



# Give Me Liberty Part 3



PASTOR AARON J BAKER



## REVIEW

*Not to sit in quietude* - “We as a people have not accomplished the work which God has committed to us. We are not ready for the issue to which the enforcement of the Sunday law will bring us. **It is our duty, as we see the signs of approaching peril, to arouse to action.** 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 more earnest prayer; and then let us work in harmony with our prayers.”—Testimonies for the Church 5:713, 714

LAMB-LIKE BEAST



## REVIEW



*Do the Work* — “There are many who are at ease, who are, as it were, asleep. They say, “If prophecy has foretold the enforcement of Sunday observance the law will surely be enacted,” and having come to this conclusion they sit down in a calm expectation of the event, comforting themselves with the thought that God will protect His people in the day of trouble. But God will not save us if we make no effort to do the work He has committed to our charge...” LDE 127

*Work to Delay* — “Those who are now keeping the commandments of God need to bestir themselves that they may obtain the special help which God alone can give them. **They should work more earnestly to delay as long as possible the threatened calamity.**—The Review and Herald, December 18, 1888. {LDE 126.4}

**LAMB-LIKE BEAST**



## REVIEW

*Counteract Efforts* - “If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, God cannot pour upon them His Spirit....They should feel now, as never before, their need of vigilance and concerted action. The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make. **When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these effort**” {5T 714}.

*Dangerous Foe* — “The people of our land need to be **aroused to resist** the advances of this **most dangerous foe** [popery] to civil and religious liberty.” —The Spirit of Prophecy 4:382. {ChS 163.2}

LAMB-LIKE BEAST



## REVIEW

*Arouse Spirit of Protestantism* — “We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land; and now that the movement is right upon us, we ask, Will our people do their duty in the matter? **Can we not assist in lifting the standard, and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges?** The time is fast approaching when those who choose to obey God rather than man, will be made to feel the hand of oppression. **Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent while His holy commandments are trodden under foot?** While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation, and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice, and give the message which is present truth for this time. **Let us show people where we are in prophetic history, and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awakening the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.**—Testimonies for the Church 5:716. {ChS 163}.

LAMB-LIKE BEAST



## OUR RESPONSIBILITY CONCLUDED



*Don't Vote For....*— “We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath....**The people of God are are not to vote to place such men in office, for when they do this they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office....**—Counsels to Writers and Editors, 97, 98 (1906). {LDE 128.1}



**LAMB-LIKE BEAST**



# Politics, Ballot Boxes, and Adventism

Light Bearers' SDA  
Pastor Aaron Baker

Three-Part Series  
October 27, 2012





## OUR RESPONSIBILITY CONCLUDED

*To Meet the Sunday-Law Movement*—I do hope that the trumpet will give a certain sound in regard to this Sunday-law movement. I think that it would be best if in our papers the subject of the perpetuity of the law of God were made a specialty. Should there not be a paper or a pamphlet issued to take the place of the Sentinel? I have not been able to think that it was the wise thing to do to let that paper drop. **It was a voice that was constantly speaking in defense of religious liberty.** The truth should be presented in short articles, in clear, distinct lines, giving special points in regard to the Lord's Sabbath, and showing that those who frame laws to compel the observance of the first day of the week, are disloyal to the Lord of heaven, **who placed His sanctity upon the seventh day.** Are we doing all we can to exalt the law of Jehovah? We should now be doing our very best to defeat this Sunday law. The best way to do this will be to lift up the law of God and make it stand forth in all its sacredness. This must be done if the truth triumphs.—Letter 58, 1906. {Counsels to Writers and Editors 97-98}

LAMB-LIKE BEAST



# OUR RESPONSIBILITY



Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political.—*Thomas Jefferson.*

VOLUME 5.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 23, 1890.

NUMBER 4.

## The American Sentinel.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY THE

PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING COMPANY,

No. 43 BOND ST., NEW YORK.

EDITORS,

E. J. WAGGONER, ALONZO T. JONES.

In his late speech in New York City, Mr. Crafts said:—

Vermont is the only State in which the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has not a Sabbath Observance Superintendent; the reason being that whatever may be the wrongs in Vermont, Sabbath breaking is not one of them.

Yes, indeed, the American Sabbath Union and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union can boast of Vermont. Vermont is directly in their line of things. The Sunday laws of Vermont are exactly

sence, with the evident purpose of setting themselves up as his representatives, to administer the government in his stead. It is this usurpation of power which we oppose. Christ has his representatives in the world, but the only authority ever given to them is found in Mark 16: 15 and parallel texts. Working under this commission the apostles besought men to be reconciled to God, and that is all anybody has any right to do. To adopt the Bible as the law for the government of the Nation would simply be to provide that the majority should dictate to the minority in all things pertaining to religious faith and practice.

### The Breckinridge Sunday Bill.

HERE is a copy of the Breckinridge Sunday Bill for the District of Columbia.

that there is in the District of Columbia any forced labor, any involuntary service required on Sunday or any other day, everybody so oppressed, has an ample refuge already supplied.

Article XIII of Amendments to the Constitution of the United States declares that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Now the District of Columbia is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the United States; therefore, if there is any forced labor or involuntary service anywhere in the District of Columbia, on Sunday or any other day, all that is necessary for any to do who are so oppressed, is to present their plea, under this

- The American Sentinel (First edition, January, 1886, p.8):
- "THE AMERICAN SENTINEL. AN EIGHT-PAGE MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO:
- The defense of American Institutions, the preservation of the United States Constitution *as it is*, so far as regards religion or religious tests, and the maintenance of human rights, both civil and religious. It will ever be uncompromisingly opposed to anything tending toward & union of Church and State, either in name or in fact.

**A.T. JONES, EDITOR (1887-1897)**



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- Summary:
- Arouse to Action - Not to sit in quietude doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience (Prophecy will be fulfilled, therefore do nothing).
- Pray for Sunday laws to be deferred until we finish our work [promulgation of 3rd Angel's message].
- Counteract efforts of those who urge measures to restrict religious liberty.
  - Pen and voice: Write to political leaders at state, local, and national level. Write in our publications and media outlets to the public. Speak at town-hall meetings.
  - Arouse the spirit of true Protestantism (separation of church and state, etc.)
  - Not to vote for politicians who advocate Sunday laws (in any sense, blue laws, etc.).

**A.T. JONES, EDITOR**  
(1887-1897)



# SUNDAY REST MOVEMENT



- Summary:
- America was founded as a Christian Nation.
- Enforcement of religious observance [Sunday] is necessary to prevent moral decline.
- Sunday keeping is necessary for strong families and communities



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION



CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W.  
FULLER (D)

- Rendered Decision Feb. 29, 1892
- 1887 - Congress enacted a law [against corporations and contractors] forbidding aliens to come to this country under contract to perform labor or service of any kind; Trinity corporation (New York) hired a preacher from England.
- Case: *The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Plaintiffs in Error vs. the United States.*



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION



**CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W.  
FULLER (D)**

- Court cites “historical” evidence by which it establishes:
- the Christian religion as the national religion;
- justifies the use of the civil power to maintain the discipline of the churches;
- a religious test oath as a qualification for office;
- general taxation for the support of "public Protestant teachers of piety, religion, and morality;"
- the governmental requirement of a belief in the doctrine of the Trinity and the inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments;

■ Source: *Protest Against Christian Nation* by A. T. Jones



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION



- First Amendment
- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...
- Quote historical excerpts and use Constitution to state:

**CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W.  
FULLER (D)**



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

FEBURARY 29, 1892

"There is no dissonance **in these declarations** (! ! ) There is a universal language pervading them all, having one meaning. (! ! ! ) They affirm and reaffirm that **this is a religious nation.**"

" But beyond all these matters [act of Congress, reports of committees], no purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, State or national, because **this is a religious people.** This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation"

JOHN MARSHALL

HARLAN (R)

CHIEF JUSTICE

MELVILLE W.

FULLER (D)

LUCIUS Q.C.

LAMAR (D)



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION



CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W.  
FULLER (D)

- “...this is a **religious** people...”
- **Rebuttal:**
  - Religious: James 1:26-27 (spiritual concept, not civil; religious person is someone who is converted).
  - Historical: Americans were atheists, infidels, Jews, and Muslims.



# AMERICA NOT A CHRISTIAN NATION

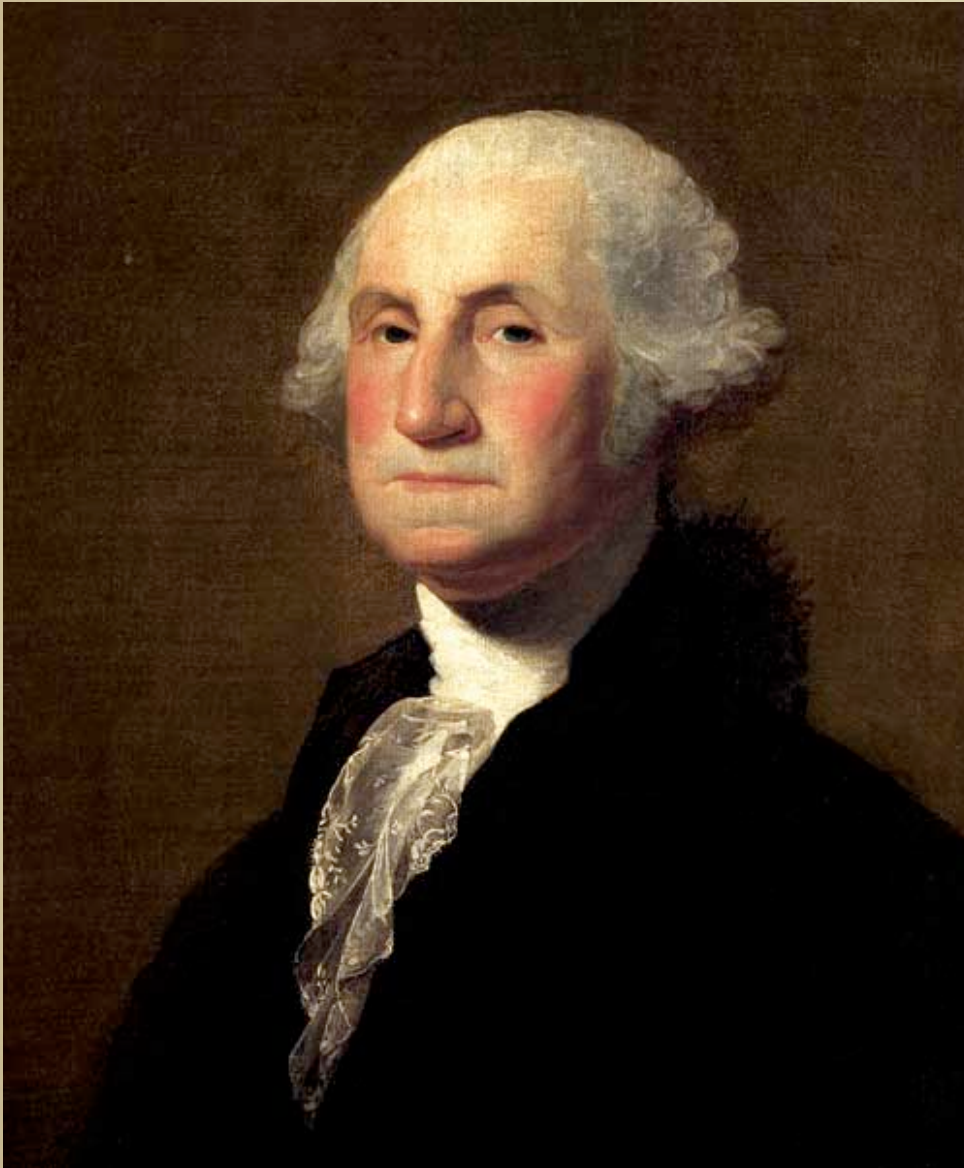


**JOHN ADAMS**

- “As the Government of the United States of America **is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion**,—as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility, of Mussulmen [Muslims], —and as the said States never entered into any war or act of hostility against any Mahometan [Mohammedan] nation, it is declared by the parties that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries. [Adams submitted and signed the Treaty of Tripoli, 1797]” — John Adams, *Thoughts On Government Applicable To The Present State Of The American Colonies*.: Philadelphia, Printed By John Dunlap, M,Dcc,Lxxxvi



# AMERICA NOT A CHRISTIAN NATION

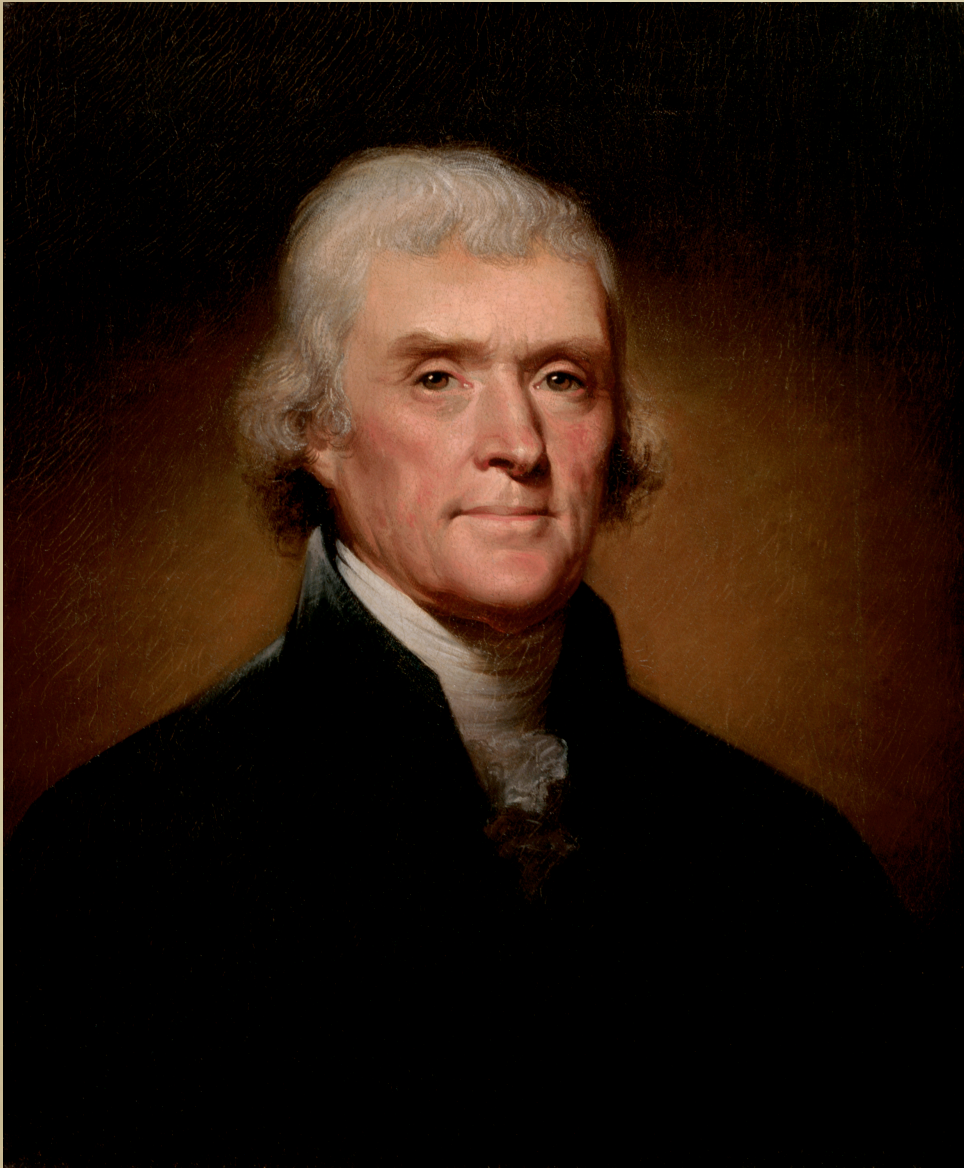


GEORGE WASHINGTON

- “The government of the United States **is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.**” — George Washington



# AMERICA NOT A CHRISTIAN NATION



THOMAS JEFFERSON

- “Christianity neither is, nor ever was a part of the common law.” - Thomas Jefferson, letter to Dr. Thomas Cooper, February 10, 1814



# HISTORICAL EXAMPLES



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

- Christopher Columbus (Catholic) - "The commission to Christopher Columbus, prior to his sail westward, is from 'Ferdinand and Isabella, by the grace of God, king and queen of Castile,' etc., and recites that, 'it is hoped by God's assistance some of the continents and islands in the ocean will be discovered,' etc."
- **Rebuttal:** Spain - Catholic religion under the Inquisition; Catholic church interfered in governmental affairs. Pope didn't have a say in American political affairs.



# HISTORICAL EXAMPLES



SIR WALTER RALEIGH

- Colonial grants (Protestantism) - "The first colonial grant, that made to Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584, was from 'Elizabeth, by the grace of God... Defender of the Faith,' ..authorized him to enact statutes for the government of the proposed colony ; Provided, That, ' they be not against the true Christian faith now professed in the [Church of England](#).' . . . Language of a similar import may be found in the subsequent charters, . . . and the same is true of the various charters granted to other colonies. [In language more or less emphatic, is the establishment of the Christian religion declared to be one of the purposes of the grant.](#)"



## HISTORICAL EXAMPLES



SIR WALTER RALEIGH

- **Rebuttal:** “But are the American people still bound by the purposes and intentions of queen Elizabeth and her British successors ? Does Britain ' still rule America, that the intent and purposes of British sovereigns shall be held binding upon the American people ?”
- We are no longer citizens of Britain; American revolution severed allegiance to Britain. Grants no longer valid.



# HISTORICAL EXAMPLES



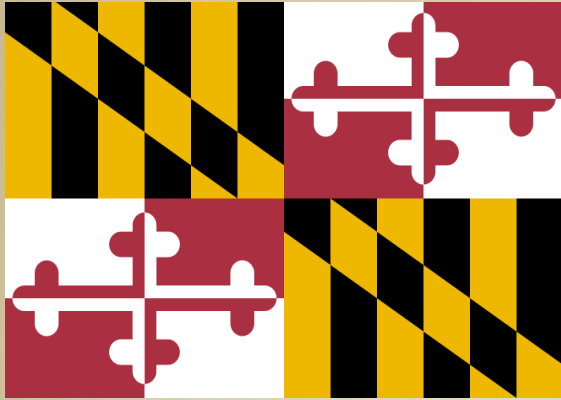
MAYFLOWER COMPACT

- Mayflower Compact (Puritanism, pilgrims); Compact of Pilgrims in Connecticut - "...doe therefore assotiate and conioyne ourselves to be as one publike State or Comonwelth...to mayntayne and presearue the liberty and purity of the gospell of our Lord Jesus wch we now prfesse, as also the disciplyne of the churches, well according to the truth of the said gospell is now practised amongst vs."
- Establishes Christian religion.
- **Rebuttal**: compact gave way to separation of church and state.

# CONSTITUTIONAL ARGUMENT

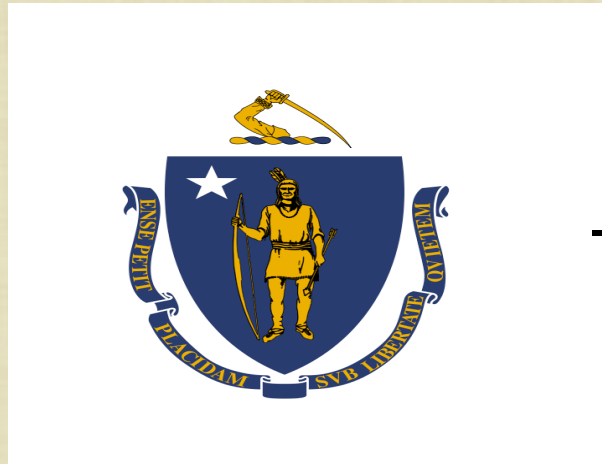


## STATE CONSTITUTIONS:



MARYLAND

— (1867) RELIGIOUS TEST FOR OATH  
OF OFFICE



MASSACHUSETTS

— (1780) PUBLIC TAXATION  
TO SUPPORT RELIGION.



DELAWARE

— (1776) BELIEF IN TRINITY AND  
INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

FEBURARY 29, 1892

"If we pass beyond these matters to a view of American life as expressed by its laws, its business, its customs, and its society, we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. Among other matters, note the following : The form of oath usually prevailing, concluding with an appeal to the Almighty ; the custom of opening sessions of all deliberative bodies, and most conventions, with prayer ; the prefatory words of all wills, ' In the name of God, Amen ;' *the laws respecting the observance of the Sabbath* with the general cessation of all secular business, and the closing of courts, legislatures, and other similar public assemblies on that day. . . . These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of *organic utterances* that **THIS is A CHRISTIAN NATION.**"

JOHN MARSHALL  
HARLAN (R)

CHIEF JUSTICE  
MAYNARD  
FULLER (D)

LUCIUS Q. C.  
LAMAR (D)



# U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION



CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W.  
FULLER (D)

- “...THIS is a **CHRISTIAN** NATION...”
- **Rebuttal:**
  - Founders quotes about Christian nation.
  - Article VI: This **Constitution**, and the **Laws** of the United **States** which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United **States**, **shall be the supreme Law of the Land**; and the Judges in every **State** shall be bound thereby, **any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding..**
  - History: after 1776, state governments to setup republics that separated church and state.
  - Romans 13; legitimate functions of government.



## CONCLUSION

Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar  
and to God what belongs to God.



- Arouse the spirit of Protestantism;
- Do our part to preserve civil and religious liberty;
- American not founded as a Christian nation, it was founded to leave every man and woman free to follow the dictates of their conscience.
- Let's pray to this end.

