

## Third Woe: Emergence of radical Islam in 21st Century

Rev 10:7 emphasizes the fact that during the sounding of the 7th and last trumpet “the mystery of God should be finished”. We know this trumpet began in October 1844 as John then saw the ark of the testament in the Heavenly Sanctuary, indicating that it happened when Jesus entered the Most Holy Place (Rev 11:15-19). The Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the Twin Towers in New York is believed to indicate the beginning of the third and final woe. However, some persons maintain that the US engineered that event to justify the “war on terrorism” which they wanted to unleash. On the other hand, there is no disputing that the emergence of ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq and Syria – in 2014 represents a formidable Muslim uprising that amounts to a major war for the “inhabiters of the earth”.

In the next edition, a closer look will be taken at the objectives of ISIS.

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## THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD, THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD!!

(continued from previous Edition)

In the previous edition we saw that abuse of God’s temple took place in Old Testament days and also in Christ’s time. Here we see that the servant of the Lord admonished the church for its

abuses in the end times.

In The Publishing Ministry (170. 4), in relation to destruction of the Review and Herald office by fire, Sis White repeats the words of Jeremiah 7:4 but with a twist to them: “The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are **WE**”. This is quoted in making the point that persons in authority at the printing office felt they could do things which God did not approve of – like undertaking the printing of secular work. If we engage in activities that similarly undermine the focus of our church, e.g. by selling certain non-Adventist books in our Book Centres, might we be inviting God’s displeasure and retribution also?

In Manuscript Releases (MR) (14, 280.3), Jeremiah’s words are again quoted. Here it is stated that the representatives of the Conference could no longer be justified in claiming to be the Lord’s temple, because they “had not been carrying the work wisely”. Sis White further elaborates in MR4, 76.4 that many men in responsible positions in the church who used the same words could not be trusted, because “Selfishness and greed have expelled from the heart the sanctifying principles of the truth”.

If we are guilty of similar abuses today, what will be God’s response? Let us examine ourselves, if we are in the faith.

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## Religious Liberty Newsletter

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**T**his edition of the Newsletter considers some important current events: the place of ISIS in global developments; and two court cases that will help to determine the protection afforded to religious liberty in the future. In addition the article “The Temple of the Lord”, from the last Newsletter, is concluded.

### Protecting Religious Liberty



Religious liberty is an issue that is fraught with difficulties. Two situations are described below providing examples of some of the conflicts and dilemmas that confront those who strive to maintain the central tenet of religious liberty to protect the freedom of ALL persons to live in accordance with their personal conviction.

### EMPLOYERS’ RIGHTS VS. RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

A clothing store refused to hire a Muslim teenager because she wore a head scarf (a hijab). She was told that her hijab violated the store’s strict “look policy”.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a law suit on her behalf, citing violation of the Civil Rights Act, saying **the company failed to accommodate the teen’s religious beliefs**. She won and was awarded \$20,000.00.

But, on appeal the court overturned the decision, on the basis that **she did not ask for exemption and therefore the company could not be held to have refused**.

The US Supreme Court now has to decide: *is it the job applicant’s obligation to ask for a religious ‘accommodation’, or should the prospective employer proactively raise*

*the issue?*

The **General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists** filed an ‘amicus brief’ in support of the Muslim teenager. They were joined by: The American Civil Liberties Union, Christian Legal Society, American Islamic Congress, and the Sikh Coalition among others. The amicus points out that **“the obligation lies with the employer, because how could an applicant even raise the issue, having no idea about the employer’s dress code?”**

This case will affect the ability of believers of many faiths to adhere to religiously motivated standards. **The religious liberty of others must be protected in order to protect our own liberty whether they share our conviction or not.**

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## **SATANISTS ON THE BANDWAGON OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

A Christian group was allowed to distribute Bibles at a public high school. But when an atheistic group planned to do likewise, **the atheists were prohibited by the school board.** The atheists filed a lawsuit alleging discrimination and breach of constitutional rights.

The school board gave in said they would **allow distribution of any material**, so the lawsuit was dismissed. The atheists say their goal is to promote the separation of church and state and

to prevent “the advance of religion at taxpayer expense”.

Then a Satanist group jumped on the bandwagon:

*“If a public school board is going to allow religious pamphlets and full Bibles to be distributed to students -- as is the case in Orange County, Florida -- we think the responsible thing to do is to ensure that these students are given access to a variety of differing religious opinions, as opposed to standing idly by while one religious voice dominates the discourse and delivers propaganda to youth.”*

The school board buckling under the pressure voted to **ban the distribution of Bibles and all other religious materials at its public schools in order to prevent the satanic organization from handing out literature to students.**

Religious liberty includes the right to be wrong, but does saying yes to a Christian group mean having to say yes to a Satanic group as well?

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## **LOCATING ISIS IN BIBLE PROPHECY** **3 trumpets: 3 woes!**

Among the visions that John recorded in the Book of Revelation, is the sounding of 7 Trumpets that herald major historical events leading up to the end of time. It is stated that events under the last 3 trumpets are particularly disastrous.

*“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound !” (Rev 8:13).*

These trumpets indicate the introduction of 3 separate ‘woes’ for mankind, of which the first 2 are described in some detail in Rev. 9 and 11. There is widespread consensus among Bible scholars that the symbolism and events recorded there refer to the emergence and military conquests of the Muslims. The pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism also hold this view which is reflected on our Prophetic Charts.



## **First Woe: Muslim Conquests of 7th to 15th Century**

The 5th Trumpet announces the first woe brought about by the teachings of the prophet Mohammed, starting in 7 AD. Mohammedism then spread, primarily by way of military conquests, to establish a powerful, pervasive Muslim empire in the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire, which lasted from 1299 to 1449. Rev. 9:5 says that this Empire would “torment but not kill” for five prophetic months.

## **Second Woe: Slaughter of Christians 15th to 19th Century**

After this period, Revelation 9:14-15 states that the 6th trumpet sounds, by which the powers of the Muslim Empire were “loosed” to kill for another specific prophetic period. This, the second woe, entails the slaughter of thousands of Christians (primarily Roman Catholics) and the capture of the geographic stronghold of Christianity, Constantinople, to bring it under Muslim control. Rev. 11 highlights the French Revolution of this prophetic period, involving rejection of Christianity and the Bible. In August 1840, precisely at the end of the allotted prophetic time, the Muslim Caliphate lost control of Turkey to Europe.