaries are established. These go to the world for accreditation and tend to become secularized. There is a reexamination of positions and modernizing of methods. Attention is given to contemporary culture, with an interest in the arts: music, architecture, literature. The movement seeks to become 'relevant' to contemporary society by becoming involved in popular causes. Services become formal.

The group enjoys complete acceptance by the world. The sect has become a church!

Brethren and sisters, this must never happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church!

This will not happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is not just another church—it is God's church!

But you are the men and women sitting in this sanctuary this morning on whom God is counting to assure that it does not happen.

Already, brethren and sisters, there are subtle forces that are beginning to stir. Regrettably there are those in the church who belittle the inspiration of the Bible, who scorn the first 11 chapters of Genesis, who question the Spirit of Prophecy's short chronology of the earth, and who subtly and not so subtly attack the Spirit of Prophecy. There are some who point to the reformers and contemporary theologians as a source and the norm for

Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. There are those who allegedly are tired of the hackneyed phrases of Adventism.

There are those who wish to forget the standards of the church we love. There are those who covet and would court the favor of the evangelicals; those who would throw off the mantle of a peculiar people; and those who would go the way of the secular, materialistic world.

Fellow leaders, beloved brethren and sisters—don't let it happen! I appeal to you as earnestly as I know how this morning—don't let it happen! I appeal to Andrews University, to the Seminary, to Loma Linda University—don't let it happen! We are not Seventh-day Anglicans, not Seventh-day Lutherans—we are Seventh-day Adventists! This is God's last church with God's last message.

You are the men and women, the leaders, whom God is counting on to keep the Seventh-day Adventist Church, God's remnant church, the church God has destined to triumph!

The servant of the Lord says, 'Fearful perils are before those who bear responsibilities in the Lord's work—perils the thought of which makes me tremble.' (*Selected Messages*, volume 2, 391) And in Ezekiel 22:30 we read, 'I looked for a man among them who could build a barricade, who could stand before me in the breach to defend the land from ruin.' (NEB)

I believe this morning, fellow leaders that God is looking for men and women, intrepid leaders, men and women who love God's church and God's truth more than they love their lives, to see that this church under God goes through to the kingdom. The task ahead of us is not going to be easy. If I understand the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy aright this morning, ahead lies a time of trouble, a time of challenge such as this church and this world have never before known.

The servant of the Lord tells us: 'The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of

our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless.' (*Selected Messages*, volume 1, 205)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church had its alpha years ago. You and I are the leaders who will face the omega that will be of the same subtle, devilish origin. Its effect will be more devastating than the alpha. Brethren, I beg of you, study, know what is ahead, then with God's help prepare your people to meet it!

'God calls for men who are prepared to meet emergencies, men who in a crisis will not be found standing on the wrong side.' (*Review and Herald*, November 5, 1903)

'We are pressing on to the final conflict, and this is no time for compromise. It is no time to hide your colors. When the battle wages sore, let no one turn traitor. It is no time to lay down or conceal our weapons, and give Satan the advantage in the warfare.' (*Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892)

And then I call attention to a vision the Lord's servant had, in which she saw a ship heading toward an iceberg. She said: 'There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice cried out, "Meet it!" There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful

shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

'Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, "Meet it!" I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, "Meet it!"' (*Selected Messages*, volume 1, 206)

Fellow leaders, it may be that in the not too distant future you will have to meet it. I pray God will give you grace and courage and wisdom.

Finally, 'What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is nearing its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass.

'He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.' (*Selected Messages*, volume 2, 391)

What a wonderful assurance we have this morning, brethren and sisters that you and I are in God's work. This work is not dependent on any man; it is dependent on our relationship with Him. There is only one way for us to face the future, and that is at the foot of the cross. A church with its eyes upon the Man of Calvary will never walk into apostasy."

Cordiality Marks Adventist-Presbyterian Conversation: Two Rounds Complete, More Talks Agreed To

Representatives of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Seventh-day Adventist Church met here August 22-24 to better understand each other's faith, remove stereotypes, and explore areas of possible cooperation. The meeting was a follow-up to the one held last November at Adventist world headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Participants discussed four

papers prepared for the gathering on the two traditions' understandings of *sola scriptura* (biblical authority), law and gospel, and the writings of Adventist theologian Ellen G. White and John Calvin in relation to the two topics. The conversation, notable for its cordiality and warm fellowship, revealed unanimity concerning the place of Scripture as the only rule of faith and practice. It also produced agreement on the role of the law as a guide to Christian living.

Representing the PC (USA) in the talks were the Rev. Carlos Malave, associate for ecumenical relations and assistant stated clerk, who organized the gathering; Aurelio Garcia from the University of Puerto Rico; the Rev. Eunice McGarrahan of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC; David Jensen of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Sheldon Sorge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The Adventist delegation consisted of Hal Thomsen, assistant to the president for the North American Division of the church; three representatives from the Biblical Research Institute of the Adventist General Conference: Angel Rodriguez, Kwabena Donkor and Ekkehart Muller; Merlin Burt of Andrews University, and William Johnsson, assistant to the church's president for interfaith relations. At the conclusion of the conversation, representatives agreed to recommend to their respective governing bodies that further conversations be held, including exploration of ways the two churches may work together more fully. www.pcusa.org, August 31, 2007.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EMAIL WE RECEIVED:

This is the most interesting thing I've read in a long time. The sad thing about it, you can see it coming. I have always heard about this democracy countdown. It is interesting to see it in print. God help us, not that we deserve it.

How Long Does the USA Have?

About the time our original thirteen states adopted their new constitution in 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years earlier: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as

a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always vote for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, those nations always progressed through the following sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith;
2. From spiritual faith to great courage;
3. From courage to liberty;
4. From liberty to abundance;
5. From abundance to complacency;
6. From complacency to apathy;
7. From apathy to dependence;
8. From dependence back into bondage."

Professor Joseph Olson of Hemline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the 2000 Presidential election: Number of States won by: Gore: 19; Bush: 29

Square miles of land won by Gore: 580,000; Bush: 2,427,000

Population of counties won by: Gore: 127 million; Bush: 143 million

Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by: Gore: 13.2; Bush: 2.1

Professor Olson adds: "In aggregate, the map of the territory Bush won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of this great country. Gore's territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in government-owned tenements and living off government welfare..."

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the "complacency and apathy" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy, with some forty percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase.

If Congress grants amnesty and citizenship to twenty million criminal invaders called illegal and they vote, then we can say goodbye to the USA in fewer than five years.

Muslim Leaders Warn Pope, "Survival of the World is at Stake!"

The "survival of the world" is at stake if Muslims and Christians do not make peace with each other, leaders of the Muslim world will warn the Pope and other Christian leaders today.

In an unprecedented open letter signed by 138 leading scholars from every sect of Islam, the Muslims plead with Christian leaders "to come together with us on the common essentials of our two religions" and spell out the similarities between passages of the Bible and the Koran.

The scholars' state: "As Muslims, we say to Christians that we are not against them and that Islam is not against them—so long as they do not wage war against Muslims on account of their religion, oppress them and drive them out of their homes."

The phrasing has echoes of the New Testament passage: "He that is not with me is against me," a passage used by President George Bush when addressing a joint session of Congress nine days after 9/11.

The Muslims call instead for the emphasis to be on the shared characteristics of world's two largest faiths.

The letter, addressed to Pope Benedict XVI, to the Orthodox Church's Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I and all the other Orthodox Patriarchs and to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams and the leaders of all other Protestant churches worldwide, will be rolled out around the world this morning in a series of press conferences beginning in Jordan. It is supported by the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres.

It is expected to be followed by a joint conference between Muslim and Christian world leaders at on "neutral" ground, such as at an American university.

"Finding common ground between Muslims and Christians is not simply a matter for polite ecumenical dialogue between selected religious leaders," the Muslim scholars say, noting that Christians and Muslims make up over a third and a fifth of humanity respectively.

"Together they make up more than 55 per cent of the population, making the relationship between these two religious communities the most important factor in contributing to meaningful peace around the world. If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace."

The Muslims even quote passages verbatim from the Bible, extremely rare in a publication of this kind and at this level and an indication of their resolve to bring the two faiths together and end the present tensions between them.

The letter continues: "With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants. Thus our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake."

It says: "And to those who nevertheless relish conflict and destruction for their own sake or reckon that ultimately they stand to gain through them, we say that our very eternal souls are all also at stake if we fail to sincerely make every effort to make peace and come together in harmony."

Concluding with a quote from the Koran, the scholars say: "So let our differences not cause hatred and strife between us. Let us vie with each other only in righteousness and good works."

The letter is being sent out today by the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, Jordan.

Among those launching the letter in the UK will be two world leading figures in interfaith dialogue Professor David Ford and Aref Ali Nayed.

Professor David Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity, and Fellow of Selwyn College, University of Cambridge. Professor Ford is also the Founding Director of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Program and led this year's international inter-faith conference at Lancaster House in June on Islam and Muslims in the World Today.

Aref Ali Nayed is a leading theologian and senior adviser to the Cambridge Inter-Faith Program. He is formerly Professor at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies

in Rome, and the International Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization in Malaysia.

Signatures include Shaykh Sevki Omarbasic, Grand Mufti of Croatia, Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Dr Ali Ozak, head of the endowment for Islamic scientific studies in Istanbul, Turkey. They also include Shaykh Dr Nuh Ali Salman Al-Qudah, Grand Mufti of Jordan and Shaykh Dr Ikrima Said Sabri, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Imam of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. *www.foxnews.com*, October 11, 2007.

Minister Takes on the Founding Fathers

In his latest book, *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State*, the Rev. Forrest Church examines the origins of a culture war still being fought today.

Church has been a minister of All Souls Church in New York City for almost three decades. He earned a doctorate in church history at Harvard University and has written nearly two dozen books. He is the son of Bethine Church of Boise and the late Idaho Sen. Frank Church.

Church spoke in Boise on Wednesday and will be in Garden City Thursday to talk about his book and "how our past can instruct our present and guide us into the future." Church also talked with the Idaho Statesman about the origins of the church-state divide.

What motivated you to write this book at this time?

9/11—being a New York minister led me to begin to reflect on the essence of Americanism, what the higher patriotism was. ... I've noticed that the political landscape is more and more littered with cartoons about the founding. It's as if the religious right and the secular left are both 100 percent half right in their characterization of the republic.

Explain why you framed the debate over church-state separation as order vs. liberty.

The two themes that are sounded from the beginning to the present are the Puritan ideal of the Christian commonwealth and the enlightenment ideal of sacred liberty. There is a tension between the *unum*, one nation under

God, and pluribus, one nation for all. The real challenge in our history is how do we creatively bring these two streams together, where individual liberty is honored and there remains a strong moral center to our governance.

The U.S. swung from Washington to Adams, the "churchgoing animal" to Jefferson ... was this the result of swings in popular opinion about the separation of church and state?

No. The nation was divided right down the middle as it is today. The division was very, very pronounced.

How many branches of Christianity are we talking about at this time?

The vanguard of the religious left were the Baptists. They were the proponents of church-state separation. The champions of God in government were the Episcopalians, Congregationalists and Unitarians. Religious insiders, those people who have the power, don't fear the mixture of church and state because they know it will be their church. Religious outsiders rightfully fear church-state union because experience has taught them that they might be persecuted by a church that is not their own.

One of the ironies of this debate is the presence of enslaved Africans, of slavery.

The greatest irony is that it was their own liberty they were championing, not that of their neighbors. This is a very nuanced story. The champions of ... order had little respect for the religious freedom of others, but had a profound moral platform at the center of their philosophy.

The sacred liberty people, in advocating freedom, did not, at the same time, leave room for moral teaching. They believed the government should not legislate morality. In a strange strange way, the champions of liberty walked hand in hand with slavery from the founding to the Civil War.

You write that James Madison "sought to protect the state from the church by encouraging sectarian competition." This sounds like a free-market approach to religion.

Madison was the great pluralist. He believed competition of ideas would keep any idea from getting a hammerlock on the nation. He thought if you gave the marketplace of ideas

the freest latitude ... then no single set of ideas would gain control. He was the most wary of the danger that religious corporations, religious wealth and power might pose to American freedoms.

There were eight years of religious truce under James Monroe. How do you explain that?

I could not find a single sermon attacking the president while Monroe was president ... even though he was probably as secular a president as we've ever had. ... He had a deep respect for the moral contribution that religious people made to society.

Church and state were finally, clearly separated. The New England clergy shifted their focus to saving the nation one person at a time, and the churches flourished.

In one of his books, Jimmy Carter wrote that the nation wasn't divided between Democrats and Republicans but between people who go to church and people who don't.

Here's an interesting thing. In the post-election polls three years ago, three-quarters of those people who went to church every Sunday voted Republican, and three-quarters of those who never went to church voted Democratic. We were in danger of having a state religious party. What I sense now is that the divide is closing. ... Whenever we go too far in (one direction) there is a natural correction. Today, the two leading candidates of the Democratic party are people of faith who speak their faith with ease and confidence. The two leading Republicans are not participating in their churches. The evangelical voters are divided.

The fundamentalist right are now the religious insiders, so they don't have a problem with God in government because they know it will be their God. *www.idahostatesman.com*, October 11, 2007.

"When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

Benjamin Franklin

Strange and Dangerous Things

This is interesting! When you visit the website link below, a world map comes up showing what strange and dangerous things are happening right now in every country in the entire world and is updated every few minutes. You can move the map around, zero in on any one area and actually up-load the story of what is going on. This map updates every 460 seconds...constantly 24/7. <http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>. Click on any icon on the map for text up to date information. It's not just about Terrorism—it's about everything happening every minute some place in the world of terrorism: threats, explosions, airline incidents, etc.

US Supreme Court Continues Hostility to Religious Liberty

The Supreme Court this summer evidenced its utter disdain for civil rights and the separation of church and state in two notable decisions. In *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation*, the Court held that the executive branch of the federal government can spend money on religion as it sees fit. No taxpayer can challenge such spending as a violation of the Establishment Clause.

The case challenged the president's "faith-based initiative," which provides funding directly to churches. Serious constitutional questions remain about the legality of this program, but these questions may never be answered, since the Supreme Court gave the executive branch unfettered discretion to determine whether its spending on religion is constitutional. In other words, the Establishment Clause no longer functions to prevent the president from spending on religion.

The potential mischief from the lack of a check on the abuse of power cannot be overestimated. This decision is extraordinary and contradicts the basic principles of American democracy, undermining not only the separation of church and state, but the separation of powers, and the idea of checks and balances on each branch of government. The decision means no more checks on the check-writing power of the president to fund religion.

For those who care about basic liberties and civil rights, these recent Supreme Court decisions ought to serve as a wake-up call. It is time to actively advance our freedoms in Congress and in the states, because the federal courts have turned in an unwelcome direction. *www.pacificunionrecorder.com*, September, 2007.

CORRUPT COURTS

"Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. 'Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.' Isaiah 59:14." *The Great Controversy*, 586.

Liberty

"A substantial number of Americans, perhaps a majority, believe that government should dictate where people live, what their housing structures should look like, and how they should be constructed. They believe it is right for government to dictate what curriculum children should study in school. They believe it is right for government to dictate which land should be cultivated, and which land should not be touched by humans. They believe it is right for government to dictate the kind of automobiles that are available for people to purchase. Simply put, a substantial number of Americans believe it is right for government to dictate how people should live. They believe that government should 'engineer' society. How different is this modern attitude from the belief system that led Americans into war to defeat the Nazis' efforts to engineer society. How different is this modern attitude from the belief system that led our founders to declare that the Creator, not government, endowed people with equal rights to '...life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' How different is this

modern attitude from the notion that legitimate government is empowered only by the consent of the governed. Society has been successfully engineered to believe that the goal is no longer freedom, but the control of government, which means the control of society, to fit the agenda of the controlling party. The idea of entering public service as an elected official in order to limit the power of government, and maximize the freedom of individual citizens, is an obsolete concept." *www.patriotpost.com*, August 13, 2007.

DAYS BEFORE THE FLOOD

"The uncontrolled indulgence and consequent disease and degradation that existed at Christ's first advent will again exist, with intensity of evil, before His second coming. Christ declares that the condition of the world will be as in the days before the Flood, and as in Sodom and Gomorrah. Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart will be evil continually. Upon the very verge of that fearful time we are now living..." *Desire of Ages*, 122.

"Inspiration gives a testimony concerning the corrupt condition of the world before the flood. The Bible says: 'As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.' Before the flood they employed all their powers for the gratification of base passions, and cast contempt upon the law of God, and as it was in the days of the flood, so it was in the time of Sodom. They would not admit for a moment that their devotion to sensual pleasure brought upon them guilt and danger. They knew not that the cloud of divine wrath, which their sin had for years been loading, was about to break forth in vengeance upon them." *Signs of the Times*, October 9, 1893.

Africa Ministry

A close friend is requesting our continued support for his ministry in Africa. He works as a pastor and teaches the present truth message as shared by *Future for America*. Due to his position and out of concern for his family we are not including his name or exact region where he is located. There is a great need for financial support of this ministry.

The country he resides in has little infrastructure and is reliant on international trade, finances, and technology. This means that basic resources we take for granted are hard to come by. We ask for your support in giving the final warning message to Africa. Any donations the Lord impresses you to give should be marked Africa Ministry and sent to *Future for America*.

As we reside in the glorious land of America, let us use these fleeting days of abundance to sound the trumpets in Africa. We are richly blessed with food, water, healthcare, and education. These brothers and sisters in Africa do not have the many opportunities we have enjoyed our whole life. Please, help this ministry, as they have requested our support during their time of need.

"Just as the right to speak and the right to refrain from speaking are complementary components of a broader concept of individual freedom of mind, so also the individual's freedom to choose his own creed is the counterpart of his right to refrain from accepting the creed established by the majority."

John Paul Stevens

The following was the first article in the first regular publication produced by James White. The publication was called *The Present Truth*, and was published semi-monthly. The first edition was dated July, 1849. All emphasis is in the original.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Psalm 25:14.

Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the *present truth*. 2 Peter 1:12.

It is through the truth that souls are sanctified, and made ready to enter the everlasting kingdom. Obedience to the truth will kill us to this world, that we may be made alive, by faith in Jesus.

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. John 17:17.

This was the prayer of Jesus.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 4.

Error, darkens and fetters the mind, but the truth brings with it freedom, and gives light and life. True charity, or *love*, 'rejoiceth in the truth;' 1 Corinthians 8:6.

Thy law is the truth. Psalm 119:142.

David describing the day of slaughter, when the pestilence shall walk in darkness, and destruction waste at noon-day, so that, 'a thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand,' says:

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his *truth* shall be thy *shield* and *buckler*. Psalm 91:4.

The storm is coming. War, famine and pestilence are already in the field of slaughter. Now is the time, the only time to seek a shelter in the truth of the living God.

In Peter's time there was present truth, or truth applicable to that present time. The Church have ever had a present truth. The present truth now, is that which shows present duty, and the right position for us who are about to witness the time of trouble, such as never was. Present truth must be oft repeated, even to those who are established in it. This was needful in the apostles' day, and it certainly

is no less important for us, who are living just before the close of time.

For months I have felt burdened with the duty of writing, and publishing the present truth for the scattered flock; but the way has not been opened for me to commence the work until now. I tremble at the word of the Lord, and the importance of this time. What is done to spread the truth must be done quickly. The four Angels are holding the angry nations in check but a few days, until the saints are sealed; then the nations will rush, like the rushing of many waters. Then it will be too late to spread before precious souls, the present saving, living truths of the Holy Bible. My spirit is drawn out after the scattered remnant. May God help them to receive the truth, and be established in it. May they haste to take shelter beneath the 'covering of the Almighty God,' is my prayer. *The Present Truth*, July, 1849.

This article can be found in *The Review and Herald*, written by James White & M. E. Cornell.

FASTING AND PRAYER

Christ in his sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 6) introduces the duties of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. He reproves the manner of the hypocrites in these things, and points out the right way. We think it will be admitted by all truth-seekers that all three of these duties are still binding on the church. We see no reason why one should cease and the others continue.

The manner of fasting is introduced as follows:

Moreover, when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily, I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast; but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

The motive of the hypocrite is reprov'd in appearing unto others to fast. Instead of disfiguring their faces on such occasions, Christ

taught his disciples to appear natural, that they might not appear unto men to fast. That they might on such occasions appear natural, as their custom was: they should anoint the head, etc. As anointing the head is introduced that they should not appear unto men to fast, we conclude that it is not now a duty; for, if as often as we fast, we should anoint the head, we should appear to all to fast. Though the ancient custom of anointing the head does not now exist, the duty of fasting remains the same as well as prayer and giving alms.

Luke records the fact that Anna the prophetess served God with fastings and prayer day and night. Luke 2:36, 37.

Christ says, Howbeit, this kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting. Matthew 17:21.

Fasting, in connection with prayer, is here made of great importance.

It is said of Cornelius, (Acts 10) that he was a 'devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.' He was told by an angel while in a vision, that his prayers and alms had come up for a memorial before God. When visited by the holy angel, he was engaged in fasting and prayer. Verse 30.

On the important occasions of ordaining Elders in Gentile churches, Paul and Barnabas prayed with fasting. Acts 14:23.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. Acts 12:2, 3.

That ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer. 1 Corinthians 7:5.

See 2 Corinthians 6:5; 11:27. Here Paul mentions among other things, labors, watchings and fastings. This fasting does not appear to be from necessity, as hunger is mentioned in connection as another thing.

(1) An objection to fasting may arise with some from Isaiah 58. We will here say that in this chapter the spirit and character of two kinds of fasts are pointed out. The wrong is reproved and the right approved; but this does not in the least affect New Testament testimony on this point.

(2) The great object of fasting we understand to be, first, self denial, that the whole being may be especially consecrated to God on such occasions; and, second, that the mind may be clear to receive the teachings of the Spirit and Word, and exercise faith in God.

A Day of Fasting and Prayer

The first Sabbath in June.

We have consulted with brethren with whom we have recently associated, in regard to a day of fasting and prayer, in view of the want of faithful laborers in the wide harvest field; and, also, the feeble state of health of several who are now engaged in the work; and the suggestion meets the approbation of all.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. Matthew 9:36-38.

By advice of brethren we appoint the first Sabbath in June as a day of fasting and prayer. The object is referred to above. The field is opening for laborers, and seems fast ripening for a gathering of precious souls to the truth, but laborers are indeed few. And several who have toiled in the work for years are failing in health. This seems a sufficient cause for humiliation, fasting and prayer, that the Lord of the harvest would favor his servants, and give them health and strength to still toil on in the glorious work, until the servants of God shall be sealed.

We recommend that all the churches be united in fasting and prayer on the day named, for the above object, and that the subject be introduced in all the assemblies of the saints, and that not only public prayer be offered, but that a portion of the day be spent in secret prayer by all who love and obey 'the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.'

Let us all unite in offering to God the prayer of faith, that he would raise to health his worn and feeble servants, and, also, raise up, qualify and send forth faithful men into the harvest. *Review and Herald*, May 15, 1855.

From December 17th through 23rd we are attending a special meeting in the state of Georgia. Several ministries who are not currently in agreement on the prophetic message are coming to attempt to bring about that unity of message and purpose. We will have twenty-five presentations during those days, and then respond to a roundtable question and answer period at the end of each day of presentations. We earnestly solicit your prayers during this time.

Thank you in advance.

Prophecy School 2007

“If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls. There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and walk and work in the light of the sacred truth of the Word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted.” *Review and Herald*, July 21, 1896.

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