
Wounded In the House of My Friends

The Crisis of Christianity



Visions of God

By the Waters of Babylon





Wheels and Their Work

The Wheels and Their Work

**“The wheels within wheels represented in this symbol was confusion to the finite eye. But a hand of infinite wisdom was revealed amid the wheels. Perfect order is brought out of the confusion. Every wheel works in its right place, in perfect harmony with every other part of the machinery.” —
Christian Leadership pg. 26.3**

The Wheels and Their Work

“The complicated play of human events is under divine control. Amidst the strife and tumult of nations He that sits above the cherubim still guides the affairs of this earth. To every nation and individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are by their own choice deciding their destiny...”

Systems

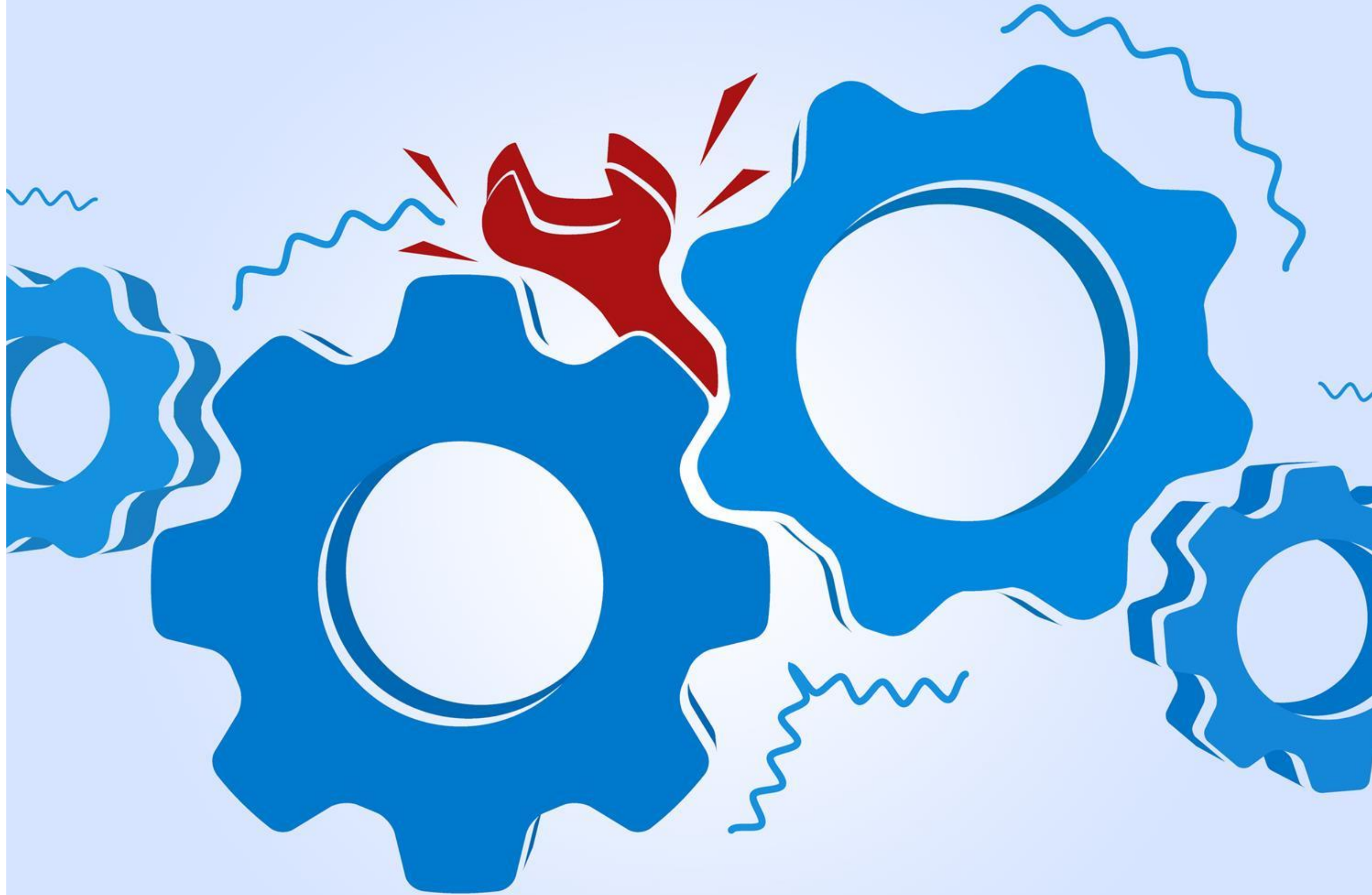
“Play and Counterplay of Human Interests”

Faith I Live By p. 168



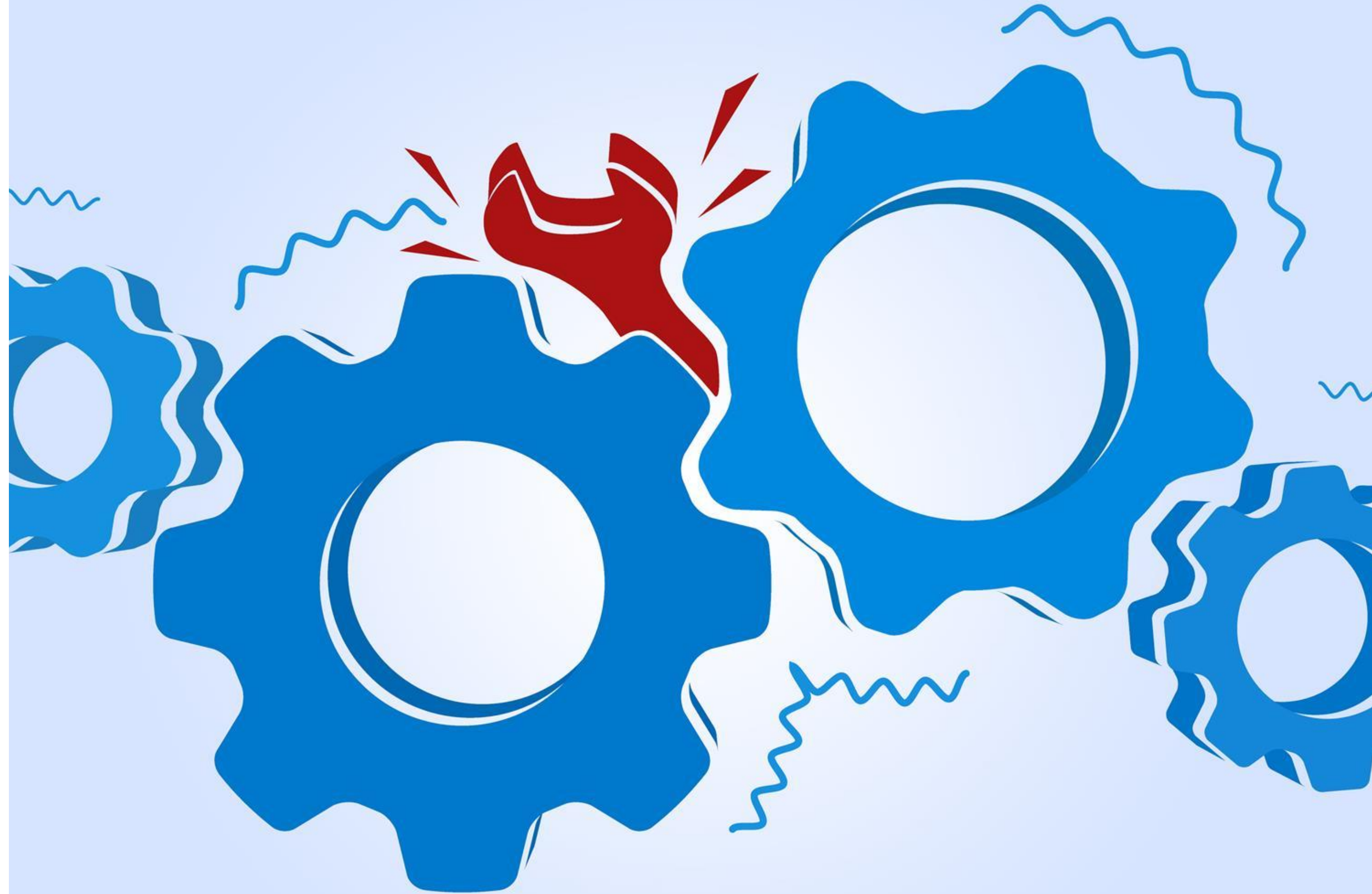
Sabotage

**“...comes to steal, kill, and
destroy.” —John 10:10**



“There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices.”

Great Controversy (1888) p. 516



Ephesians 6:12

**“Principalities,
Powers, Rulers,
Wickedness in
High Places...”**

The Great Controversy



“Types” of Systems

1. Individual Influence
2. Family
3. Community/Church
4. Nation
5. World

“Repeat and Enlarge”

“Repeat and Enlarge” Parallels

- Joseph, Jesus, and Christians
- Literal lambs, sacrificial lambs, and the Lamb of God.
- Literal Babylon and Spiritual Babylon
- Daniel Chapters 2, 7, 8, & 11

“Type/Antitype”

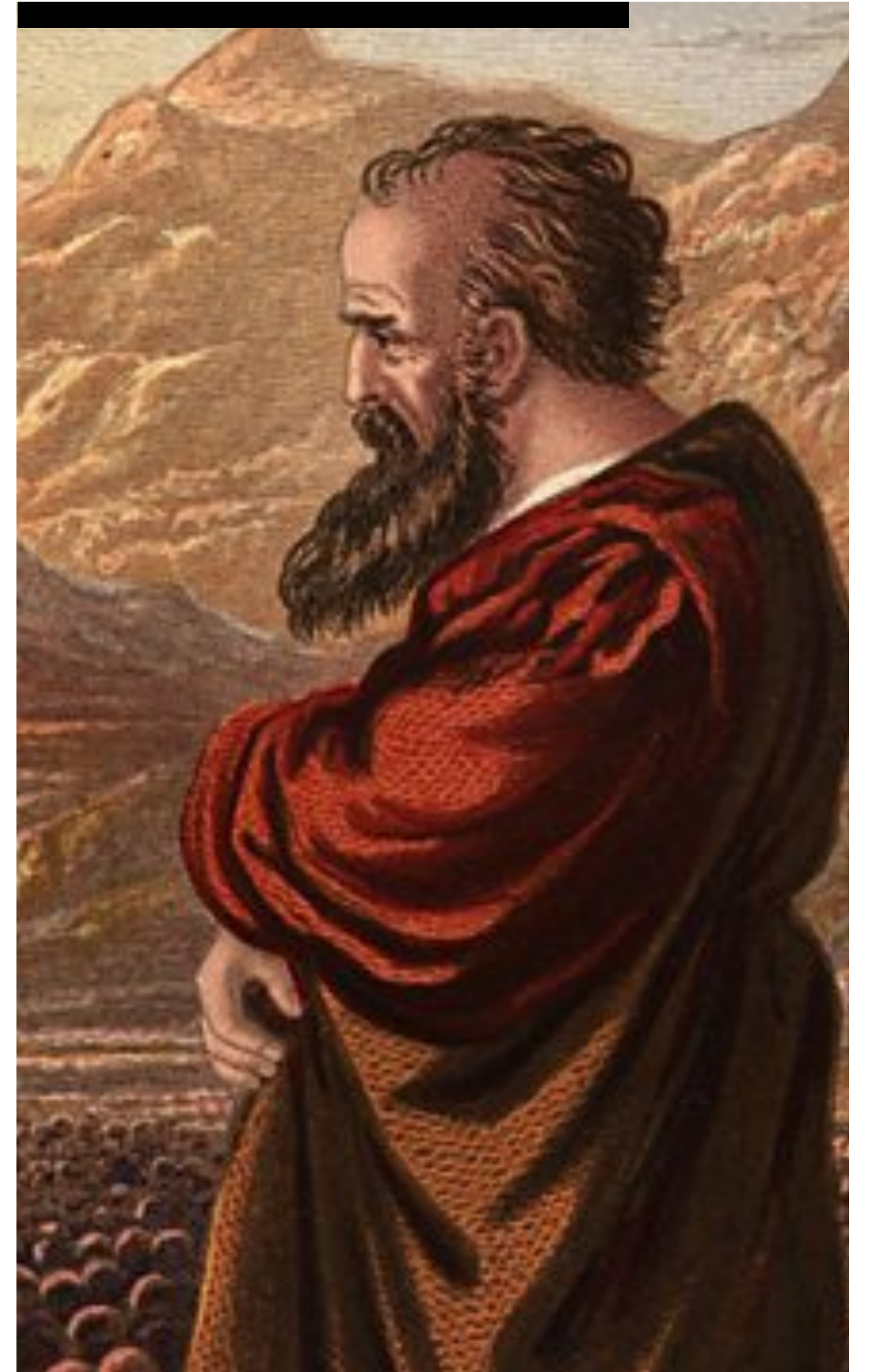


Elijah

A Biblical Pattern

Literal Elijah

- Straight forward manner and message (**I Kings 17:1**).
- Forerunner of Elisha (**I Kings 19:16**)
- Depressed as a result of persecution (**I Kings 19:4**).
- Land refreshed by an outpouring of rain after a long drought (**I Kings 18:41-46**).
- Ahab, Jezebel, and her false prophets bitter enemies (**I Kings 18:17-40; 19:2,3**).



John the Baptist, Elijah Antitype

- Straight forward manner and message. (**Matthew 3:4**)
- Forerunner of Jesus' First Coming. (**Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:14**)
- Depressed as a result of persecution. (**Matthew 11:1-3**)
- Land refreshed by an outpouring from heaven after a long drought (**John 7:37,38**).
- Herod, Herodias, and her harlot daughter bitter enemies. (**Mark 6: 17-28**; Antitypes of Ahab, Jezebel, and her false prophets)



The Remnant Church, Elijah System-type

- Straight forward manner and message. **(Malachi 4:5-6, Revelation 14:6-12)**
- Forerunner of Jesus' Second Coming. **(Acts 1:11; Revelation 22:11-16, 20)**
- Depressed as a result of persecution. **(Matthew 11:1-3)**
- Land refreshed by an outpouring from heaven after a long drought **(John 7:37,38)**.
- The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet; Woman riding the Scarlet Beast, bitter enemies. **(Revelation 2:20-22;** Antitypes of Ahab, Jezebel, and her false prophets)



**All incarnations
of Elijah stand
against the
improper
combination of
church and state.**

To Review

- The Ezekiel's visions of God shows Him in control of the systems affecting the lives and mission of His people.
- “Wheels within wheels” are systems of representing the play, interplay, and counterplay of human events.
- The devil seeks to sabotage the divine machinery through internal threats; principalities, powers, rulers, wickedness in high places.
- God uses symbols, types, antitypes, personalities, and events to explain the systematic working of Providence.
- God is never surprised.

An Object Lesson

A Pattern

1 Cain

2 Lot and Esau

3 Balaam

4 Eliab

5 Israel in the time of
Rehoboam and
Jeroboam

6 Babylon

7 Haniniah the false
prophet

8 The Pharisees

9 Judas

10 The False Prophet
(Revelation 16:13)

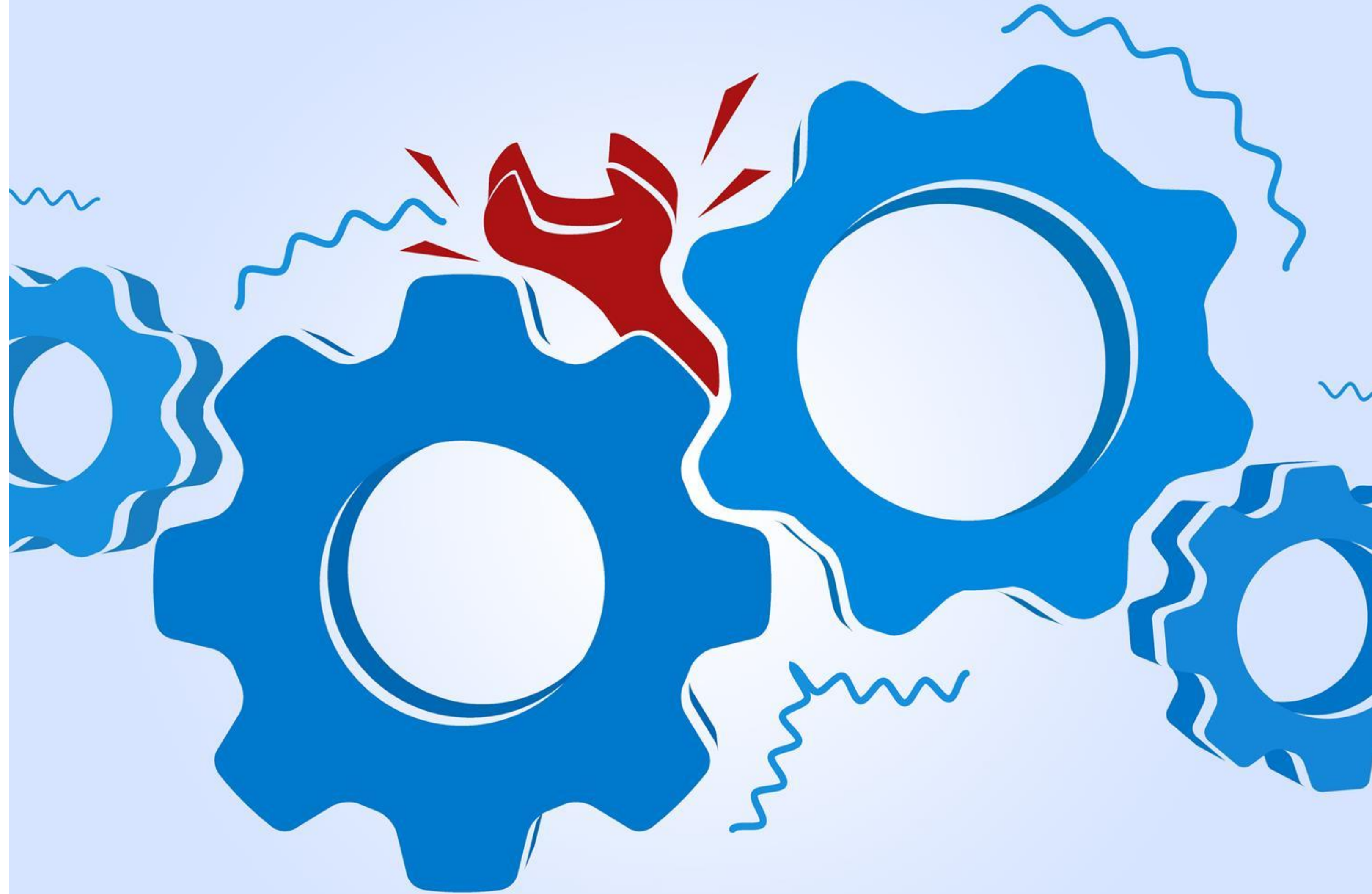
A Pattern

- 1** Cain killed his brother Abel
- 2** Ammon, Moab, and Edom always opposed their near relatives the Israelites
- 3** Balaam, once a true prophet, seduced them with women at Baal-peor.
- 4** Eliab, David's older brother was jealous.
- 5** Israel in the time of Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Divided and eventually conquered.
- 6** Babylonians, who destroyed the temple, were relatives of Israel.
- 7** Haniniah the false prophet opposed Jeremiah who was the true prophet.
- 8** The Pharisees, leaders of the nation Christ Himself established, sought to discredit and kill Him.
- 9** Judas betrayed His Master and best Friend.
- 10** The False Prophet (Revelation 16:13) claims to uphold His commandments.

**“A man’s foes shall be they of his
own household.” — Matthew 10:36**

“There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices.”

Great Controversy (1888) p. 516



IEDs = *Internal* Explosive Devices

**“As we have...opportunity, let us do good..., especially unto them who are of the household faith.”
—Galatians 6:10**

The Pattern

- “We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world...”
 - “...how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement.” — Review and Herald, March 22, 1887, paragraph 3
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**The most
dangerous threat
to religious
liberty are those
in “the household
of faith.”**

**“...the time cometh, that
whosoever killeth you will think
that he doth God service.”
—John 16:8**

The Household

- Cain wanted disobedience to be accounted as obedience.
- Esau wanted the birthright without being born again.
- Balaam wanted to be friends with the world and friends with God.
- Babylon wants to replace God with its own images of God.
- Judas wanted Jesus to set up His kingdom on earth.
- The false prophet substitutes unclear spirits for the Holy Spirit.
- All exercise some aspect of power to coerce or destroy their targets.

“Types” of Systemic Threats in the Bible

1. Individual Influence (Cain, Balaam, Judas)
2. Family (Lot, Esau)
3. Community/Church (Haniniah, The Pharisees)
4. Nation (Israel, Babylon)
5. World (False Prophet, Babylon)

Examples of Systemic Threats (Reverse Order)

5. World

4. Nation

3. Community/Church

2. Family

1. Individual Influence

The Ukrainian War

World: Church & State





Christian Nationalism

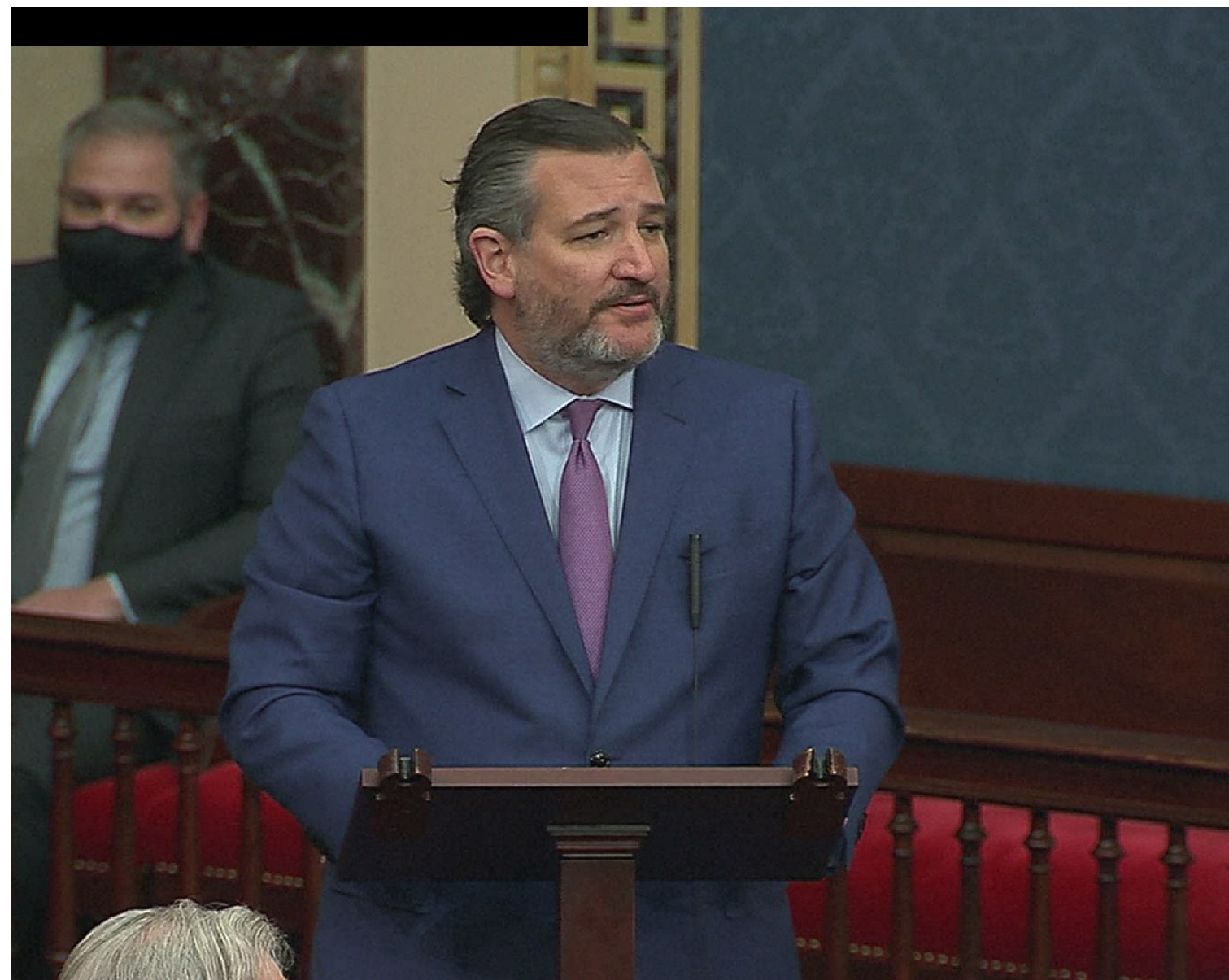
Nation: Church & State







Nation: Church & State

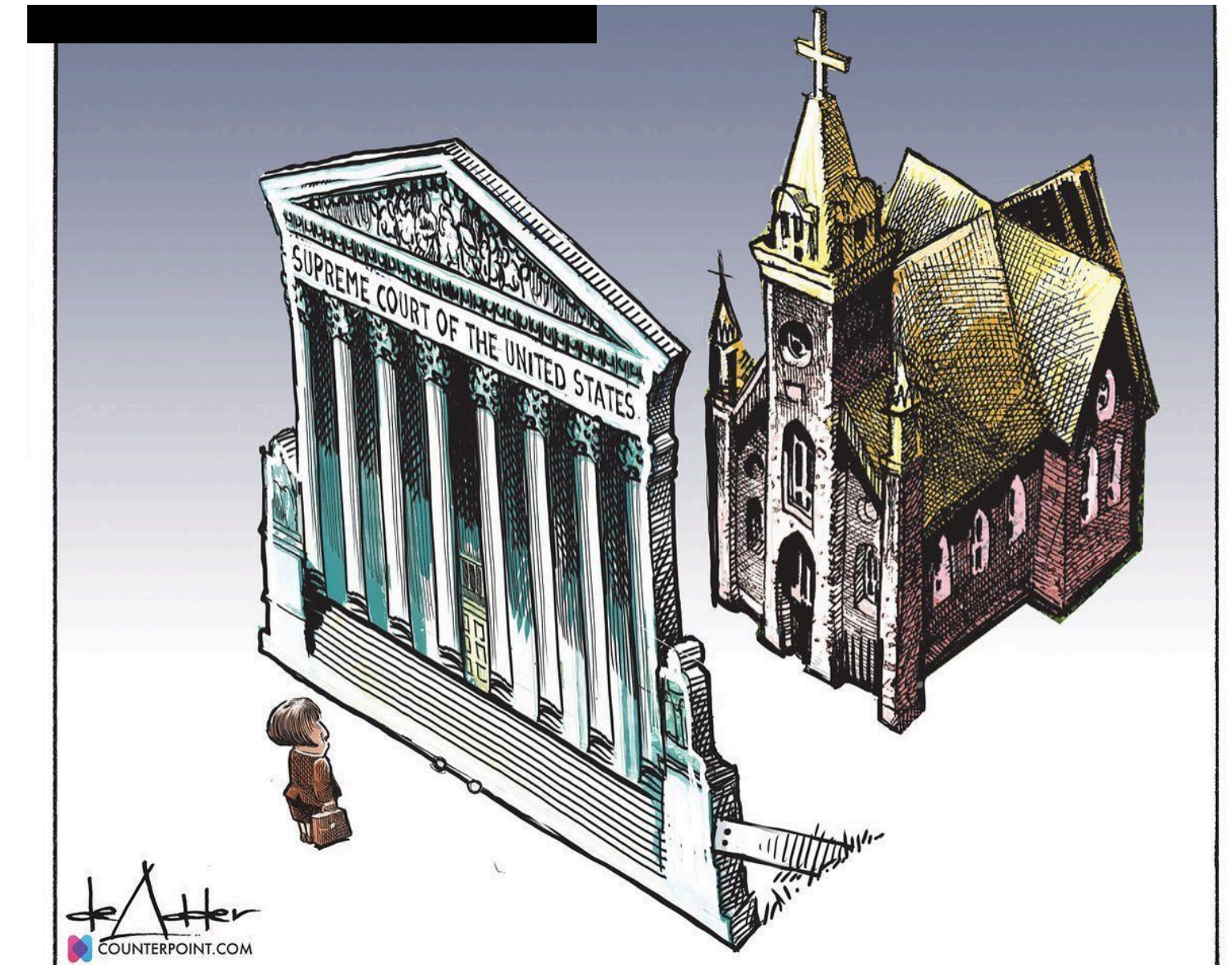


Republican Rep.
Marjorie Taylor
Greene said,
“I’m a Christian, and
I say it proudly, we
should be Christian
nationalists.”



Nation: Church & State

“And the problem that looms is not just indifference to religion, it's not just ignorance. There's also growing hostility to religion, or at least the traditional religious beliefs that are contrary to the new moral code that is ascendant in some sectors.” —Justice Samuel Alito



The Impact of False Doctrine

The Church: Part I
Christendom at Large



Impact of False Beliefs & Doctrine

- “We’re not under the law, but under grace.”
- “This is a Christian nation.”
- “The Constitution is divinely inspired.”
- “The love of many have waxed cold”
- “Christians (in Western countries) are being persecuted.”
- That Democrats and Republicans embody “good vs evil.”
- “God wants Christians to dominate so they we won’t be persecuted”

Persecution?

- Don't feel affirmed by popular culture?
- Don't fit in?
- Don't see your values reflected in society?
- People mock your beliefs?
- Not eligible for taxpayer funding for your ministries?
- Non-Christians disagree with your positions?



Wheels and Their Work

The world isn't suppose to work for you.
God works for you.

The Easy Yoke, the Lite Burden

- “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- “...what shall a man give in return for his soul?” — Matthew 16: 24-26



The True Purpose of Religious Liberty

- To take this gospel into all the world for witness to all nations.
- Teach, heal, preach, and baptize.
- To warn the world and the nations of impending doom and the Way of escape.
- To win our family, friends, and enemies through love and persuasion.
- All without the pressure of working under unjust laws and legal restrictions.

What good is religious liberty if our religion is vain.

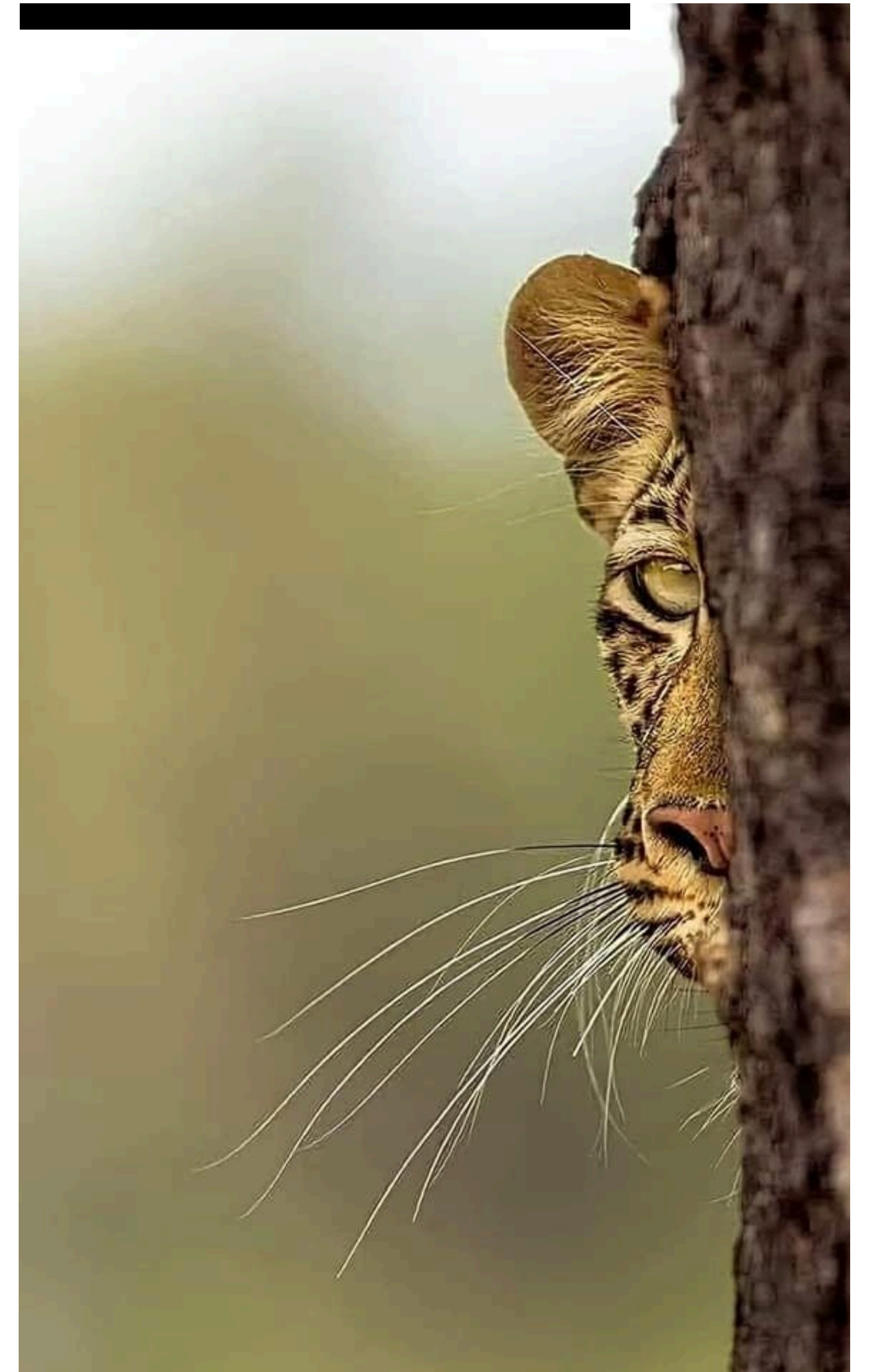
Where Are The Adventists?

The Church: Part II
The Problem of Seventh-day Adventists



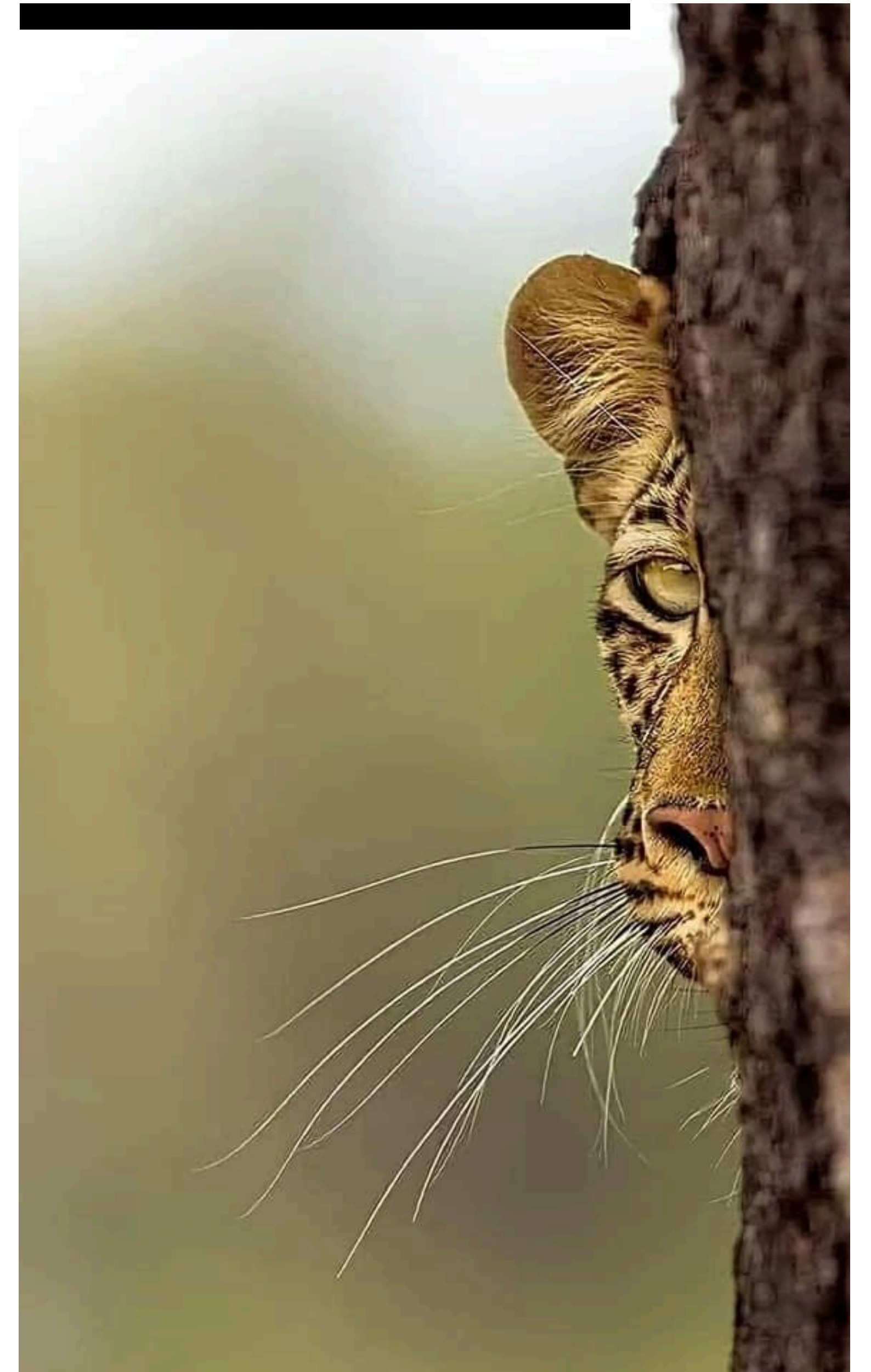
Where Are The Adventists?

- Revelation 3:16, 17
- Ezekiel 8



Where Are The Adventists?

- Indifference leads to a wretched condition.
- Jealousy leads to internal division and conflict.
- Corrupt imagination leads to false worship.
- Impurity leads to intemperance and gullibility.
- Stubbornness leads to the unpardonable sin.



Where Are The Adventists?

“...It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord’s people may not have mercy or justice.” — Testimonies T32, p. 208.1

Where Are The Adventists?

“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.” — Testimonies T32, p. 208.1

This is our time.

**SDAs have the perfect message
and right organization for this
time.**

Review

- Christians seeking to combine church and state, from the Supreme Court to the Proud Boys, are not suffering persecution.
 - There are no governmental barriers preventing Christians from expressing true religion.
 - We are strangers and pilgrims, so this world is not home for Christians.
 - Atheists, neo-Marxists, non-Christians, secular people, wokeness, are not the major threat to RL.
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Wounded in the House of My Friends

**“Woe, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites...” — Matthew
23:14-39**



John 15:18-21

The Elijah Message

- We are sent to “turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers...” —Malachi 4:6
- The Latter Rain will give us the power to outrun and outlast the footman, the horses, and the swelling of the Jordan.
—I Kings 18:44-46; Jeremiah 12:5
- The wise save lives. God promises wisdom. —Proverbs 11:30;
James 1:5
- The Great Controversy is the most effective framework for understanding the conflict between good and evil.

“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 the 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...” 5T 716.2