The Remnant

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Romans 11.5

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PREMILLENNIALISM AND OUR PRINCIPLES PART 7

Principle # 11: The separation of church and state.

By "separation of church and state" we mean exactly that. The church is not to attempt to use the civil government to further its doctrine and practice or to force its decrees upon those of dissimilar beliefs. Nor is the civil government to try to use the church to further its political agendas and support its programs.

In the late twentieth century and early twenty-first century, "the church" (in the broadest sense) and the world's governments are both grossly violating this principle. In an *ideal secular society* (of which there is none), the church does not dictate to the government what to do, or how, or why, nor does she try to control it.

Likewise, the state, or the government of our country, the United States of America in particular, by virture of the First Amendment to its Constitution, should not dictate to the church what or what not to do, or how or how not to worship, or why or why not, or in any other way try to control or influence a church, regardless of its denomination or beliefs. A government that derives its just powers and authority from and by the consent of the governed should not try to prohibit the rights of their citizens to worship freely under God as those citizens have been given to believe their God requires.

Defining Our Terms

Before going further, we should define some terms. First, by **the church** is meant the body of Christ, His elect, those for whom He died, whom God chose and has spiritually called out from among the nations of the world. "Called out" is the literal meaning of the Greek word ekklesia, the word we have translated into the English as "church." For the purpose of this article, however, the term must often be used in a broader and secular sense, because the world does not know what the church is. The world thinks the church is all of professing "Christendom"; that is, all the denominations of Christianity. Again, the world and many worldly religions think all churches and creeds within Christianity (in the broadest, most charitable sense, giving everyone the benefit in any doubt) are truly Christians or children of God, and are therefore "the church." They suppose a person is or becomes a Christian merely by virtue of the fact that he proclaims himself to be such, as one's saying he is a *humanitarian* makes him a humanitarian, or one who says he is a writer or a poet thereby makes himself a writer or poet even if he never writes and he would not know genuine poetry if he were drowned in it. One of Webster's definitions of church is, "all Christians considered as a single body." Beyond this, many within the general misconception of Christianity of which we speak believe that all mankind are "the children of God" and are therefore "Christians" (or the equivalent thereof) by virtue of God's having created them, regardless of any other consideration. We must live with such incomplete and erroneous definitions, at least for the moment.

Thus, in the term "separation of church and state," we *must* mean the separation of "the State" or of the secular government from anything and everything, good or bad, true or false, that anyone may call a church or think of as being a church or religious institution. In practical terms, this must include any group or organization, with religious intents or purposes, professing to worship,

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serve, or otherwise conduct their affairs in the name of any god, be it (he) the true God or any false god.

By **state** we mean "the *power* or *authority* represented by a body of people *politically* organized under one *government*, especially an independent government, within a territory or territories having definite boundaries" (Webster—emphases supplied).

By "*ideal secular society*" in the opening paragraph, is meant:

Ideal: "thought of as perfect, or as a perfect model; exactly as one would wish" (Webster). Men have dreamed of such since the earliest times, but no ideal government has ever been realized by man's efforts, nor will it be until the Messiah Jesus takes unto Himself His rightful position as King of the earth.

Secular: "Of or relating to worldly things as distinguished from those things relating to church and religion; not sacred or religious; temporal; worldly" (Webster).

Society: "...people, collectively, regarded as constituting a community of related, interdependent individuals" (Webster).

By **separation** we mean religious organizations and political organizations must be maintained divided and apart from each other, without furthering or opposing each other's programs, philosophies, and intents, and without either one trying to control the other. We do *not* mean that a politician may not have a personal, private religion and religious beliefs, or that he cannot share those beliefs with others; nor do we mean that a church-member cannot hold a political office. We do mean no church mem-

ber should use his position within the church to further his political party, cause, or candidate; and no politician should use his office to further legislation that would either help or hinder his or any other church, religious denomination, or religious organization.

As citizens of the United States of America, which is a representative form of government, Christians do have the right, if they are so given to think it will accomplish anything, to try to influence their government through their elected representatives, senators, and other officials. In point of fact, countless religious organizations are now attempting to influence Congress to "legislate morality" of one sort or another in hopes of making all sorts of sin illegal and make righteousness required by law. We can thank groups like that for the prohibition era with its Eighteenth Amendment, and the blue laws. It is the political right and privilege of these groups to do so. It is *not* their right to coerce politicians with bribes, including offers of heaven or threats of hell, neither of which can any mortal man deliver.

It should go without saying, but I will say it anyway: There are certain practices among degenerate and depraved societies of men, against which any government with any shred of a moral conscience at all may justly enforce laws in harmony with the higher laws of Jehovah God; among those abominable religious practices that a secular government may justly prohibit are human sacrifice, multiple marriages (poligamy) and other forms of fornication, adultery, or prostitution, whether or not these beliefs and practices are part of the doctrines of such a religious organization, "church," or whatever they call themselves. (Some may say I have just contradicted myself and the principle of separation of church and state. If so, then as Walt Whitman once said, "Very well, then, I contradict myself.")

Likewise, churches or church members cannot legally execute witches, homosexuals, and sabbath-breakers in a secular nation such as our own. Jehovah could and did demand these things from Israel because, as their God, He was also their Lord and King. In Old Testament times, He used such executions of blatant sinners to illustrate and emphasize the enormity of sin, the fact that "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," and "The wages of sin is death," both physical and spiritual, in time and in eternity.

On occasion God Himself sometimes intervened and killed rebels in a spectacular manner, to vindicate His holiness, righteousness, authority, and power, as He did when He caused the earth to open her mouth and

swallow Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the mob who supported them alive down into Hell (Numbers 16).

God is not acknowledged as either Lord or King, nationally speaking, in the USA or any of the other nations of this world. Nowhere is He is officially recognized as either Lord or King of any nation. The only nation ever blessed with Jehovah as their God and ruler was national Israel. They received this mandate from God Himself, that they might manifest a difference between the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33.12) and those around them, showing forth the blessedness of serving the living and true God, in contrast to those idolatrous and wicked nations around them.

If your or my particular religious denomination, group, or church does not rule our land, be thankful, because we can also be thankful that no other denomination rules over our land, either, at least for now.

All of these considerations presuppose that honest statesmen, men of honor, character, and integrity, will occupy the positions of political authority and power. The principle of separation of church and state also presumes that the ministry and other church members will be Godfearing, honest, honorable people of unimpeachable character and integrity. Neither of these suppositions is guaranteed if God is not pleased to give us such men.

The U.S. Constitution was written in a day when statesmen still existed. In times past, those men had seen in other countries what kings, governments, and inquisitioners had done to men, women, and children who did not conform to the king's or the pope's religious beliefs. Men in our fledgling country who were friendly to the church (and most of them were, even though many of them were not members of churches) were influential in establishing this principle in the U.S. government, embedding it in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S.A.: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. You will note that this Amendment does not mention the word "church," as such.

As one brother expressed it, "The founders of our country intended freedom *of* religion, not freedom *from* religion." Some, today have drifted far from that *ideal*.

There is no such thing as a "Christian nation," other than the spiritual aspect of God's people: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy (1 Peter 2.9f)." That was not written of the United States of America, England, Spain, Russia, or any other Gentile nation. The only "holy *nation*," *nationally* speaking, as *nations* go, is Israel. "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and **an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel** (Exodus 19.6)." The nation of Israel has never lost that designation and never will. "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed (Malachi 3.6)."

As far as we are here concerned, Elder Beebe expressed our views in 1870 when he wrote the following comments. We reprinted this article, "A Religious Breed of Politicans, Not a Christian Nation," four years ago (in the issue for September-October, 2004). It was timely then, it was timely when Elder Beebe wrote it, and it is all the more timely now.

Here, then, we republish Elder Beebe's excellent editorial remarks, after which our comments on Premillennialism as it relates to "the separation of church and state" will continue.

A RELIGIOUS BREED OF POLITICIANS NOT A CHRISTIAN NATION

The religion of all the pagans and tribes of the earth was and is the religion of the world; it is not revealed from heaven, but has its origin in the world. Revolting as the pagan religion is, it is no better, nor is it any worse than any other worldly religion. It possesses the essential elements of the religion of Cain, delusion and bloodshed. It is doubtful whether the human sacrifices made to their idols would suffer by comparison with the religion of the world which in this day claims the Christian name, either papal or Protestant. All will agree that the pope in the dark ages of their power excelled the pagans in the shedding of human blood, all who have faithfully observed the murderous propensity of her Protestant daughters, have seen in them again, where ever and whenever they had the power, that they have always been equally intolerant and oppressive. The Protestant anti-Christ in our country since the puritanic persecution of the Baptists, Quakers and other dissenters, checked and

restrained by the revolution, have been held under restraint but never satisfied. They have been, ever since the establishment of our government, eager to handle and control the reins of civil government, and at this very moment are forming alliances with other denominations and with influential men of the world, to so change the fundamental principles of our national government as to recognize their creeds and dogmas. We now have on our table a circular signed by sixty-five names, thirty-five of which have "Reverend" prefixed, together with judges and Honorables, calling for a convention to be held at Newburgh, New York, "to consider such an amendment of the National Constitution as will remedy this great defect," of which they complain, "and indicate that we are a Christian nation." They complain that our National Constitution makes no acknowledgment of Almighty God, "nor of Jesus Christ," "nor of the Bible," which they say is the fountain of law and good morals, as well as of religion. They suppose that the omission of our fathers to make constitutional provisions for Sabbath Schools, etc., and for the prevention of intemperance, blasphemy, impurity or cruelty of our country allows them to pursue this Constitutional amendment. But they have failed to see that it was no oversight. It was a matter of grave deliberation and debate, and one of the avowed objects of the revolution was to free us from priestcraft, as well as from kingcraft. It was then argued that as no king, potentate or legislature can answer at the bar of God for the individual responsibilities of men, that no legislation of men should be allowed to interfere between them and their God, and they on this principle did provide in the Constitution that no religious test should ever be required.

To protect the people from coercive interference with the sacred rights of conscience in matters of religion, the first Congress of the United States that ever assembled under the Constitution was convened in the city of New York, March 4, 1789, at which time and place the following amendment to the Constitution was proposed and submitted to the several states for their approval and was concurred in by the states and became a part of our Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." What is now sought for is to so change our Constitution as to indicate that the United States "are a Christian Nation." The scriptures of truth recognize but one such nation, and that is called, "A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people." Into that nation can none enter except they be born of water and of the Spirit, and none can ever see it except they be born again. A Christian nation must be an establishment of religion, and no law concerning it has Congress any power to make, nor have any power to prevent the free exercise of it.

A complete subversion of the whole provisions of our Constitution under which all classes have been protected in all their social, civil and religious rights more than eighty years, [written in 1871] is sought by an over-reaching intolerant, puritanic and persecuting spirit of priestcraft, by converting our government into a church and state establishment.

The Hebrew nation was a theocracy, but they did not make themselves so, nor is it possible for this or any other nation to constitute themselves a theocratic nation. Every nation under heaven that has ever attempted to legislate for God has entailed oppression and distress upon the people. The king of Babylon made a decree and published it, saying, "Therefore I make a decree, that peoples, nations and languages which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be cut to pieces and their house shall be made a dunghill, because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" (Daniel 3). Did this decree make Babylon a Christian nation? When that great empire passed into the hand of Darius the Mede [Persian—now Iranian], he also sent forth a decree, saying, "I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom, men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel for He is the living God and steadfast forever, and His kingdom that shall not be destroyed." Of the only existing Christian nation over which Christ the Prince of Peace presides, it is said, "Behold how they love one another." Can this be said of Prussia and France? Or of any other of the professed Christian nations of the earth? Heaven and hell are not more dissimilar or in greater opposition to each other, than are those professed Christian nations, to the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. This side of the infernal regions of perdition, the cause and kingdom of God and truth has no more virulent enemies than those sanctimonious hypocrites who are now engaged in sapping the foundation of our government to subserve their wicked designs to elevate themselves to a position that shall give them power to domineer over the consciences and religious rights of their fellow men. Judging only from the present and past our prospect for the future might awaken fearful forebodings, but the assurance which we have that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, affords support and consolation to all who truly trust in the living

God, "They shall be as Mount Zion that cannot be moved." His wisdom directs and His power controls all events. Under His over-ruling providence the wrath of man shall praise Him, and the remainder He will restrain. He has fixed the exact measure of the cup wicked men shall fill; beyond that limitation neither wicked men nor devils can go. The prevalence of iniquity in the world, or what is called the church, need not appall the saints, for in it all we see the fulfillment of prophecy. What could we think of the scriptures if in the world the saints had no tribulation, if there come no perilous times, if evil men and seducers did not wax worse and worse. The present day has not come unawares unto the children of the light. Relying on what God has told us in His holy word, we have long been watching the signs of the times and we are now just as certain that victory and immortal triumph is in store for all who fear the Lord as we have been that in these last days should come perilous times, times in which all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. And even now, we both labor and suffer persecution because we trust in the living God. But the conflict will soon be over, Babylon shall sink like a millstone, and rise no more forever.

—Elder Gilbert Beebe

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Everything Elder Beebe saw and reported in the 1870s is true today and more so. In God's kind providence, the only thing that has kept religious persecution to a minimum in our country, *from the human viewpoint*, has been the protection of the Constitution and the laws of this land, which laws have heretofore been benign or neutral, if not actually favorable, toward all forms of Christianity and other religions. Above and beyond "the human viewpoint," the real reason for our continued safety and felicity, the real reason God's true church is not being persecuted in the USA as it is in many other nations at this very moment, is the Lord Himself: "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not (Lamentations 3.22)."

Human nature has not improved one iota since those days when "others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented (Of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (Hebrews 11.36ff)."

Man's religious nature is no better or worse than his political nature, which is no better than his Adamic nature. The same evil that motivates men to sacrifice their children, friends, and neighbors to the demon-gods dwelling in crocodiles and volcanoes will also move them to gladly persecute and kill anyone who preaches the living and true God or any god or gods different from their own.

Religious demagogues would be only too happy to have their own brand of belief and practice be made the State-sponsored religion here and everywhere. Once established, such men never hesitate to begin a campaign of terror designed to force all people within their jurisdiction to either convert to their way of doing things or suffer the consequences, which may be imprisonment, torture, or death, or some combination thereof.

Such torture, persecution and martyrdom is abounding in other lands at this very moment. Our **Free Press** (guaranteed by the same First Amendment that protects our freedom of worship) graciously shields our delicate minds (which are being processed every day in the world's largest brain-washeteria) from these brutal truths. To learn what is really going on in the world, we often must go to Internet web sites like, for example,

http://www.persecution.com/ http://www.persecutionblog.com/ http://www.islamist-watch.org/ http://www.christiantoday.com/

to find out what people are suffering, in or for the name of Jesus Christ, in other nations. While news media are failing us, there are many locations on the Internet like those listed above where we can get information about what is going on elsewhere in the world. The *Christian Today* web site alone, the last one listed above, currently has **84** pages of news items on persecution and murder against Christians (again, we speak in what we hope is the broadest and most charitable sense of the term). A very few of the countless news items are briefly noted below. These are recent events, not from centuries ago in the "Dark Ages"; we are still in the dark ages and will be until the Lord manifestly delivers His creation by Christ's return:

ERITREA – Christian Woman Dies in Prison: On July 23, an Eritrean Christian woman, Azieb Simon, died of malaria in the Wi'a Military Training Center after being imprisoned and tortured for months. "Compass [Compass Direct News—Ed.] also reported that eight

Christians being held at the Adi-Quala prison were tortured by military personnel at the camp and had to be taken to the medical emergency facilities. Earlier this month in the port city of Assab, 32 Christians were imprisoned and taken to Wi'a Military Training Center."

INDIA – Christians Attacked by Hindu Extremists: ARNATAKA - On July 13, Hindu extremists disrupted a morning worship service at the Full Gospel Assembly Church in the village of Harapanahalli Taluk, Davangere district.

AZERBAIJAN: Court Hearing Held for Pastor: On July 22, a court hearing was held for Pastor Shabanov after he was arrested for possession of an illegal weapon. Pastor Shabanov's family insists the gun was planted by police....

Christians Abducted at Gunpoint by Muslim Extremists: PAKISTAN – On June 21, 16 Christians were abducted by Muslim extremists when they gathered to pray in Academy Town, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Christians Remain Strong and Resolute Despite Muslims Closing Church: INDONESIA – Recently, Muslims closed a church in Jatimula, Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia and blocked Christians from entering and holding services.

July 29, 2008 Christians Threatened and Fined for Leading Worship Services, Baptism Banned: Government officials in BELARUS are prohibiting three Protestant communities from having church services in Grodno region, northwestern Belarus....

July 22, 2008 Pastor Assaulted by Hindu Extremists: On July 20, Pastor Abraham was assaulted by Hindu extremists in Haveri district, Karnataka state, INDIA. According to The Voice of the Martyrs contacts in India, "During a worship service at Friends Mission Prayer Band Church, in Konvallichawla village, 20 members of a radical Hindu group assaulted Pastor Abraham in the presence of his family and congregation. During the attack the mob destroyed all the Christian literature in the church, including Bibles."

July 17, 2008 SHANGDONG PROVINCE - Pastor Sentenced to Re-education Through Labor: On July 4, Pastor Zhang Zhongxin, an active Christian leader, was sentenced to two years re-education through labor in Jining City in Shangdong Province. According to China Aid Association (CAA), "Shandong reeducation-through-labor management committee issued a written decision sentencing Zhang Zhongxin to two years re-education through labor.

HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE - House Church Banned, Leader Questioned by Police: On July 2, house church missionary, Jiao Chunbao, was detained by government security officers while on his way to a worship service in the city of Hegang, Heilongjiang province. According to China Aid Association, "The officers forcibly escorted Chunbao to the police station where he was told that his church was banned from meeting together for worship and threatened with re-arrest if meetings continued. Two female members of the house church were also taken to the police station and questioned."

July 17, 2008 Christians Injured in Violent Attacks: Recently there have been at least two incidents of violence against Christians in SRI LANKA. According to the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL), "Unidentified assailants set fire to the house of an Assemblies of God church pastor in the city of Middeniya on the evening of July 3...."

July 1, 2008 PAKISTAN - Christians Abducted at Gunpoint by Muslim Extremists: On June 21, 16 Christians were abducted by Muslim extremists when they gathered to pray in Academy Town, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Muslims Close Church in INDONESIA: Recently, Muslims closed a church in Jatimula, Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia and blocked Christians from entering and holding services... "Muslims blocked the alley leading to the church building. Pastor...had to lead worship outside their church building and believers had to sit in the dirty alley to pray outside their church...The sign outside the church building stated, 'This church building is sealed,' and it was written on a letterhead belonging to the Tambun Selatan district of Bekasi local government."

This is the second time Muslims have closed the church in Bekasi. The church was first closed on September 10, 2005 when a mob of 100 Muslims nailed boards over doors and windows and prohibited believers from entering the building.

Christians Warned Not to Evangelize British Muslims by David J. Rusin Tue, 3 Jun 2008 at 11:17 AM: Last February a pair of Baptist missionaries distributing leaflets in Birmingham, ENGLAND, encountered an apparent no-go area firsthand—with police serving as its enforcers: Two Christian preachers were stopped from handing out Bible extracts by police because they were in a Muslim area, it was claimed yesterday. They say they were told by a Muslim police community support officer that they could not preach there and that attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity was a hate crime.

The community officer is also said to have told the two men: "You have been warned. If you come back here and get beat up, well, you have been warned."

Saturday, 2 August 2008, CSW calls on Pakistani authorities to return abducted Christian girls to family: Christian Solidarity Worldwide has urged the PAKI-STANI Government to take action to ensure the return of two abducted Christian children to their family. Anila and Saba Masih, aged 10 and 13 respectively, were abducted in southern Punjab, Pakistan on 26 June....They are subsequently reported to have been forced to convert to Islam, whilst Saba [the ten-year-old—Ed.] was married off to one of the abductors.

June 25, 2008 Pastor attacked in SRI LANKA: A Christian pastor was attacked on Monday by three men in Ampara, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, while returning home from a church group meeting in Uhana....He is currently receiving treatment for his injuries in hospital. The pastor, the Rev Fernando from the Methodist Church in Ampara, was accosted by the three men at 4.40pm. The men asked him to accompany them to a house, claiming that there were people there who wished to become Christians. The attackers are believed to be members of the Gramarakshaka Niladhari or "Home Guards," [Editor's note: Think "Homeland Security."] an auxiliary force established by the Government to assist the police and military in security duties. The attack comes four months after a Home Guard in uniform shot dead Pastor Neil Edirisinghe, on 17 February. The gunman also shot the pastor's wife, leaving her critically injured....

Friday, 1 August 2008 Muslim protesters force Christian students out of Indonesian Bible school: Students at the Arastamar Evangelical School of Theology in East Jakarta, INDONESIA, are being forced to sleep in the lobby of the Indonesian parliament after demonstrations against the school by local Muslims....

Thursday, 31 July 2008 **Bomb threat to GAZA Bible bookshop** prompts call for prayers....

Monday, 14 July 2008 Persecuted Christians in UKRAINE praise God in spite of hardships: Church persecution in Eastern Europe causes problems for Christians....

Friday, 1 August 2008 Churches damaged in religious violence ordered to vacate premises: The congregations of two churches that were extensively damaged last year during religious violence in the Tudun-Wada area of Kano State, northern NIGERIA, have been ordered to vacate their premises....

Thursday, 3 July 2008 **ALGERIA Christians get suspended jail terms**: A court in **Algeria** handed suspended jail terms and fines to two Christians on Wednesday for trying to convert Muslims, a defence lawyer said, in the latest in a series of trials....

Tuesday, 1 July 2008 **NEPAL Christians hope new republic brings more religious freedom**: Christian leaders in **Nepal** have reported persecution at the hands of Maoist guerrillas, as well as Hindu militants. They are praying the new republic will guarantee their basic human rights....

Schoolgirls Beheaded in Indonesian Attack, October 29, 2005:

Three teenage Christian girls were beheaded and a fourth was seriously wounded in the **Indonesian province of Central Sulawesi**.

Police representatives said the girls, students at a private Christian high school, were ambushed while walking through a cocoa plantation in Poso Kota subdistrict on their way to class. The heads of two of the three victims were left near a police station. The head of the third girl was left in front of a newly built Christian church.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, but Central Sulawesi is roughly half Muslims and half Christians. This province was the scene of a religious war in 2001-2002 that killed around 1000 people from both religious groups. At that time, beheadings, burnings, and other atrocities were common.

A truce brokered by the government ended the open conflict in early 2002, but since then there has been an ongoing series of assassinations and bombings of Christians.

The Christian-Muslim conflict in Sulawesi was part of a wider sectarian war in the Maluku archipelago, in which around 9000 people perished between 1999 and 2002. This conflict escalated when militia volunteers from Indonesia's island of Java, supported by hard-line "security forces," arrived. The militia quickly disbanded after terrorist attacks on the island of Bali in 2002 claimed 202 lives, including 88 Australians. [Adapted from an Australian newspaper, The Sydney Morning Herald—Ed.]

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The above news releases are current, from hundreds of such cases. We could go on, literally page after page. Such persecutions against Christian sects and organizations are common in other parts of the world, and it will become more of a way of life in all nations and countries, including our own, as "the church age" draws to an end.

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Mark 13.12f)." That text, I believe spoken by Christ about the time we live in and our near future, is even now being literally fulfilled in many of the countries of the world.

A major problem with these persecutions is that although their motivation is religious in nature, they are supported by the secular governments of the lands wherein they occur. The beatings and killings are often implemented by their country's police authorities. Instead of protecting people's rights to peacefully assemble and worship God as they believe God would have them do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the police (state) are the instruments of religious persecution. As "Christians," these victimized people have no such rights as the freedom to assemble and freedom of worship!

Objection: "Full Gospel Assembly, Assembly of God Church, Methodist Church, Bible School, 'trying to convert Muslims,' 'evangelizing Muslims'—They are Arminian denominations, getting themselves into trouble with their local laws by unscriptural practices."

Reply: Yes, and we could find fault with some of the wording in these articles, too, like the fact that the girl's head was probably left in front of a newly built Christian church building, or meeting house, and not "a newly built *church*." Do not miss the point, however. First, the ones reporting the persecution and martyrdom are not writing from your or my doctrinal perspective. They are reporting bloodshed, death, and destruction that is being waged against professing Christians. These people are being tortured and killed for that reason alone. They are not being persecuted because they are Bible college professors and teachers, or Methodists, or Pentecostals, per se; they are being fined, imprisoned, shot, tortured, and killed for one reason only. They are victims of persecution only because they are professing Christians. In the eyes of their persecutors they are *Christians*. It is always and forever a question of church, or religion, versus the state, a question of whether or not a government in the control of religion, or a religion in the control of government, or a godless government that makes a religion out of *no religion* has the right or the authority to forcefully close down any opposing views, especially and particularly, opposing views of what constitutes correct religion and religious worship. Such has

been the problem ever since Cain forcefully put an end to Abel's life for worshiping God in God's prescribed way.

What, then, do these sobering considerations have to do with the Premillennial understanding of prophecy? Simply this:

- 1. We are being carried toward a one-world government under a Satanic man who is called "the Man of Sin" and "the Son of Perdition" in 2 Thessalonians 2.3. He is also called "the Beast" in Revelation 13. The world and everyone in it, the church included, is being carried toward "that Wicked" one's **global government** in spite of what any man or any group of men can or will do.
- 2. This is a manifestion of the war in the heavens, the spiritual war between God and Satan, which is on a higher plane than our own. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [literally, "in heavenly places" or "in the heavenlies"] (Ephesians 6.12)." As we have said all along, this is beyond mankind, on a higher plane of existence that mortal men can scarcely comprehend.
- 3. This is all according to the predestinated purpose of God and spelled out in the prophetic Scriptures, as we are passively, helplessly (as far as man is concerned) moved along, like so many animals helplessly caught in the raging current upstream from Niagra Falls, swept toward what man has wrongly called "the culmination of all things."

Two verses of the Bible that are favorites of predestinarian Baptists are found in Isaiah 14: "The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand (verse 24)," and, "For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back (verse 27)?"

Countless times we have rejoiced to hear these texts quoted and preached upon as the excellent proof-texts they are, proving that everything that transpires is exactly as God thought; but more, we are made to realize that everything is coming to pass exactly as He has purposed. But the very saying aloud of this statement tells us the oft-overlooked truth that God has a purpose, a reason, a motive, an aim to accomplish, a point to make by everything that happens, including specifically what we see coming to pass as we move toward another time of worldwide persecution of the saints.

The church began with its Founder crucified and its early members enduring beatings, imprisonments, and death; this segment of history will end in much the same way, finding the church enduring beatings, imprisonments, and death. Paul was beheaded over nineteen hundred years ago by those motivated by the spirit of antichrist; schoolgirls are being beheaded today by religionists and politicians seemingly working hand in hand, moved by the same spirit.

But what of our text in Isaiah 14? What is God's **purpose**, if He has one (and of course He certainly does!), in the things we see coming to pass nowadays? To answer that question, look at the rest of this chapter in Isaiah, beginning with the verses we usually *skip over* in this passage: verses 25-26, and in particular, verse 26. Look again at these four verses:

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? (Isaiah 14.24-27)"

First, the Lord of hosts has sworn that what happens in time is exactly what He thought and purposed in eternity, and that is exactly what shall stand. What did He think and purpose? He designed and predestinated a cosmic object lesson for all eternity, for all intelligent beings who would ever live in time or eternity, to demonstrate all of His glorious attributes and forever show the folly of rebellion and any sin against Him. Although it evidently was to last around 7,000 years, it would make an eternally lasting impression on all sentient beings.

In this divine demonstration, He designed a devil named Lucifer and Satan to head up all sin and rebellion, of which there would be plenty, of every conceivable variety. He fixed it so that when mankind (Adam) sinned, men ended up being so lost and ruined that only God Himself, by His grace and infinite mercy in the blood and cross of Christ, could ever bring the objects of His eter-

nal, everlasting love back to Himself. He also fixed the way things transpire so that men who are left to the just reward of their sins will demonstrate in their destruction His justice, His wrath against all sin and rebellion, and His perfect righteousness.

For lack of something else to call it, men have settled on calling this decreed purpose of God "the Absolute Predestination of all things." "All things" are so "fixed" that men could not even call His decree "the Absolute Predestination of all things" or anything else without that, too, having been determined, decreed, fixed, and predestinated by God's thought in eternity. Every person is also predisposed in His decree either to love or to hate the very idea of predestination. It is all part of it, and it all goes together.

One of Lucifer's biggest tools among mankind is **politics**, wherein men usurp the role of God. Consider:

Man's government, at least in the USA, is now divided into the *executive*, *legislative*, *and judicial* branches. With an absolute dictator or king, all three branches may be combined in one man. *Legislative*: The dictator king makes the laws out of his own thoughts and desires, as seems good to him. *Executive*: He enforces the laws through his police, armies, and other agents, as seems good to himself. *Judicial*: He judges if, when, or how his law has been violated. If he determines that it has been, then he decides how the transgressor is to be punished. The king may order the death of anyone he so desires while considering himself above the law.

Perceptive readers will no doubt notice that what is said of an earthly king in the preceding paragraph describes the prerogatives of the sovereign God who is ruler of all creation. He alone dictates His righteous and holy laws (the *legislative* branch), He enforces His laws (the *executive* branch), and He judges His subjects as to their conformity to or rebellion against His righteous demands (the *judicial* branch).

Once we realize that earthly governments are at best failed imitations of God's government, it is but a short step to realizing that earthly kings and governments are usually guilty of going far beyond governing in a parallel but subservient way, under God; they almost always end up usurping the rights and privileges that belong only to God.

This will finally culminate in the person and works of the Man of Sin, that Son of Perdition, as the king of the earth, the man who would be god of this world (2 Thessalonians 2.3ff), who will head up the one-world government toward which the nations of this earth are being propelled, amazingly enough, by both God and Satan, though for opposite reasons. Satan is doing it simply because he wants to rule over God's creation and everything in it (Isaiah 14.12-14). Little does he know that God has set him up, like a bowling-pin, for the express purpose of knocking him down. (That is what bowling-pins are for, and that is the purpose of Satan's existence.)

God is bringing it *all* about (among other things):

- (a) to demonstrate His own wisdom to the principalities and powers (angelic orders) in the heavenlies (Ephesians 3.10-11, margin);
 - (b) to demonstrate the folly of all sin and rebellion;
- (c) to destroy the works of evil and the works of the evil one for ever: "... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3.8)." But something that never occurs to conditionalists and other Arminians when they puzzle over "Why did God create the devil?" or "Why does God allow sin, sickness, war, crime, sorrow, death, (and their list goes on)?" is that the Son of God would have no works of the devil to destroy if there were no works of the devil, and there would be no works of the devil if there were no devil to work; ergo, in the purpose of God there would have been no "purpose" for the Son of God to be manifested if it were not for the one, undivided, eternal, "absolutely" predestinated purpose of God, working all things after the counsel of His own will (Ephesians 1.11);
- (d) "to bring in everlasting righteousness (Daniel 9.24)";
 - (e) "to seal up the vision and prophecy,"
 - (f) " to anoint the most Holy"
- (g) to bring in the eternal paradise of Eden for all eternity (Revelation 21-22).

What was it then, that the Lord *thought and purposed* in eternity? Specifically, in the case Isaiah wrote about in chapter 14, He purposed to break the Assyrian in the land He calls "MY land," and He purposed to tread the Assyrian under foot upon the mountains God calls "MY mountains." A number of things could be pointed out here: It is God Himself who will break the Assyrian and tread him under foot; it will not merely be His people doing it in some earthly war. It will be **in God's land**, which is the land called **the land of Israel**, and it will be upon **His mountains**, that is, the mountains in the land of Israel, that He will tread the man called "the Assyrian" under foot. This is because God is here using the Assyrian

as a type or picture of Lucifer/Satan in his rebellion against God, as is mentioned earlier in this same chapter, in verse 12—Lucifer's fall is another thing in this chapter preachers rarely mention, but it all goes together. (Remember Romans 8.28? "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." There we see God's purpose again, exactly the same as His eternal purpose is, as found in Isaiah 14, verses 24, 26, and 27.)

When God says, "I have **purposed** it, I will also **do** it," He is expressing a divine biblical principle rather than only one specific case in the time of Isaiah and the kings of Assyria and Israel.

As a general might sketch on paper with pencil or pen a battle-plan of how he will defeat the enemy, so God has sketched His battle-plan, not on Bible-paper alone, but on the mountains of Israel, using the Assyrian king and his army as His pen and ink, to illustrate exactly how He will finally defeat Lucifer (who is introduced by name in verse 12), not just in Israel alone, but, in the final showdown called Armageddon, in **all the nations of the earth**.

"For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for My people and for My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land (Joel 3.1-2)." The nations of this earth have no more right to "partition" Israel and parcel it out to Jews and Arabs than a squatter has to put a fence across your front yard and give it to the neighborhood hoodlums. The unconditional, eternal, land-grant promises God gave to Abraham and his family in Genesis 12.1-3, 13.14ff, 15.18ff, 17.7f, 17.19ff, 26.3f, 28.13f, and elsewhere are as valid today and forever as when they were first given. They are as valid as any other promise in which God's people have ever taken refuge. They are the commitment of Jehovah God Himself, and woe to the man or nation that rises up against the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel to try to undo what He has done forever! When a nation leans heavily on Israel to partition and give away their God-given heritage to the enemies of God and of His Christ, do not be surprised when God sends runaway inflation, unheard-of gasoline prices, chaos, and confusion at every level, and national plagues and disasterous storms into her midst. The Lord's basic promise to Israel was and is, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee," and He states plainly

that all nations who scatter His people and/or part HIS LAND are subject to divine judgment and retribution. Do NOT be surprised when *anything* comes upon such a nation, including our own.

To those who *are* given to see these things, inflation, storms, tsunamis, disease plagues, and earthquakes all will fall into their predestined and prophesied place at their appointed times. To those who are *not* given to see this fact, inflation, storms, and the like are not even circumstantial evidence for the existence of a Sovereign God or impending judgments from Him. To them, things "just happen," and there are natural explanations for them all.

In the short term, we do not have to understand the details, the whys and the wherefores. The Lord says end-time cataclysmic judgments are coming upon the earth's nations because of their worldwide, rampant rebellion against their Creator. That universal rebellion is manifest in man's godless philosophy, psychology, and psychiatry; his society, entertainment, economics, education, revisionist history, and illegal "legal systems," but most of all in man's politics and religion, or his State and his counterfeit "Church."

People still pass off the deaths of a quarter million Asians this year as "Mother Nature"; what will they think when it is not a quarter million, but three to four billion who are destroyed by the plagues of the book of Revelation, when they come? "And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth (Revelation 6.8)." There goes a quarter of the earth's population, leaving three quarters of the starting population. Later, "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men ... By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths (Revelation 9.15, 18)."

That is a third of what men are left, *in addition to* the original quarter mentioned in Revelation 6.8. Now a third of the three-quarters of those who were left is *another quarter* of the earth's population we started with at the beginning of the opening of the seven seals (Revelation 6). Two quarters, then, that is **one half of the earth's population** at the beginning of **the great tribulation**, will be destroyed before it is over, and that does not include the "many men [who] died of the waters, because

they were made bitter" by the Comet-asteroid Wormwood (Revelation 8.10-11) and the other plagues.

This is the uniform testimony of the prophets. There are so many texts prophesying the final conquest and reign of the glorified Christ over this earth, they cannot be readily counted, and space is too fast running out for us to mention them.

It is not our purpose to support or defeat any political candidate or legislative measure whatsoever, whether "good" or "bad." We reject the world's systems, "good and bad," because there is *none good*, *no not one*. To say so as a bare allegation is one thing. To illustrate it with specific examples of political and religious persecution as we have done above, is quite another; especially when *They* tell us their system is "for our good." It is exactly the publishing of specific examples of man's religious and political crimes against humanity, which *The Powers That Be* say are for *the people's good*, that gets people into trouble with the authorities.

There is no political solution to the world's problems. In God's timetable, the world has gone beyond the point of no return. We hope and pray that, as long as the Lord can see fit to graciously and mercifully spare us from the persecution our brethren endured in other ages and people are now enduring in other lands, He will restrain self-serving politicians and governments that they shall not interfere with our worship of God any more than we would interfere with their worship of Mammon and earthly power and glory. In the fear of the Lord we hope to watch God's decree unfold, to see which kings He removes and which He sets up, "to the intent that *the living* may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men (Daniel 4.17)."

The reader will kindly note that this article is not a partisan statement. We do not endorse or recommend any political party or candidate for any office. Please note we do not even recommend for you to vote or not to vote. What you do about that is between your God, you, and your government. Whatever is done in the upcoming election will exactly accomplish God's will. He will set over the nations the basest of men, moving us ever closer to Armageddon and **the glory that will follow**. For now, you may be assured of this: The world-system is so structured that no person can even be approved to *be* a candidate unless he conforms to the requirements of the Satanic forces that are moving us ever closer to the Beast's global government of Revelation 13.

It has become a question of which voters would prefer—a rotten tomato, or a rotten egg? If you wish to vote, then, vote. If not, don't. (That is only my observation, and it is certainly not said as permission, instruction, direction, or even as advice.) Every candidate will get exactly the right amount of votes, plus or minus enough "super delegates," plus all the complex machinations of the "electorial college," plus whatever other behind-thescene schemes and backroom deceptions are necessary to see to it that the *basest* of men are put over the nations of the earth, including our own; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

—C. C. Morris

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We have put off any price increases for the books we sell about as long as possible. We regret to announce that, beginning with the January-February issue of 2009, the following changes will go into effect, for the reasons given below:

- 1. There will be an additional charge for packaging materials and postage added to the prices of all books. There have been several postage rate hikes in recent years, but we have been blessed thus far to absorb those costs. We can no longer do this. Our Post Office has informed us that the U.S. Postal Service will be increasing postal rates again in the spring of 2009, and they will probably be increasing the postage rates every year after that, at least for a while. Accordingly, we may need to increase our proposed shipping and handling surcharges again in the not too distant future.
- 2. The book, "Pagan Festivals of Christmas and Easter," by Shaun Willcock, will be \$10.00 each, postpaid (\$7.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling). The reason for this increase is because we buy this book for resale, and its cost to us went up another \$1.00; the padded envelopes in which we send books cost over \$1.00 each, and it now costs us over \$2.00 each to mail most, if not all, of our books.
- 3. For the present time, the cost of the book "Absolute Predestination," by Jerome Zanchius, will remain at \$6.00, but beginning in January, 2009, there will be an additional \$3.00 charge for packaging materials and postage. This will make the price of this book \$9.00, postpaid.
- 4. The prices for **Feast of Fat Things**, **A Second Feast**, and all books by Elders Beebe, Trott, Bartley, and Durand will remain the same as they have been, but there will be a \$3.00 charge added to each book for packaging materials and postage.
- 5. The above shipping costs apply only to books being mailed to locations in the United States of America. Costs for mailing or shipping to other countries have increased even more than domestic costs. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY (we cannot postpone this until 2009!), the rate to send books to any country other than the USA will be an additional \$10.00 per book.

Even this rather drastic-sounding increase will not cover our expenses in all cases.

6. State sales taxes still apply only in Texas.

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With the exception of the Zanchius book, all books on page 19 are still at the price for which they were originally sold, and, Lord willing, they will remain at those prices until they are sold out.

For you to avoid the increased postage and handling costs, your order *must* be postmarked before midnight, December 31, 2008.

SERMON TAPES ARE AVAILABLE AGAIN

The sermon tapes of Elder James F. Poole have been made available again by Dr. Jackson. He may be reached by mail at

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Even though many of us still use the cassette tapes, stores are discontinuing them in favor of CDs. Dr. Jackson said that for the present he has enough cassettes to provide sermons for those who are interested in receiving them. "I will send them, our Lord willing, as long as I can." He charges nothing for the tapes or his services.

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Sincerely, Stanley C. Phillips

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The Remnant may expect to see maintained in this publication. Under no circumstances do the publishers or writers for *The Remnant* seek to delineate herein a standard of doctrine or views to be imposed upon the readers. Rather, we set these principles before the readers that they may know what general principles guide our efforts. All attempts at declaring articles of faith will be marred by prejudices and frailty, and ours are by no means any exception.

We believe these principles are, in the main, harmonious with the articles of faith published by predestinarian associations and churches of the old order of Baptists known as Primitive, Particular, or Old School Baptists the world over.

- 1—The eternal existence, sovereignty, immutability, omnipotence, and perfections of Jehovah God; He has revealed Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these sacred Three are One; Jesus Christ was and is God manifest in the flesh, and in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
- 2—The Old and New Testaments in their original languages are the verbally inspired word of God, and they are the complete and only valid guide of faith and practice; the King James Version is the preferred English translation;
- 3—The will of the eternal God is the first cause of all causes;
 - 4—The absolute predestination of all things;
- 5—The eternal personal election of the redeemed in Christ, before the world began, and their eternal, vital union with Him; their number is fixed, certain, and sure, and can

neither be increased nor diminished; their fall in their federal head Adam into spiritual death, total depravity, and just condemnation; their utter inability to recover themselves from this fallen state;

- 6—The blood atonement and redemption by Jesus Christ are for the elect only, and are both efficacious and effectual in accomplishing the will and purpose of God to reconcile His people unto Himself;
- 7—The sovereign, irresistible, effectual work of the Holy Spirit in quickening the elect of God; the new birth is by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit without the use of any means;
- 8—The final preservation, perseverance, and eternal happiness of all the sons of God, by grace alone;
- 9—No works are good works other than those which God Himself has so designated; none of the works called good are left up to men to perform or not, at the creature's discretion; nor do the works of the creature, either before or after regeneration, result in merit accruing to his account in God's sight;
- 10—The peaceable fruits of righteousness are the certain result of God's working in His people both to will and to do of His good pleasure, and His people will be found walking in paths of righteousness for His name's sake;
 - 11—The separation of church and state;
- 12—The principles outlined in the Black Rock Address of 1832:
- 13—The bodily resurrection, first of Christ, and also that of all the dead;
 - 14—The final and eternal judgment; and,
- 15—The bliss of the redeemed and the torment of the wicked are both eternal and everlasting.