

Project 2025

What does the future hold?

By Jonathan Taylor

PART ONE OF TWO

I do not care to advance any earthly political party. I adhere to the doctrines and laws of a heavenly country, with due respect to the laws of a nation and its leaders. However, I have an interest in politics as it pertains to the fulfillment of prophecy.

The purpose of this newsletter is to explore Project 2025. We will be answering the following questions: What is Project 2025? Is it the beginning of the end? What should our response, as Adventists, be? What principle is our opposition based on? Will anyone accidentally receive the mark of the beast?

What is Project 2025 in the United States? Project 2025 is an agenda led by the “conservative right” and proposed by the long-established think tank known as the Heritage Foundation, which was created in 1973. In January 1981, *Mandate for Leadership* was released as a 20-volume, 3,000-page publication. The mandate contained more than 2,000 individual suggestions to move the federal government in a conservative direction, focusing on management and administration. In April 2023, the Heritage Foundation published the ninth edition of the *Mandate for Leadership*. In 2024, it now has 30 chapters and 920 pages. The Heritage Foundation claims their book played a “small but pivotal (vitally important) role” in the Reagan administration’s successes. Reagan did accept 60 percent of the policies presented to him in that book. In the Foreword to this book, titled “A promise to America,” Kevin D. Roberts, PhD and president of Heritage Foundation, tells every reader that similar victories await all who will unite under this project. Roberts concludes that America is suffering from a few core problems, and the beauty of the proposed policies is that they cut away the distractions and focus “on the moral and foundational challenges” of America. This focus is presented as the secret to the success of the Reagan administration, a secret that Roberts counsels this generation to imitate. The 2025 Project is a governing agenda intended to be carried out from the first day that a new Republican administration begins. “It is not enough for conservatives to win elections. If we are going to rescue the country from the grip of the radical

Left, we need both a governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on Day One of the next conservative administration.” The strong message to followers of Project 2025 is this: “We will take back our government” because America has a “desperate need” to be “rescued” from the radical Left. And what is the mission statement of the Heritage Foundation? “Every day, the Heritage Foundation is building an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.” Unfortunately, upon reading portions of *Mandate for Leadership*, it would appear to be another example of doublespeak, where freedom means enforcing the writers’ view of morality, no matter how closely it follows the Bible, and opportunity is restricted to those who agree with this agenda. (Doublespeak: language used to deceive, usually through concealment or misrepresentation of truth.) Prosperity is also a term defined by the writer. And the flourishing of civil society includes the removal of Chinese influence and economic engagement, which would be an interesting experience for Americans.

The Heritage Foundation has published this detailed plan for the next Republican president to use. The plan has four distinct goals called “Pillars” that must be in place to accomplish the task. These are an Agenda, people to carry it out, good training, and a 180 plan. The agenda Ironically enough also has four goals too: restore, dismantle, defend, and secure.

What do they intend to restore? They champion the importance of the family in society, listing the statistics of families with no fathers and placing this issue as largely responsible for “American poverty, crime, mental illness, teen suicide, substance abuse, rejection of the church, and high-school dropouts.” While Kevin D. Roberts admits the government cannot legislate parenting, they intend to pass policies that would benefit families for staying together—such as eliminating marriage penalties in federal welfare programs, the tax code, and adding work requirements for food stamps. They intend to restore the protection the churches have lost through recent legislation. An example of this?

2 Church tax-exempt status is in danger because of “woke progressivism.” (Woke: very aware of social and political unfairness) Their solution is to make churches hard targets by “deleting such terms as sexual orientation and gender identity (“SOGI”), diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”), gender, gender equality, gender equity, gender awareness, gender-sensitive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and a piece of legislation that exists” (Kevin D. Roberts, PhD, *Foreward to the book, Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 4-5).

Cancel culture has become a component of the modern political agenda that never seems to change, but it is obviously more serious in this case. Deleting these terms from all pieces of legislation is pretty extreme form of cancel culture. (Cancel culture refers to the popular practice of withdrawing support for [canceling] public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive.) What was only yesterday a regional phenomenon has spread to more and more parts of the world and is being used as an instrument of pressure in the international arena. This extreme form of cancel culture sparks a question. Why does the church need government legislation to protect them from persecution? It is because the salt has lost its savor (a distinctive quality or characteristic enjoyed and appreciated). The church is plainly seeking to exercise civil power to remove their opposition from legislation. Will this stop these sins? No. Will it help draw the lost to Jesus? No. What, then, does it accomplish? It protects the interests of the church, but it is not the duty of the church to persecute evil: “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” Luke 9:56. Legislation will also be enacted to ban pornography. Schools will become accountable to parents. Critical race theory and gender ideology will be excised (completely removed) from their schools’ curriculums. Government funds will no longer be granted to any public institution to use for declaring any race or sex superior or inferior. Any threat to family stability will be confronted; this includes social media platforms designed to cause addiction. These prey on children in order to make money; and their use is responsible for mental illness, anxiety, and the erosion of parent-child relationships. Federal policy will be used to stop this child abuse. Lastly, a robust effort will be made to protect the unborn in every jurisdiction (power of a court, and the territory it is in, to enforce laws and issue orders). In essence, they are making a mighty push to restore

morality in America.

What do they intend to dismantle (pull it to pieces, fragment it)? They believe the federal government is too big. “Conservatives desire a smaller government, not for its own sake but for the sake of human flourishing.” (Kevin D. Roberts, in *Mandate for Leadership*, p. 6).

This decrease in government size will result in a proportional increase in the power of each position. The stated purpose is to make it more effective and more accountable to the people. They intend to accomplish this by using the Constitution. Many politicians have found ways to skirt the restrictions the Constitution has in place for certain policies; the federal budget is given as an example. They argue that, if the government is smaller, it would be easier to punish people for this corruption. The administrative state is top priority for dismantling. (The administrative state is a term used to describe the power that some government agencies have to write, judge, and enforce their own laws. It pertains to the structure and function of government.) Congress gives authority to these federal agencies by making intentionally vague laws and then leaving interpretation and enforcement to each administrative state. Congress can be either powerful but vulnerable or irrelevant and famous; they have chosen the latter. The government officials are not elected and are seemingly not able to be fired from their jobs. Project 2025 will give conservatives undefined tools enabling them to fire these government officials, giving the power and accountability back to Congress. (Undefined used here: not clearly or precisely shown and described) The proposed dismantling is a removal of power from federal agencies and a restoration of power to Congress by means of the Constitution.

What do they intend to defend? “We, the people,” are the “true owners” of America. There are politicians who accuse progressives of constantly trying to strip Americans of constitutional authority over the country’s future. Project 2025 will not stand for this. America is also in danger from illegal immigrants taking jobs, but the biggest danger is China. The Chinese are taking our jobs through outsourcing (to relocate or transfer jobs to other labor markets), spying on us through Big Tech, and compromising higher education. The following defense plan has been proposed:

“International organizations and agreements that erode our Constitution, rule of law, or popular sovereignty should not be reformed; they should be abandoned. Illegal immigration should be ended, not mitigated [to make it less unpleasant]; the border sealed, not reprioritized. Economic engage-

ment with China should be ended, not rethought. Our manufacturing and industrial base should be restored, not allowed to deteriorate further. Confucius Institutes, TikTok, and any other arm of Chinese propaganda and espionage should be outlawed, not merely monitored. Universities taking money from the CCP [the Chinese Communist Party] should lose their accreditation, charters, and eligibility for federal funds” (*Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 12-13).

An offensive plan for rapid economic growth is also proposed: “America’s vast reserves of oil and natural gas are not an environmental problem; they are the lifeblood of economic growth” (*Mandate for Leadership*, p. 13). Project 2025 claims to defend against China, progressives, and economic deterioration.

What do they intend to secure? Your right to pursue a good life in the legislated way. The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It also represents key components of the American promise (The American Promise is an organization advocating for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to allow the U.S. Congress and states to limit campaign spending in U.S. elections.) “Today, in addition to the problem of Big Tech censorship, we see speakers at universities shouted down, parents investigated and arrested for attempting to speak at school board meetings, and donors to conservative causes harassed and intimidated. The next conservative President must defend our First Amendment rights” (*Mandate for Leadership*, p. 16). Part of Project 2025’s objectives is securing America’s First Amendment rights. The first Amendment also prevents the government from making laws respecting an establishment of religion, something Project 2025 blatantly disregards. The appeal for security closes with the following: “Conservatives have just two years and one shot to get this right. With enemies at home and abroad, there is no margin for error. Time is running short. If we fail, the fight for the very idea of America may be lost. But we should take this small window of opportunity we have left to act with courage and confidence, not despair. The last time our nation and movement were so near defeat, we rallied together behind a great leader and great ideas, transcended [to outstrip or outdo in some attribute, quality, or power] our differences, rescued our nation, and changed the world. It’s time to do it again” (*Mandate for Leadership*, p. 16). What difference could Americans transcend, during this time, to make our country last for a thousand years? Any historian will point at the political success of Constantine the Great through

religion. Barring (except for) the effect, the idea of being the political leader to usher in a thousand years of peace by combining church and state must seem appealing, at least to anyone who isn’t a student of prophecy. **3**

We have investigated the Project 2025 Agenda. However, the second pillar, Personnel, will not be explored because it would be very difficult to condense this information. This section covers changes in the power of certain positions with their respective responsibilities. The third pillar, Presidential Administration Academy, will also not be explored. This is special training for the personnel who will be working with Project 2025’s President, and its purpose is to prepare those who will be serving to advance the policies spoken of. “Potential appointees will learn the intricacies of the federal budget process, how to work with the media, managing congressional and stakeholder relations, the federal procurement process, and dozens of other topics that provide the knowledge and skills you’ll need to be an effective presidential appointee.” (Federal procurement process: steps and guidelines that agencies follow to acquire goods, services, or construction in order to meet their specific requirements / stakeholder relations: the intricate connections between organizations and those who hold a vested interest in their endeavors)

The final pillar: 2025 Project’s playbook are actions to be taken in the first 180 days of the new administration, to bring quick relief to Americans suffering from the Left’s devastating policies. The following proposals are highlighted due to their references to religion. The U.S. Agency for International Development shouldn’t compete; but they should build on private sector initiatives, including those proposed by global churches. Center for Disease Control should be required, by law, to only make assessments as to the health costs and benefits of health intervention; it has no place shutting down churches. Health Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grants should protect and prioritize faith-based programs. Office for civil rights needs will provide a private right of action for right of conscience appeals. Religion will be protected by allowing faith-based institutions to discriminate based on religion. The sabbath is mentioned once in a law. This law amends the Fair Labor Standards Act, to encourage communal rest by requiring time and a half pay for those who work on sabbath. According to the law, sabbath would default to Sunday unless there is a sincere religious observance otherwise. There is not unity among the members of the Heritage foundation on this topic. Evidenced by the following:

4 “While some conservatives believe that the government should encourage certain religious observance by making it more expensive for employers and consumers to not partake in those observances, other conservatives believe that the government’s role is to protect the free exercise of religion by eliminating barriers as opposed to erecting them.”—*Mandate for Leadership*, p. 589.

The government has no place encouraging or discouraging certain religious beliefs. Please also note that this does not appear to be a law requiring people to abstain from work on Sunday; it discourages people from working on Sunday, although it may encourage some with a pay incentive. (An additional payment made to employees could encourage some to do this extra work on “the Sabbath.”) Perhaps this is why there is an alternate view. A barrier to Sunday worship would be the need to work. Why not eliminate this need entirely by declaring a national holiday? We plainly see that there are ulterior motives; this is undermining the First Amendment, in act, while claiming, in word, to obey it. Should we expect any different? They claim to love Jesus too; but, in act, they deny Him; for He says, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15.

Now, let us carefully read more on page 589 of *Mandate for Leadership*. Here, we will see the type of language used about the Sabbath. **“Sabbath Rest.** God ordained the Sabbath as a day of rest, and until very recently the Judeo-Christian tradition sought to honor that mandate by moral and legal regulation of work on that day. Moreover, a shared day off makes it possible for families and communities to enjoy time off together, rather than as atomized [small fragments] individuals, and provides a healthier cadence of life for everyone. Unfortunately, that communal day of rest has eroded under the pressures of consumerism and secularism, especially for low-income workers.

“Congress should encourage communal rest by amending the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), to require that workers be paid time and a half for hours worked on the Sabbath. [United States labor law sets the rights and duties for employees, labor unions, and employers in the U.S.] That day would default to Sunday, except for employers with a sincere religious observance of a Sabbath at a different time (e.g., Friday sundown to Saturday sundown); the obligation would transfer to that period instead. Houses of worship (to the limited extent they may have FLSA-covered employees) and employers legally required to operate around the clock (such as hospitals and first responders) would be exempt, as would workers otherwise ex-

empt from overtime.”—*Mandate for Leadership*, p. 589.

Is this then the beginning of the end? “The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.”—*Great Controversy*, p. 592.

The state of politics described is nearing fulfillment. The strongest Republican candidate, Donald Trump, is seeking to secure public favor by promising churches unprecedented power. I encourage you to search this subject for yourself and hear what he has to say. In the past, there have been state Sunday laws and even a proposal for a national Sunday law in 1888. State laws are a warning but not a fulfillment of prophecy. A national Sunday law that simply requires a cessation (stop) of work is also not the prophetic fulfillment of the image of the beast, nor is ceasing from work on such a day receiving the mark (more on this). Constantine’s Sunday law came in stages. It first prohibited work by nonessential workers, giving liberty to those in the country to continue their work for the good of the nation. Later an additional law was passed requiring the cessation (the stop) of all work. It took many years before they were finally able to mandate worship.

The theory that brought persecution is as follows: “The church induced the State to compel all to be idle for their own good. Then it was found that they all were more inclined to wickedness. Then to save them from all going to the Devil, they tried to compel all to go to heaven. Thus the work of the Inquisition [persecution] was always for love of men’s souls and to save them from hell!”—*The National Sunday Law Argument of Alonzo T. Jone*, p. 74.

It stands to reason that America will follow a similar course. It will differ in regard to the speed of its accomplishment:

“No one has yet received the mark of the beast.”—*Maranatha*, 211.

“Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.”—*9 Testimonies*, 11; *Councils for the Church*, 37.

First, they will seek to compel men to rest, except for nonessential workers. Then all will be

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compelled to rest. The Protestant Churches will discover that those who rest from their work are inclined to merriment and dissipation, but not worship.

As in the past, the cry of the church was: "The people congregate more to the circus than to the church."—*Neander's Church History, Vol. 2, Professor Torrey's Edition, Boston (1852)*.

For the good of their souls, the nation's leaders will eliminate all competition by enforcing worship, using a decree that no man may buy or sell without the mark received by participation in Sunday worship. What this physical mark will be, I do not know; but we know that it will determine someone's ability to buy or sell, and nobody will accidentally receive it. We do know what mark determines our eternal destiny, note the following statements.

"When does this take place? When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast and refuse the seal of God.... In the issue of the great contest two parties are developed, those who 'worship the beast and his image,' and receive his mark, and those who receive 'the seal of the living God,' who have the 'Father's name written in their foreheads.' This is not a visible mark."—*7 Bible Commentary, 980*.

"When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday (7 Bible Commentary, 980).... Sunday-keeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet (*7 Bible Commentary, 977 [1899]*)."—*Last Day Events, 224-225. See Evangelism, 233-235*.

"God has given men the Sabbath as a sign between Him and them as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God's law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us, will receive the mark of the beast."—*Last Day Events, 225; Evangelism, 235*.

We know that the spiritual mark is obedience to enforced Sunday worship, whether because of

belief or simply in order to buy and sell. This is the mark that weighs with God. This is the mark that stains the soul and sets one apart for destruction, that causes one to be weighed and found wanting. In answer to the question "*Is this the end?*", the morality laws probably will not take place. These laws are very aggressive, but one thing likely will take place, the proposed law for overtime. Is this a danger? Note the sentiment of those seeking a Sunday law in 1888:

"They did not ask for too much at first. As was said in a ministers' meeting in San Diego, California, about two months ago, 'In this thing, you must not ask for too much at first. Ask just what public sentiment will bear; and, when you get that, ask for more.' And as was said upon this bill by Dr. Crafts in this Capitol,—'We will take a quarter of a loaf, half a loaf, or a whole loaf. If the government should do nothing more than forbid the opening of the post-offices at church hours, it would be a national tribute to the value of religion, and would lead to something more satisfactory.'"—*The National Sunday Law Argument of Alonzo T. Jone, p. 80*.

What is this more satisfactory desire? At that time, it was the cessation (the stop) of all work, that the church would have no competition. And here we find the inevitable results through the previously mentioned Sunday law steps. People would still not participate in church; so, for the good of their souls and to save them from Satan, they would be forced through persecution.

What should our reaction be? "God has sent messengers [A.T. Jones, Ellet J. Waggoner, and others] who have studied their Bibles, to find what is truth and studied the movements of those who are acting their part in the fulfilling prophecy in bringing about the religious amendment which is making void the law of God and thus giving ascendancy to the man of sin. And shall no voice be raised of direct warning to arouse the churches to their danger? Shall we let things drift and let Satan have the victory without a protest? God forbid."—*3 Selected Messages, 386*.

"When the Sunday question is legislated to become a law, there will not be so great a danger of taking steps that are not of a character to receive the sanction of Heaven...for the reason that the Lord gives light and knowledge just when it is most

needed.”—3 *Selected Messages*, 394.

Brothers and sisters, this is a beautiful quote. The God who gave the promised land to Israel is our God. Though there be the giants of evil habit in the land of our hearts, we can overcome them “in the name of the Lord of hosts.” 1 Samuel 17:45. Should the enemy build tall walls of bigotry, God will give us the means to scale them. Proverbs 21:22. Should we wrestle against a warlike enemy, God will make their hearts melt with fear. Exodus 15:15-16; James 4:7. Heaven is a goodly land, and we are well able to go in the power of God and possess it. Our God is an ever-present help. Promising wisdom in James 1:5, He possesses infinite understanding. Psalm 147:5: The light He gives us is the knowledge of the glory of God, Jesus Christ. Heaven is open to us, and we may behold His work in the heavenly Sanctuary as others do not. He gives us knowledge of “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4. We have much to be thankful for; let us not focus on the thorns of our trials, but always look into the loving and benevolent face of Jesus. Heaven is cheap enough; it only costs what cannot make us happy.

“There is to be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savors of retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals, because this is not Christ’s way and method.”—9 *Testimonies*, 244.

“There should be no just occasion to our enemies to charge us with being lawless and defying the laws through any imprudence of our own. We should not feel it enjoined upon us to irritate our neighbors who idolize Sunday by making determined efforts to bring labor on that day before them purposely to exhibit an independence.”—3 *Selected Messages*, 395.

“The light given me by the Lord at a time when we were expecting just such a crisis as you seem to be approaching, was that when the people were moved by a power from beneath to enforce Sunday observance, Seventh-day Adventists were to show their wisdom by refraining from their ordinary work on that day, devoting it to missionary effort.”—9 *Testimonies*, 232.

“To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to

call you lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday. Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.”—9 *Testimonies*, 232.

Here we are advised of how we need to respond to the Sunday law, by doing God’s work, the work of highest importance. This does not mean that we hold a worship service on Sunday in a church building, but rather we seek to enlighten people through giving personal Bible studies and seminars in our churches and home churches. It would be exceedingly foolish to hold church services on both Sabbath and Sunday; all who do this will surely cease to go to church on the Sabbath. No man can serve two masters.

“The law for the observance of the first day of the week is the production of an apostate Christendom. Sunday is a child of the papacy, exalted by the Christian world above the sacred day of God’s rest. In no case are God’s people to pay it homage. But I wish them to understand that they are not doing God’s will by braving opposition when He wishes them to avoid it. Thus they create prejudice so bitter that it is impossible for the truth to be proclaimed. Make no demonstration on Sunday in defiance of law. If this is done in one place, and you are humiliated, the same thing will be done in another place. We can use Sunday as a day on which to carry forward work that will tell on the side of Christ. We are to do our best, working with all meekness and lowliness.”—9 *Testimonies*, 235. *She continues this topic to page 244.*

“Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be most earnest prayer, and then let us work in harmony with our prayers. It may appear that Satan is triumphant and that truth is overborne with falsehood and error. The

people over whom God has spread His shield, and the country which has been an asylum for the conscience-oppressed servants of God and defenders of His truth, may be placed in jeopardy. But God would have us recall His dealings with His people in the past, to save them from their enemies. He has always chosen extremities, when there seemed no possible chance for deliverance from Satan's workings, for the manifestation of His power. Man's necessity is God's opportunity."—*Councils for the Church*, 336. Also see *5 Testimonies*, 713-714.

"It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet: "The wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" [Daniel 12:10]."—*5 Testimonies*, 452.

What principle do Adventists stand on? The principle that Seventh-day Adventists stand upon is this: The civil government is civil, and has nothing to do in the matter of legislation, with religious observances in any way.

We are to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. Civil government has claims upon us that we are duty-bound to recognize. We agree that duty requires us to render some things to Caesar. Jesus also said some things were God's alone; here He made a clear distinction between the two. What test did Jesus use to determine what was Caesar's? (See Matthew 22:15-22.) In Paul's commentary (Romans 13:1-9) on Jesus' command, he describes the Christian's duty to the government as: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (verse 9). Paul specifically leaves out the first four commandments; those are what we are to render to God. If government had such a right, Paul would have included "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Does civil government have the God-given right to enforce the Sabbath of the Lord? "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11. It has the Lord's name and His endorsement through His blessing upon it. Would it not anger God if Caesar stole from Him? Would it not call down the judgments of God as they fell upon Babylon of old, when a young king stole God's sacred articles and used them in a worship service? America will also be weighed in

the balances and found wanting should they follow such a path.

Why shouldn't America become a theocracy? "When Solomon succeeded to the kingdom in the place of David, his father, the record is: "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king instead of David his father." 1 Chronicles 29:23. David's throne was the throne of the Lord, and Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king over the earthly kingdom of God. The succession to the throne descended in David's line to Zedekiah, who was made subject to the king of Babylon and entered into a solemn covenant before God that he would loyally render allegiance to the king of Babylon. But Zedekiah broke his covenant; then God said to him:

"Thou profane, wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God: Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it, and it shall be no more until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him." Ezekiel 21:25-27; see chapter 17:1-21.

The kingdom was then subject to Babylon. When Babylon fell, and Medo-Persia succeeded, it was overturned the first time. When Medo-Persia fell, and was succeeded by Grecia, it was overturned the second time. When the Greek empire gave way to Rome, it was overturned the third time. And then, says the Word, "It shall be no more until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him" (Ezekiel 21:27). Who is He whose right it is?—"Thou...shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:31-33. And while He was here as 'that prophet,' a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, the night in which He was betrayed, He Himself declared, 'My kingdom is not of this world' (John 18:36). Thus the throne of the Lord has been removed from this world, and will 'be no more, until He come whose right it is,' and then it will be given Him. And that time is the end of this world, and the beginning of 'the world to come.' Therefore while this world stands, a true theocracy can never be in it again. Consequently, from the death of the Christ till the end of this world, every theory of an earthly theocracy is a false theory; every pretension to it is a false pretension; and wherever any such theory is proposed or advocated, whether in Rome in the fourth century, or here in the nineteenth century, it bears in it all that the papacy is or that it ever pretended to be, it puts a man in the place

of God.”—*The National Sunday Law Argument of Alonzo T. Jones, pp. 63-64.*

Will anyone accidentally receive the mark of the beast? Behold the mercy of a God who is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. No man will receive the mark and perish without first having heard the Truth. This is established in prophecy and in the story of Ahab, who was famous, in the Bible, for being exceedingly wicked. He married Jezebel, a wicked priestess of Baal, thus combining church and state. Ahab due to his actions was destined by God for death. This story may be read in 1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 18. King Jehoshaphat was invited by king Ahab to go and battle against the king of Syria. Jehoshaphat wanted to inquire of God first; so Ahab summoned 400 prophets. Something about these prophets were different because Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might enquire of him?” 1 Kings 22:7; 2 Chronicles 18:6. Ahab then sent for Micaiah, who was encouraged to tell Ahab what all the other prophets of God were saying. Micaiah actually does that, only to have Ahab respond, “How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the Lord?” 1 Kings 22:16. I believe God gave Micaiah permission to tell Ahab what all the other prophets of God were saying. Why? because of the confession Ahab gave to him. By his own admission, Ahab knew his prophets were false. Micaiah then gave Ahab a final warning, making it crystal clear that God had already pronounced evil. Ahab believed it; so he disguised himself. Worshipping false gods for so long had caused him to think that God could be tricked like a man. If such an evil king received one last chance, how much more will all the inhabitants of the world receive their last chance? Now for an important prophecy for us: “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” Revelation 17:1-2. Notice that the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. What does the Bible represent wine as? Because of a lack of space here, I will present the following quote: “The gospel of Christ could not be placed in their hearts; for there was no room to contain it. They could not be the new bottles into which

He could pour His new wine. Christ was obliged to seek elsewhere than among the scribes and the Pharisees for bottles for His doctrine of truth and life” (*Review and Herald, March 20, 1894*).

What is fornication? an unlawful union. So we have the inhabitants of the earth becoming drunk on the doctrine of the whore’s unlawful union. What does it mean to be drunk? “Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; and it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst.” Deuteronomy 29:18-19. In these verses we have a man already thirsty having forsaken the “fountain of living waters.” Jeremiah 2:13. And after hearing the curse of God, he continued in his course, believing he would escape the consequences of his actions. Likewise, the inhabitants of the earth, at the time of the end, will hear the truth, follow their imagination, and follow the doctrine of an unlawful union of church and state, saying, “We will have peace, one thousand years of it,” though they walk after the imagination of their hearts. As for Ahab, by his own admission, he was aware that he had forsaken God. When the warning came, he blessed his course of action and relied upon a crafty disguise to avoid what he had been warned would result in his death. No man will remain unwarned. All will be able to make an informed decision.

“Not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.”—*Great Controversy, 605.*

Here is my final challenge to each of us...

“Christ is soon to come. Get ready. The angels of God are seeking to attract you from yourself and from earthly things. Let them not labor in vain.”—*3 Testimonies for the Church 251*

—Your brother in Christ, Jonathan Taylor