

# FUTURE NEWS

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## THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE ARE EQUALLY CLEAR

“In past ages the Lord God of heaven revealed his secrets to his prophets. The present and the future are equally clear to him. The voice of God echoes down the ages, telling man what is to take place. Kings and princes take their places at their appointed time. They think they are carrying out their own purposes, but in reality they are fulfilling the word that God has spoken.

“Paul declares that the records of God’s dealings with mankind in the past ‘are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ Daniel’s history is given us for our admonition. ‘The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him.’ Daniel’s God still lives and reigns. He has not closed heaven against his people. As in the Jewish age, so in this age, God reveals his secrets to his servants the prophets.

“The apostle Peter says: ‘We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.’

“The unbelieving and godless do not discern the importance of the signs of the times, foretold in the prophetic word. In ignorance they may refuse to accept the inspired record. But when professed Christians speak sneeringly of the ways and means employed by the great I AM to make his purposes known, they show themselves to be ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. The Creator knows just what elements he has to deal with in human nature. He knows what means to employ to obtain the desired results.

“Man’s word fails. He who makes the assertions of men his dependence, may well tremble; for he will some day be as a shipwrecked vessel. God’s word is infallible, and endures forever. Christ declares, ‘Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.’ God’s word will endure throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.” *The Youth Instructor*, December 1, 1903.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified by 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 is on the prophetic word including 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***

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Your donations are greatly appreciated.

# AFRICAN MISSION REPORT

*By the grace of God we've crossed into the year 2008. We want to say thank you to all our donors and supporters and all our well wishers.*

*The little work that was begun at . . . . in April 2006 is gradually gaining ground and winding its way, through thick and thin. We believe that whatsoever the Lord has chosen to do cannot be undone by man. For this cause all the attempts that have been made from all corners to frustrate and eventually collapse this ministry have turned rather to strengthen it from time to time. We have been vindicated at several places after our performances and deliveries. The Lord was just on our side and all things worked for our good.*

*Through God's grace we were able to conduct seven evangelistic programs within the past year. The total number of souls baptized was one hundred and forty-eight (148). The most interesting aspect of these crusades is that hundreds of people have been warned, the cream of Revelation 14 has been strongly presented without controversy. We believe that our hands are clean of blood from those communities where the messages were preached. If any soul decides to be in the dark—he does so at his own peril.*

*Revival programs were held in many churches. It has always been the common people who respond positively to the present truth series. When it comes to the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45, the seventh trumpet, the parable of Adventism, the midnight cry and other lessons which have the potency of reviving the members, such as the close of probation and the Sunday law, we have not had the going easy at all. The battle has most of the time been between the pioneer method of Biblical interpretation and the current scholastic and academic method*

*of interpretation. The weapon in their hands and mouth is that we are not accredited preachers from the Conference. We are not disturbed at all. If the accredited preachers cannot detect any error in our presentations, then thanks are to God. We can consider the issue of accreditation latter.*

*For the year 2008, we have on our itinerary to open a brand new church in an un-entered area in the first quarter. This is going to be in the . . . . region of . . . . in a town predominantly Catholic. We also plan to hold not less than ten crusades throughout the year. This will also be sandwiched with revival series.*

*We need to replace and also to repair some of our equipment. We need another amplifier, as well as some microphones and some cables and speakers. Generally, we needed some funds to overhaul our equipment.*

*We wish all our supporters and donors a prosperous new year in the Lord. Thank you, Pastor . . . . .*

*We thank you for the support of this African work so far and if you wish to continue please mark your funds "African Mission."*

*Brother Jeff:*

*Hello. My name is G and I would like all the details, text and spirit of prophecy of the "glorious land" because some said it is not America.*

*Brother G:*

*Here are some of the arguments that identify the United States as the "glorious land" of Daniel 11:41. Those who argue against the "glorious land" being the United States suggest that it represents the Seventh-day Adventist church. That position is absolutely unsustainable by inspiration.*

*It should be noted at the outset that Hebrew word translated as "glorious" is defined as "prominent." Glorious—6643: in the sense of prominence; splendor (as conspicuous), beautiful, goodly. *Strong's*.*

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We must acknowledge that the United States is both the most prominent country in the world today, and also the most prominent nation in end-time Bible prophecy. But it is inaccurate to suggest that the Seventh-day Adventist church is the most prominent church in the world today. It may appear to be the most significant to Seventh-day Adventists, but everyone has that attitude about his own religion. How often have we seen the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist on the front page of magazines or newspapers? How often have we seen the pope or the Dalai Lama?

Evidence that the United States is the “glorious land” can also be recognized in the covenant. This is perhaps the strongest argument of all. There are three covenant promises. One is that you and I can have the mind of Christ right now if we will submit to the conditions of the gospel and come to the foot of the cross.

“Let this mind be in you,  
which was also in Christ  
Jesus.” Philippians 2:5.

Another promise of the covenant is that if you and I are faithful we shall receive a new glorified body when Christ returns the second time.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”  
1 Corinthians 15:52, 53.

The third covenant promise, the one most often mentioned within God’s word, is that God would supply a land for His covenant people to dwell in.

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“Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.” Exodus 32:13.

“Never has the Lord been without true representatives on this earth who have made His interests their own. These witnesses for God are numbered among the spiritual Israel, and **to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people.**” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 714.

“Of special value to God’s church on earth today—the keepers of His vineyard—are the messages of counsel and admonition given through the prophets who have made plain His eternal purpose in behalf of mankind. In the teachings of the prophets, His love for the lost race and His plan for their salvation are clearly revealed. The story of Israel’s call, of their successes and failures, of their restoration to divine favor, of their rejection of the Master of the vineyard, and of the carrying out of the plan of the ages by a goodly remnant **to whom are to be fulfilled all the covenant promises**—this has been the theme of God’s messengers to His church throughout the centuries that have passed. **And today God’s message to His church**—to those who are occupying His vineyard as faithful husbandmen—is none other than that spoken through the prophet of old:

“Sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.’ Isaiah 27:2, 3.” *Prophets and Kings*, 22.

“The reasons why we are the denominated people of God are to be repeated and repeated. Deuteronomy 4:1–13; 5:1–33.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 427.

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The Seventh-day Adventist church is God's covenant people, and all the covenant promises are fulfilled unto them, including the promise that God would provide a land for them to dwell in. Where was the Seventh-day Adventist church raised up and established?

Another argument supporting the "glorious land" as the United States is Daniel's use of the term "glorious land." He employs that term only twice: once in Daniel 11:16 and then again in verse 41. In verse 16 he identifies when pagan Rome conquered the land of Palestine in fulfillment of Daniel 8:9, where we are informed that pagan Rome would conquer three geographical areas identified as the south, which was Egypt; the east, which was Syria; and the pleasant [land], which was the land of Palestine.

"But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed." Daniel 11:16.

Sister White endorses the book *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation* by Uriah Smith when she states:

"Everything that can be done should be done to circulate *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation*. I know of no other book that can take the place of this one. **It is God's helping hand.**" *Publishing Ministry*, 356.

Uriah Smith describes verse 16 as follows:

"After putting an end to the war, Pompey demolished the walls of Jerusalem, transferred several cities from the jurisdiction of Judea to that of Syria, and imposed tribute on the Jews. For the first time Jerusalem was by conquest placed in the hands of Rome, that power which was to hold the 'glorious land' in its iron grasp till it had utterly consumed it." *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, 247.

Daniel employs the term "glorious" in verse 16 to identify the land of Palestine that had been conquered by pagan Rome in fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28:48–53. Daniel uses the term "glorious" to describe the *land of Palestine*, not the church.

When Sister White speaks of the United States, she describes its role and purpose in agreement with Daniel's identification of the "glorious land" being the United States. She calls it the glory of the whole earth.

**"The unrivaled mercies and blessings of God have been showered upon our nation, it has been a land of liberty, and the glory of the whole earth."** *Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

She identifies that the Constitution of the United States is the glory of this country and, in so doing, is describing the very thing that is destroyed when the king of the north, (the papal power) conquers the glorious land in Daniel 11:41. The issue of verse 41 is the Sunday law in the United States, by which the protections of civil and religious liberty are removed.

**"Many were driven across the ocean to America and here laid the foundations of civil and religious liberty which have been the bulwark and glory of this country."** *The Great Controversy*, 252.

In agreement with the definition of "glorious" in the sense of prominence, Sister White identifies that the greatest light shines upon the United States.

**"America, . . . where the greatest light from heaven has been shining upon the people, can become the place of greatest peril and darkness because the people do not continue to practice the truth and walk in the light."** *Selected Messages*, book 3, 387.

**"The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and**

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give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and 'national apostasy' will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin." *Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

The light that has been shining upon the United States is understood to be the light that Seventh-day Adventists are to carry to the world. This truth makes the connection between the purpose of the covenant land and the covenant people.

"Is it in vain that **the declaration of eternal truth has been given to this nation** to be carried to all the nations of the world? God has chosen a people and made them the repositories of truth weighty with eternal results. To them has been given the light that must illuminate the world. Has God made a mistake? Are we indeed His chosen instrumentalities? Are we the men and women who are to bear to the world the messages of Revelation fourteen, to proclaim the message of salvation to those who are standing on the brink of ruin? Do we act as if we were?" *Selected Messages*, book 1, 92.

Sister White emphasizes that the United States is the "land" that was given to the Seventh-day Adventist people, once again emphasizing the covenant promise. At the same time she identifies the issue addressed in verse 41 in connection with the "glorious land" when she ties together the land with the Sunday law.

"**When the land** which the Lord provided as an asylum for His people, that they might worship Him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the **land** over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the **land** which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ,—**when that land** shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God's law,—it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed." *Signs of the Times*, June 12, 1893.

In connection with the covenant land she emphasizes that God *designed* the United States. How many other countries does inspiration identify that God *designed*? Remember to take the word "glorious" in sense of prominence.

**"The Lord has done more for the United States** than any other country upon which the sun shines. Here He provided an asylum for His people, where they could worship Him according to the dictates of conscience. Here Christianity has progressed in its purity. The life-giving doctrine of the one Mediator between God and man has been freely taught. God **designed** that this country should ever remain free for all people to worship Him in accordance with the dictates of conscience. He **designed** that its civil institutions, in their expansive productions, should represent the freedom of gospel privileges." *Maranatha*, 193.

Another point that upholds the "glorious land" as the United States is the distinction that Daniel makes between verses 41 and 45. It is very easy to demonstrate that the glorious holy mountain of verse 45 is God's church, and that if Daniel had wanted to identify God's church in verse 41 he should there also have called the "glorious land" the "glorious holy mountain." The fact that Daniel makes a distinction between the holy mountain and the land establishes that the entities in verses 41 and 45 are different.

In Daniel 9:16, he identifies Jerusalem as "thy holy mountain" but in the same verse he identifies that both Jerusalem "and" thy people have become a reproach. He distinguishes between the holy mountain of Jerusalem, and God's people.

"O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the

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iniquities of our fathers,  
Jerusalem **and** thy people  
are become a reproach to  
all that are about us.”

In Isaiah 2, we see a very clear example of the glorious holy mountain in the last days, which is clearly where the last six verses of Daniel 11 are located, for in verse 1 of Daniel 12, Michael stands up and human probation closes. Isaiah’s description of the glorious holy mountain in the last days is certainly the same as Daniel 11:45.

“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in **the last days**, that **the mountain of the Lord’s house** shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to **the mountain of the Lord**, to **the house of the God of Jacob**; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Isaiah 2:1-3.

The fact that Daniel uses the word “glorious” in connection with the “land” in verse 41 and that he also uses “glorious” in connection with the holy mountain in verse 45 does not identify the land and the holy mountain as the same thing—it identifies that they are *not* the same thing. The “holy mountain” is clearly God’s church, so the “land” must be something other than the church.

The pioneers uphold the distinction between these two entities. J. N. Andrews prepared a manuscript that came to be known as the classic

presentation on why and how the Millerites arrived at the incorrect understanding of the sanctuary prior to 1844. As Andrews sets forth his explanation of the Millerite misunderstanding, he reaches a point where he draws some conclusions about the “earth,” the “church,” the “land,” and the “sanctuary” in Bible prophecy. He identifies that the church and the land are different entities in Bible prophecy, thus establishing that the distinction which Daniel placed upon the “glorious land” of verse 41 and the “glorious holy mountain” of verse 45 marks a distinction between the land and the church.

“We have found that the earth is not the sanctuary, but simply the territory where it will finally be located; that the church is not the sanctuary, but simply the worshipers connected with the sanctuary; and that the land of Canaan is not the sanctuary, but that it is the place where the typical sanctuary was located.” J. N. Andrews, *The Sanctuary and the 2300 Days*, 45.

Earth: the *territory* where the sanctuary will be finally located.

Church: the *worshippers* connected to the sanctuary

Land: the *place* where the sanctuary was located

In Hiram Edson’s classic series of articles on the 2,520 time prophecy he concludes that the “glorious land” of verse 41 is the United States. Unfortunately he did not make the distinction between the “glorious land” and the “glorious holy mountain,” but one of the main purposes of his articles was to identify the role of the United States in Bible prophecy; so even though he missed a correct identification of the “glorious holy mountain,” his arguments identifying the “glorious land” of verse 41 as the United States are sound.

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

“From the above it is clear that this wilderness of preparation is **the pleasant land** brought to view Daniel 8:9. It is called in chapter 11:41, 45, **the glorious land**, and the glorious holy mountain, or **goodly land, land of delight** or ornament...” *Review and Herald*, January 3, 1856.

In Andrews and Edson we have two witnesses from the pioneers that support the “glorious land” of verse 41 as the United States.

Sister White identifies how the messages located within Daniel and Revelation are portrayed.

“From **the rise and fall of nations** as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory.” *Prophets and Kings*, 548.

“In past ages the Lord God of heaven revealed His secrets to His prophets, and this He does still. The present and the future are equally clear to Him, and He shows to His servants the future history of what shall be. The Omniscient looked down the ages, and predicted through His prophets **the rise and fall of kingdoms**, hundreds of years before the events foretold took place. The voice of God echoes down the ages, telling man what is to take place. Kings and princes take their places at their appointed time. They think they are carrying out their own purposes, but in reality they are fulfilling the word God has given through His prophets. They act their part in carrying out God’s great purposes. Events fall into line, fulfilling the word God has spoken.” *The Upward Look*, 96.

“The prophet Daniel described **the kingdoms that would rise and fall.**” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1912.

The messages of prophecy are set forth within the portrayal of the rise and fall of kingdoms. When we identify that verse 41 describes how the papal power conquers the United States, we are in agreement with the fact that Daniel is illustrating the rise and fall of kingdoms or nations. But if we identify the “glorious land” as the Seventh-day Adventist church we are suggesting the fall, not of a kingdom, but of a spiritual entity. And we are doing so in spite of the fact that we have been told the Seventh-day Adventist church does not fall!

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. **The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall.** It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380.

“I saw some in **Zion** that were languishing; they were dormant and unbelieving. I asked the angel if **Zion** should languish. Said the angel, ‘**She is rising never to fall again.** God has stretched out His hand the second time to recover the remnant of His people.’” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 19, 10.

The idea that we suggest that verse 41 describes the fall, not of a kingdom, but of the Seventh-day Adventist church, is also in disagreement with the structure of Daniel 11.

Within the chapter there are at least sixteen struggles for geography that are either directly identified or implied by parallel passages of prophecy.

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All of these struggles are for geography—the rise and fall of kingdoms or nations. Yet some want us to believe that when it comes to verse 41 there is a sudden and unexplained change of the established structure within the chapter. God would not change an established pattern without identifying the change for the student of prophecy.

## The Conquests of Daniel Eleven

11:2—Persians versus Greeks: Geography

11:3—Alexander the Great: Geography

11:4–5—Alexander’s four generals: Geography

11:6–9—Ptolemy & Seleucus: Geography

11:10— Ptolemy & Seleucus: Geography

11:11–12— Ptolemy & Seleucus: Geography

11:13–15— Ptolemy & Seleucus: Geography

11:16–30—Pagan Rome versus Syria, Egypt and Palestine: Geography

11:31—Papal Rome versus Heruli, Ostrogoths and Vandals: Geography

11:40—France versus Papacy and Papacy versus Soviet Union: Geography

11:41—Papacy versus United States: Geography

11:42–43—Papacy versus United Nations: Geography

The Bible teaches that it is upon the testimony of two or three that we establish a truth. If verse 41 identifies the papacy conquering the Seventh-day Adventist church just before probation closes, then those who teach this error need to show us at least one other place in the Bible where the Seventh-day Adventist church is conquered by the papacy just before probation closes. Of course no verse identifies this erroneous idea, including verse 41 of Daniel 11.

In connection with this logic is the fact that all the prophecies meet and end in the book of Revelation, and that Daniel and Revelation are the same book.

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**“In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end.** Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.’ Daniel 12:4.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 585.

“This is the suggestion that I made to Elder Haskell which resulted in the book he published. The need is not filled by this book. It was my idea to have the two books bound together, Revelation following Daniel, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. The object is to bring these books together, showing that **they both relate to the same subjects.**” *Publishing Ministry*, 98.

“Many ministers make no effort to explain Revelation. They call it an unprofitable book to study. They regard it as a sealed book, because it contains the record of figures and symbols. But the very name that has been given it, ‘Revelation,’ is a denial of this supposition. Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events that are to take place in the last days of this earth’s history. The teachings of this book are definite, not mystical and unintelligible. **In it the same line of prophecy is taken up as in Daniel.** Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 415.

If verse 41 identified that the papacy conquers the Seventh-day Adventist church just before probation closes, then those who teach this error should be able to show us where this same line of truth is located in the book of Revelation. It’s not in the book of Revelation, it’s not in the book of Daniel, and it’s not in the Bible.

There was a time when I outlined all the different reasons that I understood the “glorious land”

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to be the United States. I came up with eighteen different arguments. Here I have set forth about ten. I hope this is enough to stimulate your further study of this subject. Jeff

*Brother Jeff:*

*I know I sent you an e-mail regarding why the brethren are putting forth the wrong view of the "glorious land." I just got an e-mail from a brother who had the right understanding but has been partly swept away by some with the wrong view. I wish that you could share with me any ideas that you may have as to why they want to believe that? It doesn't make sense—is it just so our understanding gets uprooted? I'll put the other fellow's e-mail below as they are using arguments I haven't run into before. God Bless!*

*PT—Canada*

*Comments: Hello, I just want to say that I enjoy your site very much. I have been visiting your site for several years and receive a blessing from it. My main reason for e-mailing is concerning the "glorious land" of Daniel 11:41. I have done much studying and searching on this and have to be honest that I am probably still uncertain of its full meaning.*

*A little history: I set out almost 2 years ago to study the last half of Daniel (mainly because it is rarely, if never discussed.) I bought a 79-cassette-tape study on Daniel from Pastor A. I'm sure you have heard of him? In my opinion, God has blessed this man with knowledge and ability to present and explain. This is my first inkling of an explanation of the glorious land. I have NEVER disagreed with Pastor A's studies, until the glorious land. He holds the position that it's the church. After hearing the tape for the first time, something struck me funny about this interpretation. A couple of tapes later someone mentions from his audience that there is a book out that*

*says the glorious land is the USA. Pastor A says he's aware of this book and says it cannot be the USA. Without going into detail he says you cannot make literal the "glorious land" because it violates Bible principles of prophecy.*

*Then the king of the north and the king of the south would have to be literal also, and not spiritual and worldwide. It seems to make sense. But one thing that was funny is Pastor A only spent about 10 minutes on the glorious land, while on everything else he can spend an hour and really expound.*

*Well, I set out to find out about this book (which is by Jeff Pippenger) and I read everything I could that he put out. I bought \$200.00 worth of DVDs from Jeff. I'm satisfied with my study that the glorious land is the United States.*

*Now here's where the 'monkey wrench' just came in. A few weeks ago I went to a meeting at B. I was reading some of their material and to my surprise they are against the teaching of the glorious land being the USA. The arguments given were: 1. It violates biblical principle to literalize the glorious land, 2. In every publication they always use the excuse that it cannot be the USA, because the USA is mentioned in verse 40? (The USA collaborates with the papacy to overthrow the USSR in verse forty. They say this explanation has no validity.)*

*I talked with Brothers C and D about this issue. Brother D didn't have much of a conviction either way but said it is possible that both could be right. Now Brother C is emphatically against the USA as the glorious land. After several failed attempts to change my mind, Brother C asked me if I ever studied the book of Malachi. I said not really, not in any serious matter. He said Sister White has stated that Daniel should be studied in conjunction with Malachi. He showed me this verse out of Malachi (which to my knowledge Jeff Pippenger hasn't*

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dealt with—and I don't know why Pastor A doesn't mention it either). Malachi 3:11, 12—“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.”

In this verse God does refer to his people as a land. I just wanted to share this with you and see what you think about. Any thoughts and reflection would be greatly appreciated. Thanks and God Bless.

Sister PT:

I have included above, in the response to you and your e-mail friend, a previous e-mail dialogue where I set forth some of the reasons why the “glorious land” is the United States. I see several questions in your comments and in those of your friend. The first is whether I had any idea why they want to believe the glorious land is the church? Do they hold this belief just so our understanding gets uprooted? Then your friend raises Pastor A's argument that, “you cannot make literal the ‘glorious land’ because it violates Bible principles of prophecy. Then the king of the north and the king of the south would have to be literal also, and not spiritual and worldwide.” Then your friend raises brother B's arguments, that “it violates biblical principle to literalize the glorious land” and “that it cannot be the USA, because the USA is mentioned in verse 40.” Then he quotes Brother C's argument concerning the passage in Malachi.

I will start with the argument about not making the “glorious land” literal because it violates biblical principles. This is simply incorrect. To identify that the “glorious land” symbolically represents the United States, is equivalent to identifying the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13:11 as the United States. Is the lamb-like

beast of Revelation 13:11 a literal beast? No. It is a symbolic representation of a literal power. We have understood the lamb-like beast in this way since 1845, and to suggest that the “glorious land” is a symbol that represents a literal power is completely consistent with the rules of prophecy employed by William Miller and his associates; these rules have been endorsed by Sister White.

The secondary argument is that “the king of the north and the king of the south would” then need “to be literal also”: — they *are* literal. In the beginning of chapter 11 of Daniel, the kings of the north and south are literal powers that controlled literal areas of the southern and northern sections of Alexander's former kingdom. The southern kingdom was associated with Egypt and the northern kingdom with Syria, or in biblical terminology, Babylon.

After the cross, the identification of the king of the south and the king of the north is based upon a spiritual, not a literal identification. The power that controls spiritual Egypt after the cross is identified in Revelation 11:8, and when Sister White comments on spiritual Egypt in *The Great Controversy*, she teaches that it represents atheism. In Revelation 11:8, it was atheism of the French Revolution time-period:

“And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

“This is atheism, and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance.” *The Great Controversy*, 269.

Thus the king of the south is spiritually identified.

As for the king of the north, in Revelation 17:5, we find that the spiritual power controlling

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Babylon after the cross is the papal power. Sister White also comments on this fact in *The Great Controversy*:

“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

“The woman of Revelation 17 is described as ‘arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness: . . . and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots.’ Says the prophet: ‘I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.’ Babylon is further declared to be ‘that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.’ Revelation 17:4–6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome.” *The Great Controversy*, 382.

We find in Daniel 11:40 that the king of the north and the king of the south are symbols. They do not identify the literal areas of Alexander’s former kingdom, but are to be understood in a spiritual application, just as is the glorious land in the next verse. Those who use this argument (and there are others who do so) are being inconsistent. The king of the south in verse 40 is a symbol representing the literal power that controls atheism. The king of the north is a symbol representing the literal power of Catholicism. The glorious land is a symbol, just as the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13:11 is a symbol, representing the United States. In Daniel 11:42–43, Egypt is a symbol of all the literal countries of the world. In verse 44 the tidings from the east and the north is a symbol of the literal final warning message. In verse 45 the glorious holy mountain is a symbol of God’s literal last day church.

In fact, as we set forth the last six verses of Daniel 11, we identify every word in a symbolic way, in order to tie it to literal history. This is the correct application of biblical prophecy, and is in agreement with the way the Millerites applied prophecy. If one insists that the glorious land cannot be a symbol to represent the literal USA, then he must explain why it is acceptable to identify the lamb-like beast as the United States in Revelation 13:11.

The statement that “it violates biblical principle to literalize the glorious land,” has been publicly challenged for more than a decade: Does it violate biblical principle to literalize the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13? The challenge remains unanswered.

The argument that “You can’t identify the United States in verse 40 and then also identify the United States in verse 41” would be better stated, “You can’t identify the United States in both these verses, because the symbols which *we* suggest identify the United States are different in verses 40 and 41.” This argument borders on blindness! If God chooses to identify the same power in two consecutive verses, then it is our responsibility as students of prophecy to rightly divide those verses and accept what is revealed.

My first point against this argument is that if God chooses to identify the United States in two consecutive verses, then so be it. Revelation 17:1–6 (six verses) deals with the Roman church—the beast. Revelation 13:11–16 (six verses) deals with the United States—the false prophet. Revelation 12:3–9 (seven verses) deals with pagan Rome—the dragon power. To suggest that Daniel 11:40–41 (two verses) deals with the United States is an acceptable interpretation.

The second part of that argument has to do with differing symbols. It is acceptable and even expected that Bible prophecy will address one

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power in two consecutive verses, and it is also to be expected that these verses will deal with different or expanded views of that power. God is not redundant—"The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence!" Daniel 11:40 represents the United States with the symbols of chariots, horsemen and ships. Chariots and horsemen represent military power in bible prophecy, and ships represent economic power. Military and economic strength are the two attributes in Revelation 13 that identify the United States, when it teaches that the whole world will be forced to receive the mark of the beast. Those who do not have the mark cannot buy or sell: (economic power); and lacking the mark, they will be put to death: (military power). Identifying the ships, horsemen and chariots of verse 40 as the economic and military strength of the United States is in agreement with the biblical definition of these symbols, and in total agreement with the prophetic characteristics of the United States as set forth in Revelation.

Verse 40 identifies when and how the United States begins the work of placing the papacy on the throne of the earth; and in the Ronald Reagan years, the secret alliance formed between the Vatican and the United States identifies both the alliance that would bring down the Soviet Union (modern atheism, spiritual Egypt), and the compromise that precedes the Sunday law in the United States. The very next verse shows the Sunday law in the United States: verse 40 leads perfectly into the identification of the Sunday law by first introducing the compromise that prepares the way for its establishment.

The Sunday law in the United States is identified in Daniel 11:41, as it is also in Revelation 13:12. The chariots, ships and horsemen are identified, both in verse 40 and in Revelation 13:14–16. There is nothing biblically unacceptable about identifying differing aspects of the

prophetic role of the United States in two consecutive verses with different symbols, when the symbols teach different aspects of the same power—especially when these differing aspects have been pointed out and emphasized in parallel passages of prophecy.

**"It was my idea to have the two books bound together, *Revelation* following *Daniel*, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. The object is to bring these books together, showing that they both relate to the same subjects."**  
*Publishing Ministry*, 98.

Regarding the argument in Malachi, consider the question, *What does a lion represent in Bible prophecy?* A lion may represent Judah, Christ, Satan and Babylon. The definition of a symbol depends upon the context in which it is located. Malachi 3:11, 12 provides but one biblical definition for the land of Israel:

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts."

To limit the definition of the glorious land to one verse in Malachi is a false step. "One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another." *The Great Controversy*, 371. *All* testimony regarding the land of promise must be included in a definition of the glorious land, not simply Malachi. Men may wrest the Scripture to their own destruction:

"As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are

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unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16.

Perhaps the strongest argument that the glorious land is the United States is found in the three covenant promises. The fact that the Seventh-day Adventist church is modern Israel, and inheritor of every covenant promise, demands that she be given a land to dwell in. The land where the Seventh-day Adventist church was raised up is the United States. But in the truths that we are modern Israel and that we have been given a land, is set forth a close relationship between the people and their land. The Bible emphasizes this relationship many times. The land of promise was to be inherited:

"And he said unto him, I *am* the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" Genesis 15:7, 8.

One who inherits property is the *inheritor*. the property is the *inheritance*.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Unto these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names." Numbers 26:52, 53.

The close relationship between the *inheritor* and the *inheritance* is part of the message of the Promised Land. Malachi's passage is not the exclusive definition of the glorious land; it simply broadens the understanding of the relationship between modern Israel and its land of inheritance. In my previous e-mail response were set forth many reasons (and there are more) why the glorious land is the United States. My understanding of Malachi is that he simply sets forth the possibilities that are available to modern

Israel, if they will be obedient to His word. If God's people were obedient, the joy of the Lord would fill the land as the final ingathering of the latter rain takes place, and it would be "a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts."

For more than a decade these conflicting ideas have been in public debate, but there has been no response to the arguments set forth in my previous e-mail response.

Their argument boils down to basically four points: 1. A symbol does not identify a literal power. 2. A power in two connected verses may not be symbolized in two ways. 3. Malachi defines the land and the church as the same. 4. And of course, the old stand-by, attack the messenger.

A great deal more is involved in this question than at first meets the eye. When the king of the north enters the glorious land (Dan 11:41); that is, when the United States speaks as a dragon (Rev 13:11), then we are faced with the Sunday law; and the third angel's message is the warning concerning the Sunday law test. There is strong caution against missing this warning:

"The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make. When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these efforts. It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people—the very present truth which they needed for this time. **Not all our ministers who are giving the third angel's message really understand what constitutes that message.** The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of

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so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it and have even felt that in so doing they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel's message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time.

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

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

"We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land; and, now that the movement is right upon us, we ask: Will our people do their duty in the matter? Can we not assist in lifting the standard and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges?"

The time is fast approaching when those who choose to obey God rather than man will be made to feel the hand of oppression. Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent while His holy commandments are trodden underfoot?" *Testimonies*, volume 5, 714–716.

"There are but few, even of those who claim to believe it, that comprehend the third angel's message, and yet this is the message for this time. It is present truth. But how few take up this message in its true bearing, and present it to the people in its power! With many it has but little force. . . . The closing work of the third angel's message will be attended with a power that will send the rays of the Sun of Righteousness into all the highways and byways of life, and decisions will be made for God as supreme Governor; His law will [be] looked upon as the rule of His government." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 56.

It is clear in this passage that there will be among us preachers who fight against the Sunday-law-warning message when it arrives. They will give a peace and safety message under the premise that the warning is possibly a mistake or a false alarm. Then how should we understand the last six verses of Daniel eleven? To miss the fact that the glorious land is overrun by the papacy leaves these verses empty of meaning.

If the glorious land were the Seventh-day Adventist church, then who would be Edom, Moab and Ammon, and where do they go when they escape the hand of the papal power?—They can't join the Adventist church, for it has just been conquered by the papacy. I do not suggest that the fate of the Adventist church is a pillar of Adventism, but I will repeat a point from the previous email response: If the glorious land were the church, as others suggest, then where else in the Bible do we see the Adventist church conquered by the papacy (or any other power) just before the close of probation?"

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“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380.

“I saw some in Zion that were languishing; they were dormant and unbelieving. I asked the angel if Zion should languish. Said the angel, ‘She is rising never to fall again. God has stretched out His hand the second time to recover the remnant of His people.’” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 19, 10.

A correct understanding of the third angel’s message will not undermine truths that have already been established:

“The burden of the warning now to come to the people of God, nigh and afar off, is the third angel’s message. And those who are seeking to understand this message will not be led by the Lord to make an application of the Word that will undermine the foundation and remove the pillars of the faith that has made Seventh-day Adventists what they are today.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 103.

Opposition to what we share develops an understanding of the glorious land which is in direct contradiction to inspiration’s teaching about God’s church! Unfortunately many are inclined to allow misdirected spiritual leaders to direct their own paths.

“I am in great travail of soul for our people. We are living in the perils of the last days. A superficial faith results in a superficial experience. There is a repentance that needs to be repented of. All genuine experience in religious doctrines will bear the impress of Jehovah. **All should see the necessity of understanding the truth for themselves individually.** We must understand the doctrines that have been studied out carefully and prayerfully. It has been revealed to me that there is among our people a great lack of knowledge in

regard to the rise and progress of the third angel’s message. There is great need to search the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation, and learn the texts thoroughly, that we may know what is written.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 392.

You asked that I share why “they” want to believe that the glorious land is the church, and do “they” hold this belief simply to uproot our understanding. I would not dare to accuse them; I can only answer that I know not why any man holds any belief, even a wrong one.

If one understands the “daily” as Christ’s sanctuary ministry, then the faulted view of the history of Daniel 11:31 will greatly diminish the ability to understand the glorious land correctly. Sister White states:

“We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. **Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated.** In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that ‘shall be grieved . . .’, Daniel 11:30–36 quoted.

**“Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place.”** *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 394.

Here inspiration teaches that when it comes to the final fulfillment of Daniel 11, some histories of that chapter will be repeated. Then very specifically we are told that the “scenes” of verses 30-36 “will take place.” This means that the history of verses 30-36 is a prophetic parallel to verses 40-45. Therefore our definition of the “daily” in verse 31 determines our understanding of the parallel history in verses 40-45. Our view of the “daily” will either uphold or deny the correct understanding of those verses.

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As I have already stated, I don't know why any man believes anything that he believes, but I do believe that an incorrect view of the "daily" destroys the ability to identify the glorious land as the United States:

"For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, *many* days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And *some* of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make *them* white, *even* to the time of the end: because *it* is yet for a time appointed. "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done" Daniel 11:30-36.

In *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation*, which is "God's helping hand," Uriah Smith identifies that the "intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant" is the dialogue begun between pagan and papal Rome prior to 538. That intelligence marks the change of subject in Daniel 11 from pagan to papal Rome: from verse 31 onward the subject of the verses is no longer pagan Rome, but the papacy. (I am not here dealing with Smith's incorrect analysis from verse 36 onward.)

In verse 31, the arms that stand up are the military power of the European kings who placed the papacy on the throne of the earth and sustained her there until 1798. The first of these powers was Clovis, king of France, who stood up for the papacy in 496. The "arms" were to accomplish four things in the verse: 1) stand up; 2) Pollute the sanctuary of strength; 3) remove the daily; 4) place the abomination that maketh desolate.

They began to stand up in 496. In the warfare of the trumpets of Revelation 8, brought against Imperial Rome after Constantine divided the empire into east and west in 330, the city of Rome (the sanctuary of strength) was polluted or destroyed. At the battle of the Visigoths in 508, Clovis essentially removed all pagan resistance to the rise of the papal power, and the "daily"—that is, the religion of paganism—was taken away. Note that power of these "horns" was primarily religious power.

In 538 the papacy was placed upon the throne of the earth: the abomination that maketh desolate was in place. Within the history of this verse we understand from parallel prophecy that the removal of the last of the three horns of Daniel 7 had been accomplished.

In verses 32-35 we see the persecution that follows the papal enthronement. Verse 36 emphasizes the arrogance of the papal power

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and marks its deadly wound in 1798, for the papacy would “prosper till the indignation be accomplished.” The indignation here is God’s indignation associated with the first 2,520 time prophecy (“seven times” in Lev 26:14, 18, 21, 24): the indignation against the northern kingdom of Samaria that began in 723 BC. and concluded in 1798.

If we maintain this pioneer understanding of these verses, then we find that the secret dialogue between Reagan and the pope in the early 1980s, in fulfillment of verse 40, parallels the intelligence at the end of verse 30. At that point the military might of the United States stood up for the papacy, and it would work to remove three horns—the king of the south (atheist Russia), the glorious land (USA), and Egypt (the rest of the world)—in order to place the abomination that maketh desolate. These three points of conquest for the papacy parallel the three horns of Daniel 7:8—the kingdoms of the Heruli, Goths and Vandals. Therefore the king of the south, the glorious land and Egypt would also be *kingdoms*—not a church.

During this time the United States will “pollute” its “sanctuary of strength,” just as pagan Rome destroyed what made it strong. When either pagan or papal Rome ruled *from the city of Rome* they were invincible, but when they left or were taken out of their sanctuary of strength, they lost its power. What makes the United States strong is its Constitution, and it will pollute that in verse 41 at the Sunday law. When that is accomplished, the United States will no longer be a Protestant nation, for it will have fully filled its cup of iniquity and fully become apostate Protestantism, rejecting Protestantism for Catholicism, just as the pagan kings removed the “daily” by rejecting the religion of paganism for Catholicism.

When Egypt is conquered (verses 42-43), the papacy will return to its former position of power and the blood-bath of verse 44 will begin, paralleling verses 32-35, but the papacy will come to its end in verse 45, paralleling the deadly wound of verse 36. “Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place.”

If we hold an incorrect view of the “daily,” then we arrive at an incorrect view of verses 30 and 31. In so doing, we eliminate our ability to see the work that is accomplished for the papacy in these verses, and therefore we do not recognize the conquering of three nations. Without this recognition we are impeded in recognizing the glorious land as a nation. Hope this helps. Jeff

*Brother Jeff:*

*Malachi 3:11, 12: “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.”*

*I am eating up what you sent me and really enjoying it—but maybe I am overly simplistic as I see the above text as also pointing to a geographic land—fruits of the ground; cast her fruit . . . in the field. This is not talking about people or religion—it is talking about LAND. The land God’s people are dwelling in—people don’t have vines on them—the land has vines on it.*

*In verse 10, Malachi is talking to the people and telling them to bring in the tithe, etc., and indicating that God would bless their LAND. It would be silly to apply that blessing to the religion or congregation. It is their LAND He blesses. So I don’t think [c] has any leg to stand on. God Bless! PT*

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Sister PT:

I see your point, very nice observation. Jeff

*Brother Jeff:*

*It is very clear the "latter rain" starts before the Sunday Law. Here are two statements from EGW:*

"But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before." *The Great Controversy*, 605.

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. . . . The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message." *Early Writings*, 277.

*Anonymous*

## Old News

Within the last few decades, amid the rumblings and the ruins of two World Wars, the United States of America has emerged paramount and dynamic on the stage of global politics. From across the great land mass of Eurasia, Russia—the bastion of Communism, equally dynamic in its struggle to build up new political structure—is challengingly waiting for the tumbling of the old pattern of society, confident that time is on her side. At the same time, the Catholic Church, seemingly preoccupied only with its religious tasks, is feverishly engaged in a race for the ultimate spiritual conquest of the world.

But whereas the exertions of the USA. and of the USSR., are followed with growing apprehension, those of the Vatican are seldom scrutinized. Yet not a single event of importance that has contributed to the present chaotic state of affairs has occurred without the Vatican taking an active part in it.

The Catholic population of the world—400 millions—is more numerous than that of the United States and Soviet Russia put together. When it is remembered that the concerted activities of this gigantic spiritual mass depend on the lips of a single man, the apathy of [the] non-Catholic American should swiftly turn to keenest attention. His interest, furthermore, should increase when he is made aware that the United States is intimately involved in the attainment of both the immediate and the ultimate goals of the Vatican.

These goals are:

1. The annihilation of Communism and of Soviet Russia.
  2. The spiritual conquest of the U.S.A.
  3. The ultimate Catholicization of the world.
- Do these goals seem fantastic?

Unfortunately they are neither speculation nor wild and idle dreams. They are as indisputable and as inextricably a part of contemporary history as the rise of Hitler, the defeat of Japan, the splitting of the atom, the existence of Communism. Indeed the inescapable alternative by which mankind today is confronted is not whether this will be the American or the Russian Century, but whether this might not after all become the Catholic Century.

Surely, then, the nature, aims and workings of the Catholic Church deserve some scrutiny. The American citizen, perturbed by the past, bewildered by the present and made increasingly anxious about the future, would do well to ponder the exertions of the Vatican in contemporary

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American and world politics. His destiny as well as the destiny of the United States, and indeed of mankind, has been and will continue to be profoundly affected by the activities of an institution which, although a church, is nonetheless as mighty a political power as the mightiest nation on the planet. *The Vatican in World Politics*, Avro Manhattan, 1949.

### **Iran's Secret Weapon: The Pope**

The diplomatic chess game around Iran's nuclear program includes an unlikely bishop. According to several well-placed Rome sources, Iranian officials are quietly laying the groundwork necessary to turn to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican diplomats for mediation if the showdown with the United States should escalate toward a military intervention.

Iran, which has had diplomatic relations with the Holy See for 53 years, may be trying to line up Benedict as an ace in the hole for staving off a potential attack in the coming months. "The Vatican seems to be part of their strategy," a senior Western diplomat in Rome said of the Iranian leadership. "They'll have an idea of when the 11th hour is coming. And they know an intervention of the Vatican is the most open and amenable route to Western public opinion. It could buy them time."

Says one key Catholic Church player involved in these discussions: "The Pope will speak explicitly only when the conditions call for it. One difference this time [compared with Iraq] is that we're hoping the American bishops could speak out [against any attack plans]. That would be of great help."

Says one high-ranking Vatican official: "The Iranians look to the Holy See with particular attention. It is born from our common religious matrix. This could be utilized to offer ourselves as an intermediary if the crisis worsens."

Located in a leafy Rome neighborhood, the Iranian embassy to the Holy See features an entryway lined with a large photograph of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and framed, centuries-old correspondence between popes and Persian monarchs, including a November 16, 1561, letter in Latin from Pope Pius V to Shah Tahmasp I. The current No. 2 official at the embassy, Vice-Ambassador Ahmad Fahima, said that despite some concern last year about the Pope's provocative speech about Islam in Regensburg, Germany, "relations between Iran and the Holy See are very good." Last April's release of 15 British sailors held by Iran—a decision that Ahmadinejad called "an Easter gift"—came just a day after the Pope had sent a private letter asking for their liberation. "There was respect for the request of the Pope," said Fahima, who also cited a Rome meeting in May between Benedict and former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami as a sign of the mutual good will. "The policy of the Holy See is important throughout the whole world," the diplomat said.

Iran has a surprisingly large diplomatic corps at the Vatican (only the Dominican Republic has more diplomats accredited to the Holy See) who have a monthly meeting with papal advisers.

Indeed, while home to a relatively small Christian minority, Iran is seen at the Vatican as a key player in the broader context of inter-faith relations. Religious experts say that Catholicism and Shi'a Islam have a surprisingly similar structure and approach to their different faiths. "What you have in Iran is a strong academic tradition, with both philosophical and mystical aspects—in many ways like Catholicism," says Father Daniel Madigan, a Jesuit scholar of Islam, and a member of the Vatican's commission for religious relations with Islam who helped arrange for Khatami's visit. There is also a clerical hierarchy

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in Shi'ism that is absent in other forms of Islam. Madigan notes that Iranians have long studied other cultures and religions. "They know their Western stuff," he said. "Right now, they're isolated because of sanctions, but they really do want to interact with the world." And Rome is one place the interaction has already begun. *www.time.com*, November 26, 2007.

## **Pope Benedict XVI says your life depends upon worshipping on Sunday**

"Without Sunday [worship] we cannot live!" Pope Benedict XVI declared during a mass on September 9 at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. Speaking on the final day of his three-day visit to Austria, the German pope voiced a strong call for Christians to revive Sunday keeping as an all-important religious practice.

"Give the soul its Sunday, give Sunday its soul," he chanted before a rain-soaked crowd of 40,000. Benedict said that Sunday, which he stated has its origin as "the day of the dawning of creation," was "also the church's weekly feast of creation."

Sunday worship, he warned, was not just a "precept" to be casually adhered to, but a "necessity" for all people. In Austria, most businesses are restricted from operating on Sunday. However, some business groups are pressuring the government to be allowed to open, a move Roman Catholic groups vehemently oppose. During Benedict's trip to Austria, he called for Europe to look to its Christian roots, to trust in God and to defend traditional values.

The pope has been very vocal about Europe's Christian—or Catholic—roots, and is pushing to have them included in the European Constitution. Although laws concerning Sunday worship are currently determined by individual nations, look for

the European Union to eventually gain jurisdiction over the work week—which is one big reason the Catholic Church is so intimately involved with the evolution of the EU. *www.thetrumpet.com*, September 17, 2007.

"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 unsuspectingly 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*, 581.

## **Huckabee: Amend Constitution to be in "God's standards"**

The United States Constitution never uses the word "God" or makes mention of any religion, drawing its sole authority from "We the People." However, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee thinks it's time to put an end to that.

"I have opponents in this race who do not want to change the Constitution," Huckabee told a Michigan audience on Monday. "But I believe it's a lot easier to change the Constitution than it would be to change the word of the living god. And that's what we need to do—to amend the Constitution so it's in God's standards rather than try to change God's standards so it lines up with some contemporary view?"

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When Willie Geist reported Huckabee's opinion on *MSNBC's Morning Joe*, co-host Mika Brzezinski was almost speechless, and even Joe Scarborough couldn't immediately find much to say beyond calling it "interesting." Scarborough finally suggested that while he believes "evangelicals should be able to talk politics . . . some might find that statement very troubling, that we're going to change the Constitution to be in line with the Bible. And that's all I'm going to say."

Geist further noted of Huckabee that if "someone without his charm" said that, "he'd be dismissed as a crackpot, but he's Mike Huckabee and he's basically the front-runner."

## **First animal-human embryo trials to go ahead**

Experiments to create Britain's first embryos that merge human and animal material will begin within months after a Government watchdog today approved two research teams to carry out the controversial work.

Scientists at King's College London and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne will now inject human DNA into empty eggs from cows, to create embryos known as cytoplasmic hybrids that are 99.9 per cent human in genetic terms.

The experiments are intended to provide insights into diseases such as Parkinson's and spinal muscular atrophy by producing stem cells containing genetic defects that contribute to these conditions.

These will be used as cell models for investigating new approaches to treatment and for improving understanding of how embryonic stem cells develop. They will not be used in therapy, and it is illegal to implant them into the womb.

The decision by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to grant one-year licences to both teams ends more than a

year of uncertainty for the researchers, who first applied for permission to start the work in the autumn of 2006.

Last January the authority deferred a decision and launched a consultation on the issue, which reported in September that the public was broadly supportive. In late November it again delayed ruling because of concerns about procedures for obtaining consent from the donors of the human DNA to be used.

While the HFEA was deliberating, the Government first proposed a ban on the creation of human-animal embryos, also known as "cybrids," then backtracked after a revolt by scientists. *www.timesonline.co.uk*, January 17, 2008.

"But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere." *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 3, 64.

## **Americans seek international database to carry iris, palm and finger prints**

Senior British police officials are talking to the FBI about an international database to hunt for major criminals and terrorists.

The US-initiated programme, "Server in the Sky," would take cooperation between the police forces way beyond the current faxing of fingerprints across the Atlantic. Allies in the "war against terror"—the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand—have formed a working group, the International Information Consortium, to plan their strategy.

Biometric measurements, irises or palm prints as well as fingerprints, and other personal information are likely to be exchanged across the network. One section will feature the world's most

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wanted suspects. The database could hold details of millions of criminals and suspects.

The FBI is keen for the police forces of American allies to sign up to improve international security. The Home Office yesterday confirmed it was aware of Server in the Sky, as did the Metropolitan police.

The plan will make groups anxious to safeguard personal privacy question how much access to UK databases is granted to foreign law enforcement agencies. There will also be concern over security, particularly after embarrassing data losses within the UK, and accuracy: in one case, an arrest for a terror offence by US investigators used what turned out to be misidentified fingerprint matches.

Britain's National Policing Improvement Agency has been the lead body for the FBI project because it is responsible for IDENT1, the UK database holding seven million sets of fingerprints and other biometric details used by police forces to search for matches from scenes of crimes. Many of the prints are either from a person with no criminal record, or have yet to be matched to a named individual.

IDENT1 was built by the computer technology arm of the US defence company Northrop Grumman. In future it is expected to hold palm prints, facial images and video sequences. A company spokeswoman confirmed that Northrop Grumman had spoken to the FBI about Server in the Sky. "It can run independently but if existing systems are connected up to it then the intelligence agencies would have to approve," she said.

The FBI told the Guardian: "Server in the Sky is an FBI initiative designed to foster the advanced search and exchange of biometric information on a global scale. While it is currently in the concept and design stages, once complete

it will provide a technical forum for member nations to submit biometric search requests to other nations. It will maintain a core holding of the world's 'worst of the worst' individuals. Any identifications of these people will be sent as a priority message to the requesting nation."

In London, the NPIA confirmed it was aware of Server in the Sky but said it was "too early to comment on what our active participation might be."

The FBI is proposing to establish three categories of suspects in the shared system: "internationally recognised terrorists and felons," those who are "major felons and suspected terrorists," and finally those who are the subjects of terrorist investigations or criminals with international links. Tom Bush, assistant director at the FBI's criminal justice information service, has said he hopes to see a pilot project for the programme up and running by the middle of the year.

Although each participating country would manage and secure its own data, the sharing of personal data between countries is becoming an increasingly controversial area of police practice. There is political concern at Westminster about the public transparency of such cooperation.

A similar proposal has emerged from the EU for closer security cooperation between the security services and police forces of member states, including allowing countries to search each other's databases. Under what is known as the Prum treaty, there are plans to open up access to DNA profiles, fingerprints and vehicle registration numbers. *www.guardian.co.uk*, January 15, 2008.

**"In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly**

powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. See Revelation 13:11–17. But to the obedient is given the promise, ‘He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.’ Isaiah 33:16. By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. ‘They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.’ Psalms 37:19. To that time of distress the prophet Habakkuk looked forward, and his words express the faith of the church: ‘Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.’ Habakkuk 3:17, 18.” *The Desire of Ages*, 122.

*Hi Jeff & Kathy,*

*I came across this in The Great Controversy and felt impressed to send it along to you. “To the reproaches of his enemies who taunted him with the weakness of his cause, Luther answered: ‘Who knows if God has not chosen and called me, and if they ought not to fear that, by despising me, they despise God Himself? Moses was alone at the departure from Egypt; Elijah was alone in the reign of King Ahab; Isaiah alone in Jerusalem; Ezekiel alone in Babylon. . . . God never selected as a prophet either the high priest or any other great personage; but ordinarily He chose low and despised men, once even the shepherd Amos. In every age, the saints have had to reprove the great, kings, princes, priests, and wise men, at the peril of their lives. . . . I do not say that I am a prophet; but I say that they ought to fear precisely because I am alone and that they are many. I am sure of this, that the word of God is with me, and that it is not with them.’” The Great Controversy, 142. KB—CA*

*Dear Jeff:*

*The German Bible translates instead of Alas, alas: Woe, Woe. I think it’s not correct and has nothing to do with the Woes?! What do you think?*

*For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company of ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her coastlines! for in one hour she is made desolate. Revelation 18:17–19. WB—Germany*

*Dear WB:*

I think it is correct. After the Sunday law at verse four we find the destruction of modern Babylon, and it is accomplished during the third woe,—but Babylon’s punishment is to be doubled, thus “woe, woe.” Jeff

*Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. Revelation 18:6.*

*Woe: 3759 *οὐαι*—alas 6 times in 3 verses, all in Revelation 18; woe 41 times in 41 verses throughout the New Testament.*

*Brother Jeff: Thought you might enjoy this if you didn’t already have it. Blessings, WS*

*“You will need to make straight paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. We are surrounded by the lame and halting in the faith, and you are to help them, not by halting yourselves, but by standing, like men who have been tried and proven, in principle firm as a rock. I know that a work must be done for the people, or many will not be prepared to receive the light of the angel sent down from heaven to lighten the whole earth with his glory. Do not think that you will be found as vessels unto honor in the time of the latter rain, to receive the glory of God, if you are lifting up your souls unto vanity, speaking perverse things, in secret cherishing roots of bitterness. The frown of God will certainly be upon every soul who cherishes and nurtures these roots of dissension and possesses a spirit so unlike the spirit of Christ.” *Testimony to Ministers*, 468.*