

EndTime Issues . . .

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Member ASI*

KING OF THE NORTH



PAGE 18

KING OF THE SOUTH

Mecca - Kaba

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Manuscripts are welcomed for consideration. They should relate to something that has recently been happening, to a clearer understanding of prophecy or have a deep spiritual end-time concern, be simply written and well documented with a focused interest to Christians. Length should be limited to the equivalent of ten double-spaced pages. The ongoing appeal: "Issues of concern to the final generation."

Letters to the editor: We welcome your letters of encouragement, deepening insight on relevant topics and plain feedback relative to *EndTime Issues...*. Please keep your communiques brief. Your letters will be the property of Christian Heritage Foundation. Personal answers normally cannot be made. Selected letters may be published in subsequent issues of *EndTime Issues...*

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As the demands for the services of this ministry increase, so does the need for support. This work started with **great sacrifice and faith**. It continues under those same banners.

We need your support in prayers and funds. If our financial basis was broadened, it would open the doors for a greater number to hear and see these special truths for this time.

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Have We Missed Something?

Adventists have long touted and been proud that they would be the arbiters of the Loud Cry, the final heralding of the gospel message before Jesus returns. But a seldom asked question: "What are they to present in that Loud Cry?" The age worn answer would be the three angels' messages. But, a retort question comes – What is that? It talks about a judgment timing issue, a newsworthy event and a spiritual matter (Revelation 14:6-11). Is that the summation of the Loud Cry? Hardly! For over one hundred years the first angel has been emphasized, the second briefly noted and the issues of the third avoided.

If God has a plan for a particular group of people to finish His work, it must be something big, dramatic, of current interest and so magnetic the attention of the world is riveted on it. A vibrant spirit and powerful message will reverberate interest in truths that will be relevant, of end-time interest and answer fearful questions of current importance. The gospel will sound fresh with a creative appeal. How will all this be done? By moving prophetic truths out of the past into a "now" understanding. Those truths will not be "day old bread."

Amazing! But ...

That concern was talked about over a hundred years ago.

"When God's people are at ease and satisfied with their *present* enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them. It is His will that they should be ever moving forward to receive *the increased and ever-increasing light* which is shining for them. The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for *more truth and greater light*."¹

What does that mean? – "Increased light – more truth – greater light?" Could it be the Advent movement has become like an old crust of bread – stale, stiff and

almost inedible. Might God be warning us that "fresh bread is coming out of the oven?"

There's another issue!

"A great work will be done in a short time. A message will soon be given by God's appointment that will swell into a loud cry. Then Daniel will stand in his lot, to give his testimony."²

Where does it talk about Daniel standing in his lot? It is Daniel 12. But, many claim that is old historical prophecy! *Not in our understanding*. A remarkable three angels' motif is found right there in those three timed prophecies. It is becoming increasingly clear that part of the Loud Cry message is right there in Daniel 12. We never saw it because – well, just because.

"We are to know more than we do at the present time. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. There are themes to be dwelt upon which are worthy of more than a passing notice. Angels have desired to look into the truths which are revealed to the people who are searching God's Word and with contrite hearts praying for wisdom, for greater lengths and breadths and heights of that knowledge which God alone can give.–Ms 75, 1899, p. 4."³

But, that just can't refer to Daniel – that ancient old book written hundreds of years before Christ – maybe around 536 B.C.! Perhaps it would be better if we looked at Matthew 24 or Mark 13 or Luke 21. There Jesus is telling us just like it will be.

But wait!

Jesus did say something about Daniel: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by *Daniel* the prophet, ..." Matthew 24:15. Where does Daniel talk about that? Daniel 12 (8, 9 and 11)! Shame on us for being so *satisfied* with day old bread!

"Prophecy has been fulfilling, line upon line. The more firmly we stand under the

banner of the third angel's message, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the *Revelation is the supplement of Daniel*. The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit's utterances through the prophets. These messages were given, not for those that uttered the prophecies, but *for us who are living amid the scenes of their fulfillment.*"⁴

If Revelation is the supplement, then we need to understand the "book." Daniel is to stand in his lot, and it relates directly to that last message of the Loud Cry, the events and the timing of those events.

"Daniel, God's prophet, stands in his place. John stands in his place. In the Revelation, the Lion of the tribe of Judah has opened to the students of prophecy the book of Daniel, and thus is Daniel standing in his place. He bears his testimony, that which the Lord revealed to him in vision of the great and solemn events which we *must know as we stand on the very threshold of their fulfillment.*"⁵ (Future)

Let not continued shame come to this people, to those desiring to herald the final truths to the world before the great consummation. Biblical study is causing a stir in the Protestant world. Truths that have lain dormant are being called into question. Adventist lay people all over the world are independently discovering end-time applications of prophecy – prophecy that previously was thought old and completed.

"When a message is presented to God's people, they should not rise up in opposition to it;

they should go to the Bible, comparing it with the law and the testimony, and if it does not bear this test, it is not true. God wants our minds to expand."⁶

Note!

"*Increased light* will shine upon all the grand *truths of prophecy*, and they will be seen in freshness and brilliancy, because the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will illuminate the whole."⁷

"They [previous generations] had the Bible, as we have; but the time for the unfolding of special truth in relation to the closing scenes of this earth's history is during the last generations that shall live upon the earth."⁸

Awake!

Are we that last generation? "Fresh bread *is* coming out of the oven." It is time to eat. We have overslept. Soon this ministry will begin to share prophetic issues from research it has been doing over the past three years in one of its divisions – *Prophecy Research Initiative!* It is not time to be sensational but cautious thinkers, analyzing truth, praying for understanding and setting aside all prejudice. We are challenged to ask: "Are there any hermeneutic techniques we are using that might impede the working of God's Spirit? I fear that that is a serious issue waiting to be addressed.

References

¹ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 708-709.

² *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, p. 20 (*Letter 54*, 1906).

³ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁴ *Selected Messages*, bk 2, p. 114 (*MS 32*, 1896).

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 109 (*MS 32*, 1896).

⁶ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 119.

⁷ *Evangelism*, p. 198 (*MS 18*, 1888).

⁸ *Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 692-693.

Catholicism & Islam

By T. A. McMahon
Berean Call Ministry

Ties that Bind

The above title became a source of controversy when I used it for a talk given at a recent prophecy conference. What I found curious about the commotion was that it came from Catholics (and some evangelicals) who had yet to hear my presentation. Furthermore, the title reflects the hope and prayers of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Rome has been tilling this “common ground” with Islam for decades, as evidenced by the 1994 Vatican publication, *Recognize the Spiritual Bonds Which Unite Us: 16 Years of Christian-Muslim Dialogue*. Why, therefore, would anyone be upset by my simply repeating what the Roman Catholic Church very much desires?

Actually, the real controversy stems from confusion created by the Church of Rome herself. In her zeal to be the spiritual voice of the world’s religions, she talks out of both sides of her ecumenical mouth. Regarding her relationship to Islam, not only has she made to those of the Muslim faith some theological overtures which contradict Christian orthodoxy, but even worse, there are ties between the two religions which go a lot deeper than most people realize. Let’s first consider some commonalities between the two faiths.

Starting with the number of adherents, Catholicism and Islam each exceed one billion, nearly all of whom enter their respective faiths as infants. More than 16 million babies are baptized into the Roman Catholic Church each year. It’s a family thing. My sisters and I were baptized as Catholics because our parents were Catholics, and they and their siblings were baptized into the Church because *their* parents were Catholics. That’s the primary way the faith is propagated.

Practically speaking, although baptism is not part of Islam, all children born into a Muslim family *are* Muslims. Their official “confirmation” follows as soon as they are able to confess the *shahada* (“There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his

messenger”). This baby-oriented process for increasing their ranks has been a motivating factor in the Vatican/Saudi-sponsored lobby against UN endeavors to introduce contraception and other methods of population control, especially in third-world countries.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today; Catholicism is the largest religious body among those professing to be Christian. If the number of followers was a good measure for selecting a religion, then Islam and Catholicism would definitely be the way to go. However, the Bible has no such yardstick. Rather, Jesus said, “[W]ide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait *is* the gate and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mt 7:13,14).

Most people are aware of the veneration and even worship of Mary found among Roman Catholics, but not many know that much the same deference exists among Muslims. A chapter in the Qur’an is named after Mary (“Surah Maryam”). From the outskirts of Cairo to Bombay to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, hundreds of thousands of the Islamic faith have congregated wherever processions carry her statues and where her apparitions are said to have appeared. She is esteemed above the most revered women of the Muslim faith, including Muhammad’s two favorite wives, Khadija and Aisha, *and* his daughter Fatima. The *hadith* teaches that Muhammad selected Mary as his first wife upon entrance into Paradise. One of the most popular Catholic apparitions of Mary is referred to as Our Lady of Fatima.

Catholic and Islamic prayers have many similarities. For the Muslim, praying to Allah five times a day is altogether an act of obedience, and the prayers are always repetitive. As one

former Muslim puts it, "It's hardly intimate communication with Allah;...it's done more to escape the punishment due to those who neglect prayer." Most prayers prayed by Catholics are also rote and repetitive, saying the rosary being the best example. Repeating 16 "Our Father's" and 153 "Hail Mary's" is far from personal communication. Furthermore, when a Catholic goes to confession the priest assigns rosaries as severe punishment, or penance, for one's sins.

Prayer beads were a part of Islamic devotion to Allah long before an apparition of the Blessed Lady taught St. Dominic to pray the rosary beads in the thirteenth century. Prayer beads, by the way, are a stock item in ancient and modern paganism. On an ironic note, Catholic Church historians credit the prayers of members of the Confraternity of the Rosary for a major naval victory over the Turks, which "saved Europe from the Mohammedan peril."

Catholics and Muslims regard pilgrimages as a means of obtaining favor from God. The *hadj*, one of the five pillars of Islam, is a required (one-time) journey to Mecca. For Catholics, pilgrimages historically have been acts of religious purification, often induced by the promise of indulgences. Multi-millions of Catholics travel yearly to hundreds of shrines (nearly all dedicated to Mary) located throughout the world. The Crusades were indulgence-stimulated attempts to regain Jerusalem from the infidel Muslims in order to re-establish Catholic pilgrimages. Incidentally, the Church of Rome offered the crusaders full pardon from purgatory

should they die trying to liberate the Holy Land. Similarly, Islam offers rewards in and assurance of Paradise to those who die in religious battles (*jihad*), including suicide bombings.

Roman Catholicism recognizes Allah as the God of the Bible. In 1985, Pope John Paul II declared to an enraptured audience of thousands of Muslim youths, "Christians and Muslims, we have many things in common as believers and as human beings....We believe in the same God, the one and only God, the living God...."

But how is that possible?

Historically, Allah was a pagan idol, supreme among many idols worshiped by Muhammad's Quraish tribe long before he was born. Will Durant in his classic, *The Story of Civilization*, writes:

Within the Ka'aba, in pre-Moslem days, were several idols representing gods. One was called Allah; three others were Allah's daughters, al-Uzza, al-Lat, and al-Manat. We may judge the antiquity of this Arab pantheon from the mention of Al-il-Lat (Al-Lat) by Herodotus [fifth century b.c. Greek historian] as a major Arabian deity. The Quraish paved the way for monotheism by worshiping Allah as chief god....

Archaeological evidence uncovered in Arabia is overwhelming in demonstrating that the dominant pre-Islamic religion was the worship of the moon-god, Allah. Muhammad simply eliminated the other 300-some deities, including Allah's daughters, making Allah supreme while retaining many of the pagan

rituals and symbols associated with him. For example, the crescent moon was the symbol of the moon-god from the time of the Sumerians and the Babylonians through the time of Christ and right up until Muhammad's arrival. It's hardly a coincidence that Ramadan, the Muslim time of fasting, begins and ends at the time of the crescent moon. Nearly all of the moon-god rituals and other idolatrous practices, including kissing the Black Stone, praying toward Mecca, running around

Bishops Urge Catholics to Reach Out to Muslim Neighbors

WASHINGTON — Following a rash of anti-Muslim incidents across the country, a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops official has urged Catholics to reach out to their own Muslim neighbors with concrete acts of friendship and support.

"This is exactly where our faith calls us," said John Beachi, acting director of the bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

"The first response is on the local level, on the neighborhood level," he said. "Catholics really need to go out to their Muslim neighbors to reassure them, to visit them, to express their friendships, to tell them that they're there for their help, to help protect them, if they're afraid to go to the mosque, to run errands for them, to be of support to them."

Beachi said he telephoned a friend and dialogue partner, Imam Fawaz Elmars of Parma, Ohio, after hearing that a man had intentionally crashed his car Sept. 17 into the Great Mosque in Parma, a Cleveland suburb.

The imam told him what it meant for him as an interfaith service when Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland



U.S. President George W. Bush meeting with U.S. religious leaders, including Boston Cardinal Bernard Law, who is seated next to Bush, at the White House Sept. 20. The interfaith group denounced all acts of racism and bigotry against Arabs and Muslims. (CNS photo from Reuters)

National Catholic Register 9/30-10/6/01

the temple and between the two hills of Safa and Marwa, were pre-Islamic rituals.

Catholicism's zeal to relate to Islam makes one wonder how honest it is about its own perspective on God, based on the "Sacred Scripture." God is referred to as Yahweh or Jehovah about 9,000 times in the Bible. Never is He thus referred to in the Qur'an. He reveals himself in the Scriptures as "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob/Israel." He is the Father of the Jews, "the God of Israel." In the Qur'an, Allah never refers to himself that way. God calls the Jews His "chosen people." He gave them the land of Israel as a heritage "forever." "And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever" (Ezk 37:25). God's covenant is with Isaac (Gn 17: 19-21), while Muslims believe Allah's covenant is with Ishmael.

Allah has a completely different attitude toward the Jews than does the God of the Bible. Allah commands his followers to "Take not the Jews...for friends" (Sura 5:51). While the Jews are referred to in the Qur'an as "the people of the book" (i.e., the Bible), if they refuse to convert to Islam they must pay a tribute tax to their overlords and become subservient to them: "Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by his messenger, and follow not the religion of truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low" (Sura 9:29). According to the *hadith*, which most Muslims regard to be nearly as authoritative as the Qur'an, Muhammad is quoted as saying, "The last hour will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Muslims kill them." Again, the *hadith* says that, related to the Day of Judgment, Muslims will fight and kill Jews, who will hide behind trees that say, "Oh Muslim, Oh servant of Allah, here is a Jew hiding behind me. Come here and kill him." Catholicism has its own grievous and well-documented history of slaughtering the Jews.

Further comparisons between Jehovah and Allah demonstrate clearly that they cannot be one and the same. Jehovah has a Son: "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 Jn 4:14). Allah has no son: "And say: Praise be to Allah, Who hath *not* taken unto Himself a son, and Who hath no partner in the Sovereignty..." (Sura 17:111); "Allah hath not chosen any son, nor is there any God along with him" (Sura 23:91). Whereas God the Father declared from heaven concerning Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17), Allah of the Qur'an condemns such a belief: "...the Christians say: Messiah is the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouths. They imitate the saying of the disbelievers of old. Allah's Curse be on them, how they are deluded away from the truth!" (Sura 9:30 - The Holy Qur'an www.orst.edu/groups/msa/index.html).

While there are both clear and critical differences between the biblical God and Allah, nevertheless, the Roman Catholic Church accepts them as one and the same God. The following quote is from Vatican II:

"The Church has also a high regard for the Muslims. They worship God, who is one, living and subsistent, merciful and almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has also spoken to men. They strive to submit themselves without reserve to the hidden decrees of God, just as Abraham submitted himself to God's plan, to whose faith Muslims eagerly link their own."

Although not acknowledging him as God, they venerate Jesus as a prophet, his virgin Mother they also honor, and even at times devoutly evoke. Further, they await the day of judgment and the reward of God following the resurrection of the dead. For this reason they highly esteem an upright life and worship God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds and fasting (*Nostra Aetate*, Vatican II).

Consider carefully the above quote (taken from what the Roman Catholic Church claims is an *infallible* council) and you will realize what truly binds Catholicism and Islam together: *They both have a Jesus who cannot save their souls.*

The Qur'an teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross: "And because of [the Jews] saying, We slew the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah's messenger, They slew him not nor crucified, but it appeared so unto them; and lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain" (Sura 4:157). Vatican II may give Muslims credit for "venerating" Jesus, but in fact, it's a bogus Jesus. Sadly, Catholicism also has a false Christ. It teaches that His death on the cross was not sufficient for our salvation. Not only must His sacrifice (which, according to the Scriptures, was offered *only once* to take away our sins *completely* [Heb 9:28]) be "re-presented" as a daily sacrifice for sins on altars around the world, but Catholics must expiate their own sins through sufferings here on earth and in purgatory.

Finally, Vatican II spells out clearly what Islam and Catholicism regard as their hope for salvation: "...they highly esteem an upright life and worship God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds and fasting." *This is works salvation.* In Islam, a person is accountable for every thought, word, and deed. His or her life is to be lived according to what is pleasing to Allah as found in the Qur'an and the *hadith*. In addition, there is *shari'a*, which is the body of rules that attempts to cover the *totality* of Islamic religious, political, social and domestic life. Breaking such laws involves various forms of temporal punishment. At the Last Judgment Allah will determine one's eternal destiny as He places one's good and evil works on the divine scale: "Then those whose scales are heavy [with good deeds], they are the successful. And those whose scales are light

are those who lose their souls, in hell abiding" (Sura 23:102,103). The *hadith* vividly describes the tortures of hell.

A friend of mine, James McCarthy, produced a video titled *Catholicism: Crisis of Faith* in which he interviews about a dozen people leaving Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He simply asks them on what basis they expect to get to heaven. Only one made any reference to Jesus. The overwhelming response was that they felt they were pretty good people, and were fairly confident that their good deeds outweighed their bad ones. Although the Catholic Church states that it is only by God's grace that one can enter heaven, it becomes very clear that what is meant is that grace is required *to enable one to do the works which qualify one* for heaven. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, they "obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ" (par 1821) and they "can merit for [them]selves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life" (par 2027).

Pope John Paul II addressed a Catholic community in Turkey with these words: "I wonder if it is now urgent, precisely today when Christians and Muslims have entered a new period of history, to recognize and develop the spiritual bonds that unite us." No! What is "urgent" is that Catholics and Muslims be set free from the spiritual *bondage* of attempting to qualify for heaven by their good deeds. Pray that their hearts would be open to receive the gift of eternal life (Rom 6:23).

The Berean Call

<http://www.thebereancall.org/newsletters/nov02.htm>
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Power to Erode Liberty

Blinded by the “new morality” of pro-choice, affirmative action, environmentalism, greed for the common good and an insatiable drive for power, burgeoning “laws” are being passed, restricting the fabric of liberty in the United States. Some are coming through the legislative process. But most are evolving through regulatory decisions or directly from the bench, criminalizing social behavior which has no bearing to moral wrongs that traditionally defined a criminal act.

The majority of these statutes come under the guise of *administrative law* and are enforced by unelected regulatory authorities that have no accountability to the people. “Today Americans are drawing prison sentences for unknowingly violating vague regulations ...

“Law, which once served a concept of justice, has been replaced by a tyranny that answers only to the conscience of prosecutors. One might think this development would strike a chord among conservatives. However, intent on chasing down criminals and now terrorists, conservatives have turned a deaf ear to the collapse of the legal structure built over the centuries in order to protect the innocent.”¹

Examples of the risk to anyone comes with two illustrations. One: The Exxon Valdez oil spill was an accident of negligence which should have been prosecuted as a civil matter. The whole argument was treated as a criminal case. Two: Edward Hanousel, *manager* of a railroad in Alaska, was off duty when a worker, on his own initiative, used a backhoe to remove rocks from a train track and accidentally ruptured an oil pipeline. Several thousand gallons spilled into the Skagway River. Ed Hanousel was given a stiff prison term for not supervising the worker properly.

Novel regulations are being created and equally novel interpretations are being levied by prosecutors to indict people for crimes that didn't even exist *before* the legal process began. In the past, felony charges were imposed when “intent” to commit was shown. Now that intent is no longer required, prosecution for criminal behavior can be actually created by an indictment. A conviction can be sought in the name of a “common good” regardless of moral innocence.

This crisis has now reached serious proportions. Between March 2001 and March 2002, Federal prosecutors initiated 62,957 regulatory cases. During that time 3,100 defendants were charged with criminal violations of “federal statutes.” More federal resources are going into this “new” and novel area of “crime” than murder, robbery, embezzlement, forgery or sex offences.²

Accidents and negligence can now be criminalized instead of being dealt with under civil law, and conviction can come for the misbehavior of another. This can be based on a “prohibited” act that is not morally wrong but declared by a prosecutorial opinion. Thus, loss of liberty, a severe sanction of freedoms can come from a social agenda by those in power.

How far has the prosecutorial arm gone in the United States in the area of indicting moral innocence?

1. Conviction can come for unknowingly committing an illegal act (i.e., transporting mislabeled medication on a truck across a state line when unaware of details of load) if the opportunity existed to learn of its wrong before hand (United States vs Dotterweich).

2. Conviction for negligence when an underling manager fails to follow through with an order in another state (United States vs Lark). (Acme Food president charged with a rodent problem when he had ordered a store manager to resolve it in another state. It wasn't completed in a timely manner.) Thus, Acme President Park was charged with “felony failure to supervise” and jailed.

3. Conviction for antitrust violations when successfully competing without any deliberate *intent* to monopolize (United States vs Gypsum Co.) (corporate executive indicted because he should have suspected a crime because company's shares were rising in value).

4. Conviction of a manager for wrongful acts of workers, even though not on duty (United States vs Hanousok – accidental break in oil pipeline).

“The use of the *public welfare doctrine* to address social goals enlists the criminal law as an agent of social regulation and change.” “In effect, the criminal law, through *the public welfare doctrine* has become a tool of socialization ...” “Society has come, instead to rely on the “conscience and circumspection” in prosecuting officers’

“Where once, to be a criminal, an individual had to do an act (or attempt to do an act) with willful intent to violate the law or with knowledge of the wrongful nature of his conduct, today it is possible to be found criminally liable and imprisoned for a substantial term of years for the failure to do an act required by law, without any actual knowledge of the law’s obligations and with no wrongful intent whatsoever. These developments are advanced in the name of the ‘public welfare’ – an express invocation of broader social needs at the expense of individual liberty and responsibility.”³

Criminal law has come to this strange and unusual point. Constitutional issues are being abrogated by regulatory officials for the “common

good” and “public welfare” of society. Judicial decisions bypass the legislative process. A growing number of government leaders are seeing the constitution as “fluid” – it can be worked like a piece of clay. Personal liberties are being taken away, case by case. It is only a matter of time when such actions will be made on a corporate scale, restricting liberty on segments of society and not just individuals. Legal precedents have been made and upheld. The framework for unprecedented curtailment of liberty is in place. Biblical evidence suggests this will culminate in a moral mandate called the “abomination” (Daniel 8, 9, 11, 12; Matthew 24) “which leads to desolation” (utter ruin).

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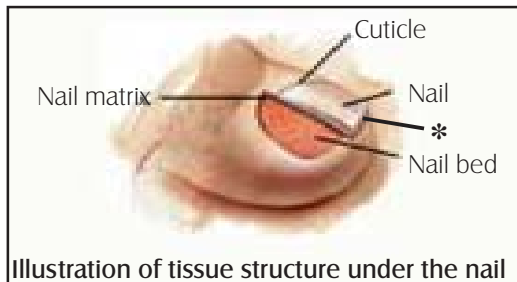


HEALTH QUEST

Fungus Infection of the Nails

It can happen to anyone, and at some point, it happens to most everyone. Several types of *fungi* causes skin and nail infections. The most common belong to a microscopic plant family called *dermatophytes*. They are found everywhere and will grow on humans if the right conditions are present.

Normally, these fungi begin to grow and branch



out, invading skin structures if the area is moist, hasn't been cleansed for a period of time or when the skin has been cracked or damaged. Diabetics have a much higher incidence of fungus disorders. The most difficult fungus infections to treat are on the nails – usually toenails.

The fungus usually starts under the edge of the nail against the skin (see "*" in diagram above). It can move back along the nail bed and actually separate the nail. If it invades the nail per se, it often grows in

a grotesque way, thickening and deforming it over time (see figure). Nail infections are called *onychomycosis*.



Onychomycosis



Occasionally, because of poor circulation and/or hygiene, the finger or toe with a fungus infection gets another infection from a bacteria – or single cell germ. This can lead to serious problems, abscesses or even a partial to total loss of the digit.

Treatment

Most fungus infections can be treated successfully at home. Care and *persistence* in following a few rules usually lead to resolution of the problem. It does take time – often months to finally have a cure.

The outer layers of the skin and nails are dead tissue. The secret is to make that "environment" an unhappy place for fungus to grow *and* to use antifungal medicine to kill what is there.

Here are a few simple steps to follow:

1. General
 - a. Keep nail beds and skin areas clean (daily baths, using soap is best).
 - b. Thoroughly dry the body before dressing, especially the feet and toes.
 - c. Bath powder often adsorbs moisture and aids in this process.
2. Nail infection
 - a. The nails should be trimmed back carefully.
 - b. If the involved nail has become thickened and deformed, that should be pared down little by little so the medicine can penetrate the deeper layers. Professional help may be helpful.
 - c. The best time to work on the nails is after a bath or shower.
 - d. Any part of the nail that is separated from the bed should be carefully removed.
 - e. All this might have to be done in stages over time.

3. Apply an antifungal to the skin, nail and nail bed one to two times per day – after trimming.
 - a. There are many types of products with many claims sold in health stores and pharmacies.
 - b. The simplest and probably the most effective is *Tea Tree Oil*. This is purchased in many health sections of stores, pharmacies, health food outlets and perhaps the best place is on the Internet.
 - c. A Q-tip soaked with the oil and dabbed on the affected area till it is soaked is the simplest.

As the new nail grows out, it may have a deep groove where the transition zone between the infected nail and the normal nail joins. That will eventually grow out and be clipped off with nail trimming.

Does Tea Tree Oil work on other types of fungus such as ringworm or athletes feet? Yes – and very effectively. There are many external uses for this remarkable, nontoxic oil. These will be dealt with over time in this health section.





Why Jesus is Coming Soon

~ Reason Six ~

Violence

Raising questions that universally haunt mankind, Habakkuk cried unto God,

“How long, O Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’
but you do not save?
Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.” Habakkuk 1:2-4
(NIV)

Violence began 6,000 years ago with Cain in a revengeful act against his brother. So close to the origin of man, the son of the first couple who talked with God – the immediate heir of those knowing the consequences of even a “small” sin – murdered his next of kin.

Revenge, hate, conquer at all cost, have been satanically inspired attributes of degenerate man. Instead of the heartaches from violent loss stifling man’s desire to harm, the trend over the centuries has only worsened, until the crime of all crimes led to Jesus dying on the cross – the ultimate violence.

In the ancient account of the flood, God said one great issue that brought earth’s destruction was violence.

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.” Genesis 6:11-12.

The bloodiest hands of men who justified death on *ethnic* and *religious* grounds, brought to an end

millions of committed moral people in *recent* history.

Note these amazing trends!

In Europe alone in the past four centuries:

3.3 million killed	17th century
5.2 million killed	18th century
5.5 million killed	19th century
28.0 million killed	20th century (to 1970)

In despair, Habukkuk wanted to know why destruction of human life had to be tolerated. Yet 2500 years later, the 20th century was the bloodiest in all of history. More people died from violence and warring in the past 100 years than in all of history combined!

Niche’ of Germany, whose grandfathers were Christian ministers, popularized the phrase that “God had died” in the 19th century and predicted that the 20th century would be the bloodiest of all because a universal madness would overtake humanity. This godless man was right – and he helped to fulfill his own predictions through his humanistic writings which inspired numerous tyrants that saw life as a commodity. Auzwitschs, alone, saw 12,000 individuals slaughtered each day.

Chairman Mao in China’s Cultural Revolution killed upwards of 65 million of his own people. The butchery of Stalin brought additional millions to their graves from starvation and outright murder while the “free” world looked the other way.

Even more



Societal cleansing: In the name of revolution, Mao’s regime may have been responsible for killing 65 million.



World, 4/26/97

Denounce or die: At gunpoint, rebels order suspected secret policemen to shout, "Down with Berisha!"

tragic, ever since the invention of the motion picture and subsequently television, violence, murder and torture became a form of entertainment to the sick minds of a sin-filled world.



Wedgwood Baptist Church



Wedgwood's suburban neighborhood

In the last decade 500,000 people were slaughtered in ethnic violence in Rwanda and Uganda (1994-1997). The United Nations and the United States cowardly turned their heads. Two to three million Christians have been killed in the Sudan. Algeria has seen brutal killings of thousands of families, and the government has played helpless.



U.S. News & World Report, 7/26/99

Colombian soldier mourns colleagues killed by FARC rebels.

European nations have been the hotbed of ethnic violence, especially in the area of Old Yugoslavia.

Columbia has lost thousands of its citizens from FARC rebels. Over \$500 million has been spent of United States dollars to suppress those hate filled renegades with limited success.



World, 10/2/99

Colombia: Killers "really don't care whether the people they attack are guilty or innocent"

The continent of Africa is aflame with war and violence.

Painful memories are drawn upon when thinking of Columbine High School, Colorado and the Wedgwood Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, where innocent victims were recently gunned down.



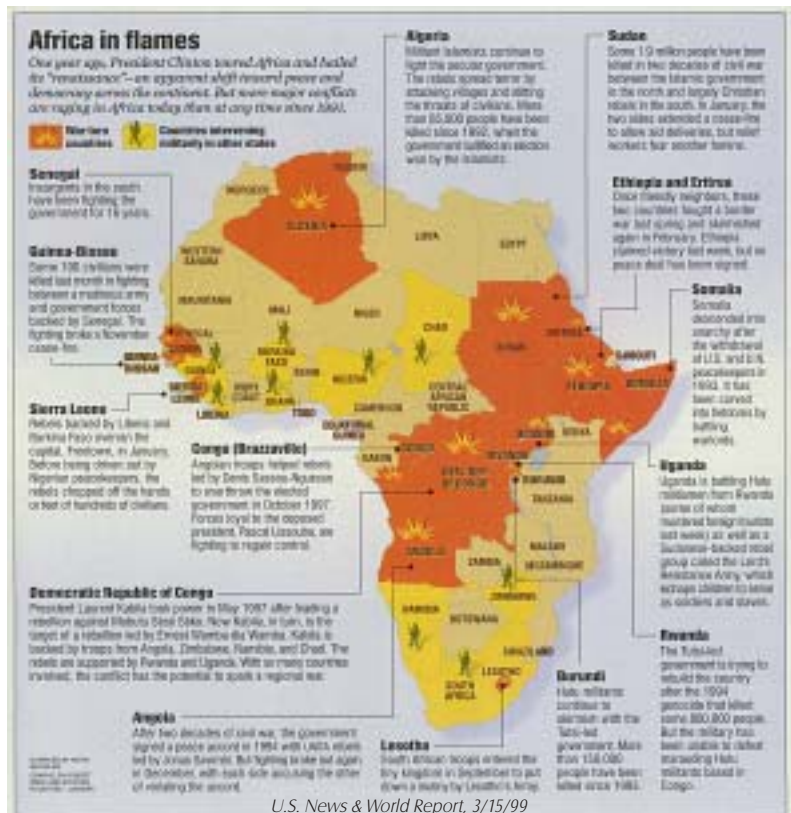
Newsweek, 8/23/99

Columbine High School - Colorado

These issues began to crescendo into concern in the early 1990's. Physicians began to notice that an epidemic of hatred was turning into an epidemic of violence. Enough societal concern was expressed among thinking Americans that in June of 1994 a major article was published specifically for physicians to help *them* address and understand violence.¹

Recently this report was publicized: "Yossi Klein Halevi, columnist for the left leaning *Jerusalem Report*, wrote the following piece for Canadian newspapers recently: 'A new hit song on Egyptian radio stations proclaims, "I hate Israel." State controlled newspapers vie with each other to spread the most astonishing lies, including the medieval notion that Jews use the blood of murdered Gentile children for matzo – the theme of a popular book written by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas that is about to be turned into an Egyptian film that is touted as the Arab response to Schindler's List.

"The Arab world has become obsessed with



holocaust, and two camps have emerged. One camp, which includes the government-controlled newspapers of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority, argues that the Holocaust never happened.

“The other, which includes at least one government newspaper in Egypt, acknowledges that the Holocaust did happen and is grateful to Hitler for implementing it. Indeed, nowhere except in the Arab world is both Holocaust denial and admiration for the Final Solution mainstream – positions even among intellectuals.

“Ahmad Ragab, in his daily column in the Egyptian government sponsored newspaper, Al Akhbar, April 20 wrote: “Thanks to Hitler, of blessed memory, who, on behalf of the Palestinians, revenged in advance against the most vile criminals on the face of the earth. Although, we do have a complaint against him for his revenge on them, was not enough.” Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi recently accused Israel and the CIA of infecting Libyan children with AIDS... Emboldened by the unrestrained Jew-hatred, Saddam Hussein ended his speech at the recent Arab summit in Amman, Jordan with the prayer: God, damn the Jews’....

“Instead of using the billions of dollars given to him by Western countries to lift Palestinians out of their misery, the treacherous Yasser Arafat has purposely kept them seething in their filth and squalor, which promotes hate in the refugee camps and boys throwing stones at Israeli soldiers! Recently, hackers have uncovered billions of dollars of assets and properties owned by Arafat – still a terrorist – and his cronies, across Europe! Even the gullible Norwegian media are now writing about ‘Arafat’s long pockets’ and the money trail!

“In a revealing Times of London article titled, \$4.5B in foreign aid to Palestinians revives concerns about corruption, Christopher Walker unveils the ‘corruption already endemic in Yasser Arafat’s fledgling state.’ ...

“Finally, the media is letting Canadians know what I have known for years – the double standard of our politically correct Liberal government! In spite of the many insensitive and ridiculous statements made by Heady Fry, Elinor Caplan and P.M. Jean Chretien, about the scary, hidden agenda of Her Majesty’s Official Opposition and biased, bigoted western Canadians, intelligent Canadians knew before and after Sept. 11 about Canada’s reputation

as being ‘an easy mark’ for unscrupulous refugee claimants, and ‘a haven for terrorists.’ ...

“For a number of years, I have read in Norwegian Lutheran newspapers of the hate-filled textbooks used against Jews in Palestinian schools. The Canadian Press has finally blown the whistle on the Canadian Government’s alleged complicity and cover-up of our involvement in this nefarious and evil work!

“According to 58 new textbooks and two teacher’s guides for grades 1,2,3,6,7 and 11, published in the past two years by the Palestinian Authority, Israel does not exist – nor does the concept of peace, a U.S study has found. Children are encouraged from the earliest school age to hate Israelis, glorify “martyrs” and seek the “liberation” of all of Palestine, including Israel.

“The analysis of the textbooks, published this week, was carried out by the New York-based Center for Monitoring Impact of Peace, a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging tolerance and mutual respect between peoples and nations.

“The PA curriculum does not teach the acceptance of Israel’s existence and instead of working to erase hateful stereotypes, it is instilling them into the next generation’s consciousness,’ says Yohanan Manor. ‘Every map in every subject – from grade 2 math to grade 7 geography – marks the West bank and Gaza as Palestine and fails to show any modern Israeli cities such as Tel-Aviv or Hadera.

“The new textbooks are being used throughout the Palestinian-controlled areas in the West bank and Gaza in some 1300 schools administered by the Palestinian Authority and 261 run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

“Since 1993, Canada has contributed \$165 million in direct aid to Palestinian development programs, including education, plus \$10 million annually to the U.N.’ ...

“For years, European anti-terror investigators have had evidence that fanatics were preparing new forms of terrorism. In May 1997, an Algerian extremist in London was arrested in possession of a scientific work on botulism. During the 1999 dismantling of a militant Islamic network in Belgium, police found on one of the leaders a document detailing the military applications of botulism toxin in aerosol form. The bin Laden operatives arrested in Brussels after Sept. 11 were known associates of some of those apprehended in the 1998 raid.

“An Egyptian source close to the bin Laden network says Midhat Mursi (alias Abu Khahab) operatives managed to stash dangerous substances in Asia and perhaps in the US and Europe, as well. Chemical terrorism is also a priority for al-Qaeda. During the Bosnia war, bin Laden agents actively recruited engineers and lab technicians who had worked in a Sarajevo factory producing chemical arms.

“The intended use of such weapons is made clear in the “Encyclopedia of Jihad.” The book details how to exploit building air conditioning systems in biological and chemical attacks. Operatives are urged to poison “drug and medical supplies” and to use syringes to contaminate food supplies.

“Food Supply Could Become Target!

“James Stevenson writing for the Canadian Press (Nov. 12, 2001) stated: ‘The terrifying possibility of someone poisoning a stockpile of grain or a huge feedlot is reason enough to fast-track a food traceability program, says a US agricultural expert.’

“Farm economist David Kohl says that within a few years, consumers within North America will demand to know exactly where their food originated. ‘Kohl, a professor at Virginia Tech University and an advisor to agricultural groups throughout the world, including the massive U.S. Farm Credit System, says food production is another likely target for terrorists in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.’

“Kohl says that because modern agricultural production tends to cluster in highly concentrated areas, that makes it an easier target for terrorists! A recent report on CNN (Nov.19, 2001) stated that US government official’s worst fear, is that terrorists could poison the ‘Food Chain’ with botulism, E-coli or other deadly poisons! ...

“‘We Are at War with Islam,’ Says Arab Journalist!

“‘There is a real resistance on the part of western leaders to call a spade a spade,’ says Joseph Farah, an American of Christian Arab heritage who edits the prominent Internet news service *WorldNetDaily*. ‘More accurately Islam is at war with us. Islam is an ideology rather than a religion – a scary world-view that advocates world domination. They (Muslim fundamentalists) call U.S. “Great Satan” and Israel “Little Satan.”

“These are hardly labels that allow for peaceful co-existence, the journalist suggests. ‘Bin Laden is not a nationalist; he has no country. He is a Muslim

who wants to see the world dominated by Islam’, says Farah!

“The Report (Oct.8, 2001) states: ‘Bernard Lewis, a professor emeritus, from Princeton University who wrote many books about Arabic history, has described the Muslim’s extermination of the once – prosperous Jewish tribes. The process was initiated by the prophet Muhammed, who pronounced: “Two religions may not dwell together on the Arabian peninsula.”’

“‘By the Muslim’s own accounts, treacherous ambushes, mass murder and heavily discriminatory taxes were inflicted on the Arabian Jews, whose population vanished.’ ...

“As believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we have known for a long time that great tragedies would eventually happen, because the Bible – God’s Holy Word – has so diligently and graphically forewarned of them!

“Jesus said, ‘And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, by ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginning of sorrows.’ (Mark 13:7,8)

“I believe that Sept. 11 will go down in history as the BEGINNING OF SORROWS, not only for the USA, but for the entire world! As the “Early Church” suffered great persecution in fulfillment of the before noted prophecy, could this be the DEFINING MOMENT when this double – prophecy is being fulfilled?

“My answer: ‘A very definite YES! That is a distinct possibility!’ That these troubled, perilous times are prophetic in nature is no doubt, and that we are inching toward the “Second Coming of Jesus”



Bombing rocks Caucasus region, Russia.

Haiti: Clash between pro-Aristide demonstrators and members of the Haitian secret police, FRAPH.

and the end of the "Dispensation of Grace" is a certainty!"²

Then the report lists the fallen colleagues, victims of murder in the recent past.

There is also a radical Islamic threat in Indonesia, Borneo, the Philippines, Russia, Africa, the Middle East, Israel and now – America.

BUT – wait – there is more to all this than "random" violence as the media would portray. It has become part of the media's entertainment fare and children's education to hate by settling differences through force.

Even in Europe children in Albanian schools are taught that the highest goal when they "grow up" is to kill Serbs.³

As Pope John Paul II appeals to the world for peace with an audience of over 1,000,000(!) in Spain in May of 2003, Iraqi and United States soldiers are uncovering the remains of Saddam's killing fields.



U.S. News & World Rpt, 8/17-24/98
Nairobi U.S. Embassy explosion by terrorists leaves 74 dead, over 1700 injured.



Newsweek, 9/13/99
East Timor, Indonesia: Youth killed by militiamen



World, 9/22/01
New York – 9/11/01



Agency France Presse – May 2003
Saudi Arabia bombing – May 2003

The statistics can go on and on to a point of risking callousness. There is another issue of violence we know of, but which has become part of the hard hearts of our social fabric – and even Christians'. The most dangerous place in America today is the mother's womb! Crusty humanism and a growing theology that denies responsibility is fast becoming the violent tyrants of this hour.

Habakkuk cries, "God where are you in all this?"

"What is happening to us?" Once conscience protected emotion, now emotion acts devoid of conscience. We are goaded on to model violence from hours each day in a vast menu of murder and retaliation in our living rooms and find not even minutes to be influenced by the Spirit's wooing. Reality is being developed by images of horror – and – we become changed as we behold.

What is God's answer? Habakkuk 2:18-10. Answer one is not in man but in God – He still is! Even the skeptic knows that there is safety in the concepts of Christianity. Finally, God told this prophet that at the *appointed time the end* of all things will come. Habakkuk 2:2-3.

The tarrying time will then end.

The days are here when violence has gripped the world. Life is greatly at the mercy of hardened hearts and emotions no longer under heaven guided

consciences. Events around us show that declaration will soon be made when "time will no longer be delayed." Jesus is coming soon!

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Pope John Paul II
Sky News, 5/3/03



One million+ gathered around Pope John Paul II as he appeals for world peace in Madrid.
Sky News, 5/3/03

Saddam's killing fields





Prophecy Unfolds

KING OF THE NORTH – KING OF THE SOUTH – DANIEL 11

(INTRODUCTORY ISSUES)

BY FRANKLIN S. FOWLER JR., M.D.

Extensive work continues into deciphering the meaning of Daniel 11. It is noteworthy that the last prophetic power there, which comes to its end, is the King of the North.

Early Adventist expositor Uriah Smith believed as late as 1862 that this power represented the papacy.¹ Then in 1862-1863 he wrote articles on Daniel and Revelation in which he totally changed his views and felt that king to be Turkey.²

James White did not support this *new* position and sought to present unimpeachable evidence that opposed Turkey as the King of the North.

"In 1877 he wrote:

"Let us take a brief view of the line of prophecy four times spanned in the book of Daniel. It will be admitted that the same ground is passed over in chapters two, seven, eight, and eleven, with this exception that Babylon is left out of chapters eight and eleven. We first pass down the great image of chapter two, where Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome are represented by the gold, the silver, the brass, and the iron. All agree that these feet are not Turkish but Roman. And as we pass down, the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the beast with ten horns, representing the same as the great image, again all will agree that it is not Turkey that is cast into the burning flame, but the Roman beast. So of chapter eight, all agree that the little horn that stood up against the Prince of princes is not Turkey but Rome. In all these three lines thus far Rome is the *last form* of government mentioned.

"Now comes the point in the argument upon which very much depends. Does the eleventh

chapter of the prophecy of Daniel cover the ground measured by chapters two, seven, and eight? If so, then the last power mentioned in that chapter is Rome.³

"That the papacy [centered in Rome] should be the last power clearly brought to view in prophecy is a position in harmony with a statement from the Spirit of Prophecy: 'The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the *last features* plainly revealed in this earth's history.' The king of the north and his activities are the last features in earth's history brought to view in Daniel 11. Should not the papacy be the king of the north of Daniel 11, then, according to this criteria?"⁴

A congruent power that associates with and supports the papacy is the earth beast of Revelation 13. Felt to be the United States, this beast with lamb-like horns becomes a tyrannical force in support of papal standards. Since the papacy has no army, since its power comes through other nations or kingdoms, in the end-time motif, these two powers – the papacy and the United States – can be seen as a unified cooperative regimen. The King of the North draws its long history to a close with support from the earth beast.

The King of the North is identified with the antichrist who *assumes* the role and prerogatives of God. In a series of articles in this magazine (*EndTime Issues...*, vol. 4, No.s 2,4,5,6,7; vol. 5, No. 2 and vol. 6, No.s 2,3) this was extensively reviewed.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of

perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." II Thessalonians 2 (Daniel 7, 8, 11; Revelation 13, 17).



Mecca - Kaba



would have an interest to oppose or forcefully compete against an apostate Christian system or nation represented by the papacy and the United States?

It is fascinating that the Koran identifies all non-Islamics as "unbelievers." It is the antithesis force opposing the "symbolic center" of Christianity – papacy / United States (Protestantism). History of this sect reveals armed conflict against Christians since 674 A.D.⁵

The King of the South symbolizes another vast power in *competition* with and often pressing against that of the North. What force could equate with the papacy or the United States? What kingdom power with a religious bias, working together in a church-state setting could become a challenge to the Vatican and the United States?

In prophecy, north and south represent evil; east and west good. Another evil force – depicted at the very end of time (the King of the South) – comes against, "pushes at him" (the King of the North). Push – *nagah* – suggests thrusting towards or even warring against. What world power, what huge force

Commensurate with that is this instruction:

"I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them."

(Koran 8:12)

In 1979 the Iranian Revolution exploded, giving birth to a new form of radical Islamic thinking. Ayatollah Khomeini convinced the Islamic world that the United States was the "Great Satan." Seventy of the world's 184 countries are part of *Dar al Islam* or the house of Islam. Six of these are active sponsors of terrorism.



In the setting of verse 40 of Daniel 11, at the *es qes* or time of the final end – when judgment occurs, conflict between the King of the South (which *initiates* the war of hate) and that of the North will occur. The King of the North represented with its allies becomes the conqueror. Ultimately, the final focus of this conflict is becoming the “glorious land.”

The glorious land (vs 41) is also a focus of the aggressive moves of the papacy and its allies. a final move surrounds the establishment of papal “rule” in the “glorious holy mountain” (vs 45) that is between the seas. Though literalists strongly adhere to the concept that the papacy will set up a temple in Jerusalem or on the “temple mount” (which conceivably could occur), a vastly broader apocalyptic image is being developed.

The Daniel 8-12 motif draws heavily on the finishing of a holy covenant people (the *mareh* part of that vision). The repression of the little horn of Daniel 8 is depicted repeatedly here and in the New Testament as threatening *God's people*, His leaders, the Prince Himself and, finally, “sitting in the temple of God.” II Thessalonians 2. It is vital that the message of this repetitive symbolic thread of blasphemous words and actions of the papacy right at the end be not overlooked. Daniel shows a dual rise of the papacy as well as Revelation. The little horn, King of the North, sea beast and myriads of proleptic images reveal that this end-time power – with its associate, the United States – will *assume* the “holy” in every way. What we see trying to be accomplished for God’s holy (*qodesh*) people in chapters 8 and 9 will be warred against with intensity by the papacy.

Not too many verses hence (12:10) the world is polarized between the purified and the wicked.

The Vatican does own the “holy sites” in Palestine. They also make repeated overtures to assume control of Jerusalem as a neutral party to bring peace to the region. The United States continues to exhibit an active interest in bringing peace to this land of “holy” interest to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. And then we see the pivotal figures that appear in Holy Writ acting out earth’s final scenes.

The weight of evidence suggests that the noted conflict will be between the King of the North – the papacy and its ally the United States (Protestantism) and the King of the South – the Islamic World — with the former prevailing. The final outcome *may*

draw attention to the spiritual center of the Holy Land controlled by the Vatican; but, more importantly, to the final conflict between good and evil.

This spiritual setting, drawing on the broad Danielic messages of chapters 8-12, finally infers that though this conflict occurs and it appears that apostate Christianity will reign, its leaders will come to their end with no one to help (vs 45). This parallels Daniel 8:25, “he shall be broken without hand.” Ezekiel 38 and 39 draw on many parallels to Daniel 11:40-45.

Because of the growing political and religious sensitivity over the conflict between papal apostate Christianity (associated with the United States) and Islam – the two largest religious “bodies” – we have chosen to present a unique report in this issue directly related to them.

The papacy through deceitful gestures is courting the favor of Islam, Hinduism, Voodoo, etc. This is commensurate with the warning given Daniel: “... in his estate shall he honour the god of forces; and a god whom his father knew not ... shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge *and* increase with glory...” Daniel 11:38-39. Though seeking favor and recognition from many quarters of the non-Christian and Islamic worlds, “at the time of the end” (vs 40 – *es qes*), a conflict becomes the key issue. Evidence mounts that a love/hate affair will turn fully hateful against Islam right at the end. This may have already begun.

Apocalyptic issues suggest this is a great diversionary tool of Satan to put the United States at the center of world power with the papacy and apostate Protestantism in the moral forefront of human concerns. Each of these (State and Church) set the stage for the tyrannical, power driven forces noted in Revelation 13 where the sea and earth beasts are supportive partners. These, in turn, are faced with Islamic goals to conquer and usurp. Though the papacy reaches out to Muslims as a friend, it is a sham.

A time for solemn reflection by God’s people has come. The play and counterplay of world events tip ever forward in clarifying “how” the final “characters” will position themselves. The aggression by Islamic “radicals” is a Koran-directed *order* to all the Muslim World.

“Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is

good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not." (Koran 2:216)

"The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter." (Koran 5:33)

"For the Rejecters we have prepared Chains, Yokes, and a Blazing Fire." (Koran 76:4)

"Nor take life – which Allah has made sacred – except for just cause. And if anyone is slain wrongfully, we have given his heir authority (to demand Qisas or to forgive): but let him not exceed bounds in the matter of taking life; for he is helped (by the Law)." (Koran 17:33).

The symbolic issues and forces in Daniel reveal that the King of the South's opposition will fail and apostate Christianity will conquer – temporarily. But it will come to its end at the time of the Tribulation. Daniel 11:45–12:1, 7; Ezekiel 38:20-21; Daniel 9:26-27.

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MUSLIM CLERIC WANTS CHRISTIAN LEADERS KILLED – An Iranian newspaper reported that during an Oct. 11 prayer sermon, Ayatollah Mohsen Mujtahed Shabestari called for the killing of Baptist preacher Jerry Falwell, evangelist Franklin Graham and Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson for a recent series of disparaging remarks they made about Islam. Shabestari reportedly referred to the three as "the Israeli mercenaries" who needed to be "separated from other Christians." Experts say the ministers' remarks sparked riots in India, helped religious parties win elections in Pakistan and undermined public sympathy in Islamic countries for the U.S. war on terrorism, *The Washington Post* reported. Falwell recently apologized for calling Muhammad, the founder of Islam, a "terrorist" during a *60 Minutes* broadcast in October. But Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic studies at American University, said Falwell's comments already had been "flashed all over the Muslim world" and "are doing serious damage to U.S. interests," the *Post* said.

Charisma 12-2002



LIBERTY

IN THE

BALANCE

Religion Today,
April/May 2003

BAGHDAD, Iraq ó Two weeks ago, Raad Karim Essa arrived home from work to find his furniture on the street. His Muslim landlord wasn't renting to Christians anymore.

ìHe told us not to argue and threatened us,î said Essa, 42, a father of four. ìHe said the government was no longer here to protect us. What could we do? We feared for our lives.î

ìThe Muslims want to destroy us,î said Amira Nisan, 38, Essa's wife. ìI think we were better off under Saddam.î

Such a sentiment is voiced increasingly today among Iraq's 800,000 Christians.

Like most of their countrymen, Christians greeted the fall of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with celebration and hope. But in little more than a month, their desire for greater religious freedom has been replaced by fear of the fundamentalism rippling through Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, which has moved quickly to exert its influence after decades of violent repression.

Christian women say they've been harassed by Shiite men for walking on the street without head scarves, and priests complain that Shiite clerics inflame religious hatred by calling for the expulsion from Iraq of "nonbelievers."

The most overt acts have been directed at Iraq's liquor stores and manufacturers, almost universally run by Christians. The owners of those facilities say they've been threatened with death for selling alcohol, forbidden under a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

ìI'm afraid for my people,î said Bishop Ishlemon Warduni, the religious leader of Iraq's Chaldean community, which represents about 80 percent of the nation's Christians. The remaining

20 percent is comprised mostly of Syrians, Assyrians and Armenians....

Still under Shiite control, some of those hospitals now bear signs ordering any woman seeking treatment to wear a head scarf.

(BP) Opposing views on salvation and the authority of Scripture are at the heart of the debate over Christian mission efforts in postwar Iraq, as evidenced during a broadcast of National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" program May 5. A number of Christian groups are planning to provide humanitarian relief for the citizens of Iraq following the war. The controversy centers on whether missionaries also should take the Gospel into the predominantly Muslim country. During his interview with host Terry Gross, Mohler pointed out that Christ commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. "As Christians, we have a responsibility to share the Gospel, but we do not believe in evangelism by coercion, much less by legislation." Mohler said it is also important for Christians to communicate the message that missionaries are doing their work under the banner of Christ and not under the banner of the U.S. States government. Christians are united by their relationship to Christ and not by common ethnic or national background. "I think it is incumbent upon us to make very clear, as Christians, that we are not there in the name of the American government, nor frankly, representing the American people," Mohler said. "We're there in the name of Christ. Christianity is trans-ethnic, trans-political, and trans-national. That is essential to the Christian Gospel."

(Compass) A Sudanese court jailed an Episcopal priest indefinitely on April 7 for refusing to demolish a church he had built himself 11 years ago on the outskirts of Khartoum North. Judge Kamal Abd-Rahaman Alli ordered the Rev. Samuel Dobai Amum to tear down St. Matthew's Parish in Takamol and surrender the land on which it was built to the rightful owner. Amum said he would not resist court-sanctioned destruction of the modest chapel he built in 1987 to serve war refugees, but could not personally tear down a structure devoted to God. The judge declared Amum in contempt of the law and sentenced him to be imprisoned indefinitely until he either tears down the building or pays 7,000,000 Sudanese dinars (nearly \$3,000) to secure the land in the name of the church. "Is [this] not religious discrimination?" a columnist from the Khartoum Monitor asked.

(Compass) Twenty-five armed men entered a rural church in northern Colombia last week and murdered its 80-year-old evangelical pastor and three other believers, confirmed the head of the nation's evangelical alliance. Hector Pardo, head of the Colombian evangelical alliance CEDECOL, told Compass that he had not been able to confirm details of the murders or a motive for them. The Cali newspaper El Pais reported that armed men called the victims by name and attacked them in the doorway of the church in front of other parishioners. El Pais, citing police sources, said that the men slashed the throats of two victims with a knife and shot two others with rifles, then fled into a wooded area. No group has claimed responsibility, reported El Pais, but Pardo said that paramilitaries are believed to be responsible. CEDECOL issued a statement calling for armed groups to respect life, expressing its concern for the recent turn of events. "[CEDECOL] asks Colombians to respond by seeking God, His wisdom and direction, while holding a firm hope in a peaceful solution to the wave of violence that is shaking the country," the statement read.

(Barnabas Fund) Naglaa, a Christian convert from Islam, and her husband Malak have been held in prison since mid-February in an effort to force Naglaa to give up her Christian faith and return to

Islam. Naglaa and her husband were arrested at the airport as they tried to leave Egypt for Cyprus. They were sentenced to be detained for four days by the El Nozha District Attorney. However, on February 26, this was extended for a further 45 twice, and the couple are still being held despite this period having now passed. In 1996 Naglaa Hassan Ibrahim, then a student at Ain-Shams University, was baptised after spending three years exploring the Christian faith. The same year Naglaa married Malak, a Christian. Barnabas Fund was informed of the couple's plight by senior church leaders in Egypt involved with their case. "Becoming Christian shouldn't be a crime punishable by a prison sentence," the Fund was told by Egyptian church leaders who lament that it is strictly forbidden to convert from Islam to Christianity. Freedom of religion should be a human right to all, and conversions should take place with each person's own accord.

(Barnabas Fund) A Christian evangelist became Bangladesh's first martyr in modern times following attack by at least seven Muslim extremists armed with knives. Just after midnight, early in the morning of April 24, Hridoy Roy was returning home after showing a film version of Luke's Gospel. As he approached his house seven or eight people attacked him, stabbing him seven times. He died instantly. Hridoy Roy was a Bangladeshi evangelist and regularly used to put on the film, known as the Jesus Film. He is believed to be the first martyr in Bangladesh in modern times, if not ever; local believers feel that he will not be the last. They are in a state of deep shock, mourning and great fear following this tragic attack. In Islamic law (Shari'ah) conversion from Islam to another faith (apostasy) is punishable by death. This is a deep-seated tradition among Muslims and those who do convert, if not killed, are often subject to beatings and having their possessions and family taken away from them. This is the fundamental reason for the antipathy that most Muslims hold towards those who try to proselytize in their communities. It goes a long way towards explaining why they are sometimes willing to take such draconian measures to make sure that none of their community will be corrupted.

United Arab Emirates Court Gives Filipino Pastor Suspended Sentence **Barbara G. Baker.** (Compass) A criminal court in the United Arab Emirates has declared a Filipino pastor, Rev. Fernando Alconga, guilty of abusing Islam and conducting Christian missionary activity. Arrested five months ago for giving a Bible and Christian literature to an Arab Muslim at a Dubai shopping center, Alconga was held in jail for five weeks and charged with a felony for preaching other than the Islamic religion, as forbidden in the Federal Criminal Code. A total of eight court hearings were conducted in his trial, which opened on January 19. In the April 27 verdict, Chief Judge Mahmood Fahmi Sultan of the Dubai Criminal Court of First Instance suspended Alconga's punishment because the court was of the opinion that the 54-year-old pastor would not repeat his crime. "In the long run, we are seeing God's hand in this," said Alconga, an ordained Conservative Baptist minister who has pastored congregations in the UAE for the past nine years. He had been scheduled to return to the Philippines in January with his family, where he was due to take up pastoral ministry in a Manila church.

Eritrea Arrests, Conscripts More Protestant Christians. (Compass) More arrests along with forced conscriptions targeting Eritrea's independent Protestant Christians have been reported during the past two weeks, despite a blanket denial by Asmara officials on May 1 that any religious persecution exists in the East Africa nation. In an incident in the capital city over Orthodox Easter weekend, two members of the government-recognized Evangelical Lutheran Church were arrested and held in detention for three days. Taking a more severe tactic last week, military police invaded work places and private homes to arrest 56 members of independent Pentecostal churches in the northern-most province of Sahel. The military swoop, which occurred during normal working hours on April 29, was justified as conscription for military service. But according to fellow church members of the forced conscripts, most of the 16 women and 40 men picked up had already completed their mandatory military service. Many of those conscripted were teachers, nurses and professionals. They have not been seen since.

Christian Families Evicted from Homes in Laos **Charisma News Service.** In a move condemned by the U.S. government, authorities in the country's southern region have evicted three Christian families from their homes for refusing to renounce their religious beliefs. According to Radio Free Asia, the families from the Muang Phine district in Savannakhet Province are now in the care of a church after being forced out of their homes last month, the Associated Press (AP) reported. U.S. State Department officials also cited reports that Christians in the northern city of Luang Prabang and elsewhere were facing pressure from Lao authorities to renounce their faith or face eviction or detention. Some people have been arrested just for speaking freely and openly about their faith and in other parts of the country, Lao Christians have been ordered to close their churches and to stop their worship practices," said William Inboden, special adviser to the U.S. ambassador-at-large for religious freedom. In a letter sent last Friday to President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, seven members of Congress said Laos should not be rewarded for the consistently dreadful behavior," the AP reported. Laos continues to be one of the world's most reprehensible abusers of human rights."

(RNS) The Freedom from Religion Foundation has asked the city bus system in Madison, Wis., to stop using an image of Mother Teresa on bus passes. The group of atheists and agnostics said that members of the public complained after seeing an image of the well-known nun on bus tickets for the month of April. Anne Nicol Gaylor, president of the foundation, said Mother Teresa knew the depths of poverty caused by overpopulation yet campaigned throughout her life against contraception, sterilization and abortion, promoting Roman Catholic dogma. Women who ride the publicly owned Madison Metro bus service should not have to spend a month looking at her," she said. "Religious figures do not belong on monthly passes of publicly owned transportation facilities." Julie Maryott-Walsh, a spokeswoman for the bus system, said there are no plans to remove the Mother Teresa bus passes. Other figures in the yearlong series include Martin Luther King Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt and Henry Ford. Maryott-Walsh said the Calcutta nun was chosen for her service to

the poor and as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, not for her Catholic faith. 'Some people may view her as a religious figure,' she said. 'We did not.'

Christians in the Indian state of Gujarat are shocked and vowing to continue to oppose an anti-conversion bill passed on March 26.

(VOM Canada) According to Ecumenical News International, the bill passed without debate. Ironically, this legislation is called the 'Freedom of Religious Conversion Bill.' It is modeled after similar restrictive legislation in Tamil Nadu. The law provides for three years in prison for any conversion ruled to have been by use of force or by allurements or by fraudulent means. Any conversion must also receive prior approval from the head of the district or risk one year in prison.

Christian Peacemaker Threatened With Death

Penalty by Indonesian Officials. (Compass) Last month, the trial of Rev. Rinaldi Damanik was adjourned because the defendant had been admitted to a hospital with suspected liver disease. Damanik, the general secretary of the Central Sulawesi Protestant Church Synod, faces charges of possessing illegal weapons in connection with outbreaks of inter-religious violence in the Poso region in 1998. Minister of Justice and Human Rights Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra has now instructed the court to try Damanik to as a 'provocateur,' a terrorism charge which could mean the death penalty for the respected peace mediator. The trial will resume when Damanik is well enough to attend the court. 'He wants to attend the hearing so that the truth can be told about the violence and destruction in Central Sulawesi since December 1998,' said Mona Saroinsong, coordinator of the Crisis Center of the Protestant Church Synod of North and Central Sulawesi.

Muslim Mob Invades Christian Village in Western Nigeria, Death Toll Exceeds 100 Obed Minchakpu. (Compass) More than 100 persons

died when a Muslim mob attacked a Christian community in western Nigeria's Adamawa state apparently in retaliation for the deaths of 16 Muslims three months ago. The attack on the Christian community of Yugur in Dumne village in the Song local government area is the latest clash in the 'age-long' dispute between Muslims and Christians in the region. Emmanuel Ljewere, president of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, told Compass the death toll now stands at 110, with 500 injured; 50 are in critical condition. He added that 130 houses and some churches were razed, and 21,000 persons have been displaced. An unknown number of Christians are still missing. Shortly after the attack began, Nigerian army and police personnel were sent to regain control over the area, but they were also attacked by the Muslim mob. Two soldiers and six policemen died. Meanwhile, police officials in the state have reported the arrests of 13 Muslim extremists from the Republic of Chad. The extremists are being accused of assisting in the attack on Christians in Dumne.

Saudi Arabia Let Off the Hook for Violations of Religious Freedoms, Again(VOM Canada). The U.S. State Department is not including Saudi Arabia on its list of countries that violate religious freedom. The annual report lists nations subject to diplomatic action for 'systematic, ongoing and egregious' violations of religious freedom. According to Freedom House, placing Saudi Arabia on this list would not require specific diplomatic actions by the US, since the policies surrounding it are very broad. However, critics believe that the US is concerned about keeping Saudi support in the Middle East. Christians in Saudi Arabia face constant danger. There is documented evidence of Christians who have been held, tortured, killed and expelled from the country, often without charge, because of their religious beliefs and practices.

CALAMITY BULLETIN

(April 2003 Calamities – with damage)

CALAMITY WATCH TOTALS – APRIL 2003

	April	Yr to Date	Avg./Mo.
Deaths	700	14,350	3,587
Homes destroyed	8,610	764,157	191,042
Resume' April:	Deaths	Homes Destroyed	
Tornadoes	25	1,250	
Storms	208	1,100	
Floods	216	4,936	
Earthquakes	177	1,258	
Fire		50	
Landslides	74	16	
	<hr/> 700	<hr/> 8,610	

April Extremes:

- Flooding: Azerbaijan – Worst in 30 years
Ethiopia – Worst in 6 years
Argentina – Worst since 1573
- Snow: Canada – Worst (1-2 feet) for season in Canada ever

May Extreme:

- Tornadoes: United States – Worst tornado season in history – over 400 individual tornadoes in all.



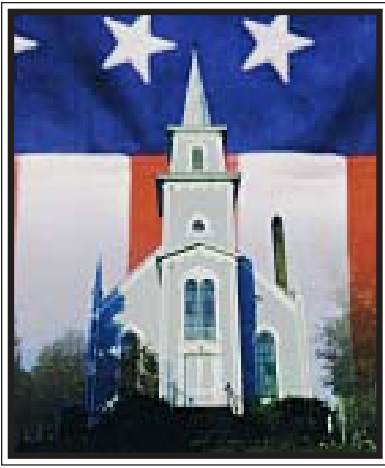
**TORNADOES
TORNADOES
TORNADOES . . .**



Ashford-Leland home destroyed



AP Wire 5/03



Focus on the *Sabbath*

[This section is devoted to news, articles, laws, sermons and political events that draw attention to the Sabbath. We are especially interested in how the Christian world views a weekly “rest day.” This is to help our readers have insight into what others think regarding the fourth commandment – a pivotal prophetic end-time issue.]

The Council of Trent on the Change to Sunday Worship

1443. Sabbath, Change of, Cited as Proof That Tradition Is Above Scripture

Source: Gaspare [Ricciulli] de Fosso (Archbishop of Reggio), Address in the 17th session of the Council of Trent, Jan. 18, 1562, in *Mansi SC*, Vol. 33, cols. 529, 530. Latin.

[col. 529] Such is the condition of the heretics of this age that on nothing do they rely more than that, under the pretense of the word of God, they overthrow the authority of the church; as though the church, His body, could be opposed to the word of Christ, or the head to the body. On the contrary, the authority of the church, then, is illustrated most clearly by the Scriptures; for while on the one hand she recommends them, declares them to be divine, [col. 530] offers them to us to be read, in doubtful matters explains them faithfully, and condemns whatever is contrary to them; on the other hand, the legal precepts in the Scriptures taught by the Lord have ceased by virtue of the same authority. The Sabbath, the most glorious day in the law, has been changed into the Lord’s day. Circumcision, enjoined upon Abraham and his seed under such threatening that he who had not been circumcised would be destroyed from among his people, has been so abrogated that the apostle asserts: “If ye be circumcised, ye have fallen from grace, and Christ shall profit you nothing.” These and other similar matters have not ceased by virtue of Christ’s teaching (for He says He has come to fulfill the law, not to destroy it), but they have been changed by the authority of the church. Indeed, if she should be removed (since there must be heresies), who would set forth truth, and confound the obstinacy of heretics? All things will be confused, and soon heresies condemned by her authority will spring up again. [See No. 1444.]

1444. Sabbath, Change of—Cited in Council of Trent as Proof that Tradition Is Above Scripture

Source: Heinrich Julius Holtzmann, *Kanon und Tradition* (“Canon and Tradition”) (Ludwigsburg: Druck and Verlag von Ferd. Riehm, 1859), p. 263. German. [FRS No. 72.] [Facsimile (in the original German) below.]

The Council [of Trent] agreed fully with Ambrosius Pelargus, that under no condition should the Protestants be allowed to triumph by saying that the council had condemned the doctrine of the ancient church. But this practice caused untold difficulty without being able to guarantee certainty. For this business, indeed, ‘well-nigh divine prudence’ was requisite—which the Spanish ambassador acknowledged as belonging to the council on the sixteenth of March, 1562. Indeed, thus far they had not been able to orient themselves to the interchanging, crisscrossing, labyrinthine, twisting passages of an older and newer concept of tradition. But even in this they were to succeed. Finally, at the last opening [see editors’ note] on the eighteenth of January, 1562, all hesitation was set aside: [Gaspar de Fosso] the Archbishop of Reggio made a speech [see No. 1443] in which he openly declared that tradition stood above Scripture. The authority of the church could therefore

not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures, because the church had changed circumcision into baptism, Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority. With this, to be sure, the last illusion was destroyed, and it was declared that tradition does not signify antiquity, but continual inspiration.

[Editors' note: This "last opening" of the Council of Trent was not the last day, but the opening of the 17th session, the first meeting of the last series of sessions that was opened, after a lapse of time, under a new pope. The council was in session for longer or shorter periods over a series of years.]

Source: Neufeld, Don F., *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Student's Source Book*, Don F. Neufeld and Julia Neuffer.— Washington, D.C., Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1962, pgs. 887-888.

<http://biblelight.net>