

---

## *Kids' Prophecy Corner*

---

### Church and State

#### Part 1

Welcome to Kids' Prophecy Corner.

Today we will look at the combining of Church and State in the USA.

We will first look at how and why "In God We Trust" was introduced during the Civil war.

Then, we will see how and why the pledge of allegiance introduced the words 'Under God' during the Cold war.

Finally, we will see how Church and State are already joint together today.

When we did our study on the impeachment process of Donald Trump, we saw the significance of the number 151. The number 151 brought us to the year 1868 and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

This time we will look at the history prior 1868, the history of the civil war from 1861 to 1865 and other histories to see how church and state came together.

### The American Civil war

The American Civil War was fought between the southern states and the northern states. The southern states didn't want the North telling them what to do or making laws they didn't want. As a result, many southern states decided to break away and form their own country called the Confederacy. The North, however, wanted to stay as one united country; and so, a war began. The Civil War, and the major events leading up to the war, lasted from 1860 to 1865. The Civil war started on April 12, 1861 and ended on May 9, 1865.

The year 1863 is midway between 1861 and 1865. 1863 by 151 takes you to 2014

2014 is midway, midnight, between 9/11 and 2019 symbolically and we understand that it is a repeat of the Millerites history between April 19, 1844 to Oct.22,1844. The midpoint being July 21, 1844

So, In 1861 the American civil war begins and one of the major issues is slavery.

Sister White tells us that the reason of the civil war is because of slavery and God is punishing the nation for that big sin.

She says :

***God is punishing this nation for the high crime of slavery. He has the destiny of the nation in his hands. He will punish the South for the sin of slavery, and the North for so long suffering its overreaching and overbearing influences. { RH August 27, 1861, Art. A, par. 1 }***

*All heaven beholds with indignation, human beings, the workmanship of God, reduced to the lowest depths of degradation, and placed on a level with the brute creation by their fellowmen. And professed followers of that dear Saviour whose compassion was ever moved as he witnessed human woe, heartily engage in this enormous and grievous sin, and deal in slaves and souls of men. Angels have recorded it all. It is written in the book. The tears of the pious bondmen and bondwomen, of fathers, mothers and children, brothers and sisters, are all bottled up in heaven. Agony, human agony, is carried from place to place, and bought and sold. God will restrain his anger but a little longer. **His anger burns against this nation, and especially against the religious bodies who have sanctioned, and have themselves engaged in this terrible merchandise.** Such injustice, such oppression, such sufferings, many professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus can witness with heartless indifference. And many of them can inflict, with hateful satisfaction, all this indescribable agony themselves, and yet dare to worship God. It is solemn mockery, and Satan exults over it, and reproaches Jesus and his angels with such inconsistency, saying, with hellish triumph, Such are Christ's followers! { RH August 27, 1861, Art. A, par. 2 }*

So, she says this civil war was the judgement of God for slavery. He is angry at the USA and the churches because of slavery. This is how she identifies the problem. He is angry particularly with the churches. Why? Because they approved, permitted and engaged themselves in slavery. Jesus cannot longer witness it. She says as she sees it, it is impossible for the United States to end slavery. God alone can end slavery. And so, He did through a civil war.

But the protestants don't have the same answer. They say God is angry and bring judgement because the nation is immoral. It doesn't recognize Christ as their King and It should enforce moral law. This is the response of the North which is republican. They say that because, at the beginning of the war, they are losing against the southern Democrats. In other words, God is judging the nation because he is angry at immoral people. The problem is the separation of Church and State. The other problem is that they have not recognized the United State as a "Christian nation". The problem is immorality: breaking God's "law".

She says,

***Early in 1863, the Civil War had not been going well for the North. Distressed over the terrible disaster his troops had suffered at Fredericksburg in December, General Ambrose Burnside had just stepped down as commander of the Army of the Potomac. Interpreting the Union defeats as a manifestation of divine wrath, clergymen representing 11 Protestant denominations met at Xenia, Ohio, on February 4, 1863, seeking ways to appease an angry God. This meeting led to the formation of the National Reform Association.***

***Why was God angry with the United States? According to this association's spokesmen, the reason was the failure of its government to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to enforce His moral law. Even after the war was over and the North had won, they retained their conviction that Jehovah was displeased with America. National Reformers continued to warn, for at least the next three decades, that divine judgment threatened the United States. WEGW 120.1 ( from the Ellen White Website)***

So, even at the end of the war with the victory of the North, they kept the belief that God was angry with the USA and they were endangered of Divine Judgement.

Out of this concept, they formed the National Reform Association. It is this national Reform movement that for the rest of that century attempted to bring the combining of Church and State.

So, the North, the Republicans, have the concept that God is with them but not with the Democrats. And so, they made a public statement. There is a pastor who wrote to the government. to Salmon Chase and he says that there should be a religious slogan placed on American coins. It has been rejected and resisted before 1861. Because it has been identified as a violation of the first amendment. The first amendment says: Congress can make no law about establishing religion.

*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.*

But in the time of the civil war, when republicans are not sure of victory this concept becomes more popular. In 1861, Salmon P. Chase the secretary of the Treasury, writes:

*"Dear Sir: No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."*

So, in 1861, a religious motto for the USA is suggested. And for the next 2 years, they debated on what the motto should be. In 1863, the congress decided on the motto "In God we Trust".

Congress passes a law stating that the motto must be placed on all their currencies. The first one begins in 1864. But there is another act of Congress passed in 1865 that allows that phrase to be placed on all coins.

In 1865 forward, it begins to be stamped on all of their coins. This was a response to the civil war to say that God is on the side of the North, the Republicans.

So, we see two streams of information. One is that of Ellen White. God is angry because of the churches allowing slavery. And she makes it clear that God is not in the south in any way.

But God is also angry with the North. In 1850, the north compromised. It is known as the 1850 compromise. Because they did not want a civil war, they tried to appease the southern states. And so, they passed the fugitive slave act.

#### The aftermath of the Civil war

1868 is the 151 to 2019.

They are two amendments to the constitution in 1868-1870. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments. They ended slavery but they introduced gender.

Because Congress only wanted to give black men the right to vote, they had to introduce the male pronoun to make sure it does not apply to black women. This began the woman suffrage movement. That movement was fighting to allow women to vote because the constitution was also for them (the women).

In 1798, the constitution is not for black people and it is not for women. In 1868, the movement begins to say this constitution is also ours. And women were giving the right to vote **in 1919 and it is the 19<sup>th</sup>** amendment.

We also saw that, it is the first presidential impeachment of Andrew Johnson by congress. One of the reasons was because he agreed with the slave holders and he issued the black codes. But also, because he fired his secretary of war Edwin Stanton.

So, from 2014 to 2019 is the change of a president. One who was freeing the slaves – Obama – By proposing laws that allow more immigration, better rights between blacks and white, better health care with the ObamaCare, equal pay between men and woman, liberty of conscience by authorising gay marriage. The other one – Trump - wants the return of slavery by restraining immigration, deporting families, separating children from their parents, working with the moral majority - the white evangelicals – Jerry Falwell JR, Anne Graham Lotz, Paula White and others we spoke in our study of the line of the presidents.

So, there is this movement who introduced a motto in the government to appease God's anger, but they are half right and half wrong. They have been judged by God, but they misunderstood why.

### Under God

If we take the number 63, it takes us to a history in the 1950's. from 2014, it takes us to 1951.

In 1951, there is a movement who wants to reintroduce the words "Under God". It started in 1948 and comes to his completion in 1954.

So, 1951, is a midpoint.

Just to place us in history, in 1949, the USSR developed nuclear weapons. This is the history of the cold war. It is a new concept for people. In this history from 1948, soon after the world war II, there is another conflict, another enemy. It is not the immoral southern democrats but the atheistic Soviet Union. So, because of this threat, in the US, they wanted to make a public statement before the world to say that God is on their side. They make this religious.

1948, there was an attorney who want to make a change to the pledge of allegiance. He wants to add to the pledge the words "under God"

In Feb. 8, 1948, these words are added in the repetition of a particular speech. That speech is the Gettysburg address given in 1863. This was the turning point in the civil war when the republicans began to win.

When Abraham Lincoln gave his speech at the Gettysburg address, he included the word in the pledge "Under God". He says that "*this nation shall under God have a new birth of freedom*". This concept of "under God" comes back in 1948.

In 1951, one of the largest catholic association, the Knights of Columbus, took this suggestion and adopted a plan to introduce it in the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of all of their meetings. It is an organisation that goes nationwide.

There is a government representative in Michigan that begins to push it officially to be added in the pledge of allegiance.

1954, President Roosevelt is re-elected and found himself in the history of the cold war. He attended a church service where a sermon is given. The pastor based his sermon on the Gettysburg Address and titled it "A new birth of freedom". He says that *the nation's strength was in his higher purpose, we need to set ourselves apart from other nations*" and it is these words "Under God" given by Lincoln that can do that.

In 1954, "Under God" was officially, legally, added to the pledge of allegiance.

Today, it seems normal to pray before congress meetings or recite the pledge of allegiance in schools, but all this comes from this history with President Roosevelt. It is a way to dedicate the nation under the protection of God against their enemy.

In 1954, they also recognized the knights of Columbus. They celebrated them for being the cause of this initiative and amendment.

It sounds like it is religious, but it is deeply political. The purpose was to try to put in people's minds that the USA was a religious or protestant nation from the beginning of its existence.

### In God We Trust

In 1956 (63 years from 2019) "In God We Trust" becomes the official motto of the USA.

Before this, there was another motto. "Out of Many one". Completely secular. Many states but one nation. That is the concept.

But in 1956, they changed it because it was in an environment of a cold war. It was to replant the idea that the USA was a chosen people conceived under God. Therefore, the USA is only safe under God.

So, in 1956, "In God We Trust" becomes the official motto of the USA.

### Application

If we do some applications, at 911, the nation is under the judgement of God.

But there are 2 streams of information on the why?

One of them says, we are under the judgement of God because of immoral people. People like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Anne Graham Lotz claim that the 911 attacks succeeded because of gay people, abortion, secular schools and courts.

Jerry Falwell said that "America has become so sinful; we should fear God's judgement".

Ann Lotz said that "God allowed 911 to happen to show us that we need him"

They have the same thoughts of the people in 1863 who said that the judgement is because of immorality, because of the separation of Church and State, and the failure to recognize America as a Christian nation. This is what has been pushed particularly since 9/11.

Even in Adventism some people think that God can control the weather and if there is flood in the south is because of the gay pride march. But this is conspiracy thinking. These are the people that would fight climate change and afraid of global warming. So, the storm is not because we are destroying the planet but because of gay people.

So, in 2001, a push begins. the phrase "In God we trust" is displayed in every public-school classroom.

AT Jones fought to have Bible out of public school. There should be no Bible teaching in a public school. That is church and state.

2017, it is introduced in Arkansas as the Act 911. "In God We Trust" in the public school.

This campaign to elect Donald Trump has been an evangelical push from the very beginning. Why? Prior 1863, the Republicans are losing, and they think it is the judgement of God. Prior 2014, the republicans are losing, and they think it is a bad thing. They are losing against Obama

They say Obama is against God because, for example, in Nov. 2010, he says the national motto "Out of Many One" instead of "In God we Trust".

But Obama was, rejecting the concept of Church and State. So, instead, he says out of many one. He did the right thing.

2014, Donald Trump comes out with a particular phrase: Make America Great Again”.

This means Re-form. It Is a national cry for nationalism.

It is the national Reform movement. This phrase is saying the same thing!

National = Nationalism

Reform = make it Great again

And it is a movement.

It is a movement under Donald Trump. And he comes out with that in 2014.

This attempt to bring “In God we trust” in the schools has taken up by a new organisation created around 2017 known as **Project Blitz**. This project is an attempt by the religious right to secure America as a Christian country. Project Blitz is the largest attempt by religious extremists to use the powers of government to secure a privilege position in society for their version of Christianity.

In 2017, this attempt became a major issue in many states.

This evangelical organization has a plan (100pages) and a series of steps.

- 1<sup>st</sup> step, introduce “In God We Trust” into schools.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> school – introduce bible classes into school and prayer time.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> step - to weaponize religious freedom as a mean to discriminate.

They are trying to say, they are the one suffering. And so, they want to be protected. And so, they want to bring church and state together.

For example, you have the story of a baker who is asked to bake a cake for a gay couple for their wedding and the baker won't. He would discriminate. The government stepped in and said to the baker he has to bake the cake. Project Blitz says that it is violating his religion freedom. But it is not. They just asked him to be nice.

In the case of reintroducing the Bible studies in the schools Donald Trump said: “starting to make a turn back, great”. He wants to make America great again, he wants to reform it. He is going to bring about Church and State. He is going back to 1951 and 1863 and came out with the phrase in 2014.

This week, on January 16, 2020, Trump signed rules to protect religious prayers and worship in public schools. So, we can see he continues to support the church. An that goes further as Faith organizations that provide health care and non-profit educational system can now, without notice, refuse to give a service to a person, if it goes against their religious beliefs and the same service can be given by a secular establishment.

So, in our history we can see how Church and State have already come together. It is not a future thing. Just in the last few years, they've made a turn back. Church and State are already

here, and you can pin it in 2014. It is the work of Steve Bannon weaponizing Cambridge Analytica. It is a nationalistic movement that says this is a Christian nation, we have to be protestant and capitalist to belong here. It is a racist movement that can be traced from the founding of the US nation but particularly from the civil war. Those issues are not political, there are prophetic.

Coming to our history, those issues are life or death. If we are too nationalists by making our country first above other countries and we don't care about what is going on for example in Australia or in Amazonia. Or we don't want to apply the golden rule to gay people or women. If we don't believe in equality. We will have a hard time understanding prophetic events.

We need to understand why the nation is under the judgement of God. Ellen White says, the fault of the nation's sin lies at the door of the churches. Not because of gay people or feminists, or immorality or climate change. It is because Church and State come together, and it is increasing. We can see it in 2001, in 2014, in 2016 even in 2019 when all the evangelicals supported Trump in the impeachment process. But it is not a future thing. It is already here. We will talk about it in our next study when we will look closer to our history from 1979 to today.

