

Editorial

The theme for this issue is Dan 12, with special reference to the relationship between Dan 12 and Dan 11. Below I discuss the manner in which the events of Dan 11:44-45 overlap with those of Dan 12:1-3 and Dr. William H. Shea discusses the close connection between the events of the middle verses of Dan 11 and those of the last verses of Dan 12. Two of the papers are on secularity – both the disease ("More on Verse 40a") and its cure ("More on Verse 40b"). The problem is not confined to foreign countries with atheistic political ideologies. Much closer to home are our own nation's schools and colleges where the creatorship of God is under heavy attack. The solution, however, is not to pass laws masking the problem but to understand how the Bible and nature do truly agree when both are correctly understood ("A Layman Looks at the Fossil Record"). Next time the theme topic will be Esther.

It is a problem in our society that people are losing interest in Christian values and leaving the church, but passing legislation that forces them to act as though they had not left it falls short of a solution. How spiritual is such an approach? Here are the guidelines for moral behavior. Just do them. This attitude, which manifests itself in the desire to make public laws a major vehicle for disseminating Christian values, gives new meaning to the term "legalism."

Conservative Christians should take Christ to society in so winsome a manner that their hearers will be drawn to Him--not with statements buried in scholarly doubt or with wild gesticulations and shouting. Jesus Himself spoke quietly and yet as One having authority. We can only represent the Savior to mankind by speaking as He spoke and doing as He did. If He attempted to legislate Christianity into existence, we should follow His example. But if He did not, then we should be aware that any attempt on our part to do so has questionable authority. If there is crime in the streets, preach in the streets. Present Christ.

Very soon Christ will do His own presenting. He will come with the clouds, surrounded by angels, in such glory that "every eye will see Him" (Rev 1:7). When He arrives He will be pleased with some, displeased with others. Let me ask this question. If before Jesus comes our nation should pass a law mandating Sunday observance, with civil penalties for those few who insist on keeping the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which group will be happier to see Him--the many or the few? Secularists have no reason to welcome Jesus either. But which is more worthy of punishment--to believe on scientific grounds that God did not create the world or to believe that He did and yet reject His appointed means of acknowledging the fact? Even this might be overlooked privately. But making official policy of disregard for a plain command of God is too much. At this point the term "secularism" loses its meaning and Christ waits no more.

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Editor