



## Lesson 10

### In God We Trust

- **Millerite History**
  - “In God We Trust” and “Under God”
  - A portion of the Gettysburg Address
- **The mid 1900s**
  - “In God We Trust” and “Under God”
  - The US Pledge of Allegiance
- **Line upon Line**
  - The 151 and the 63
- **Our Time**
  - “In God We Trust”
  - Project Blitz

The phrases “In God We Trust” and “Under God” are common in the United States today but that was not always the case. These phrases are inserting the Christian religion into public, secular areas. The Protestant church leaders worked through the government to do this; these two phrases are a symbol of the combination of church and state. The histories around the introduction of these phrases line up with our reform line.

## Millerite History

In Millerite History we see the United States being changed from a nation of free religion to a nation favoring Christianity. Here the churches started influencing the state to do what they wanted in a time of crisis: the American Civil War.

### 1861

In 1861, the Protestant churches in the North of the United States began petitioning the government to recognize God on American currency. In a letter dated May 13, 1861 a Pennsylvanian pastor wrote to the Treasury Department asking them to add a statement recognizing God onto the coins. In that year the Civil War had begun, the north was predominantly Republican and the south was mostly Democrat. The north thought that the war was the judgment of God for them failing to enforce morality (Ellen G. White said that it was the judgment of God against slavery). That’s why they wanted God on their money, they wanted to get back into God’s favor and show clearly that God was with them, and not the south, in actuality this would not win God’s favor.

### 1863

Prior to 1863 the north had been losing the Civil War. A group of 11 Protestant denominations (later to be called the National Reform Association [NRA]) decided that this was because the US didn’t recognize God in the Constitution, this happened in February. In July of 1863, five months later, the Civil War began to change in the north’s favor and they began to win. The turning point was the Battle of Gettysburg. During Lincoln’s November speech (the Gettysburg Address) he said that the nation “under God” would enjoy a new birth of freedom. Later that year, in December, the Secretary of the Treasury decided that “In God We Trust” should be engraved on US coins.

### 1864

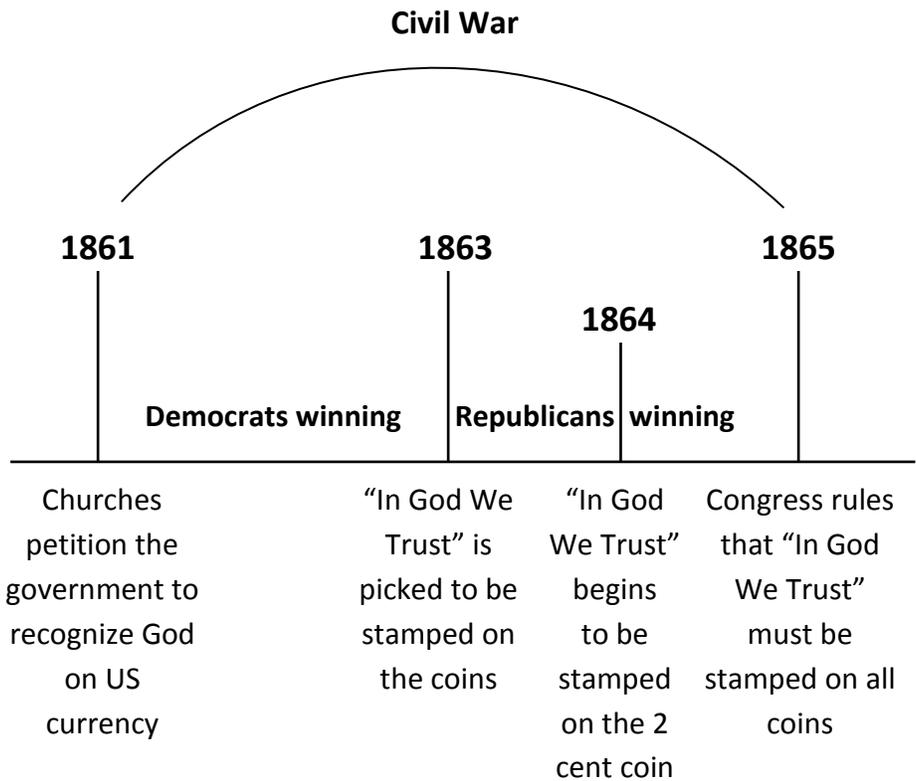
In 1864 “In God We Trust” began to be stamped on coins. It first appeared on the two-cent coin. This was an act of discrimination and an act against free choice because it forced everyone in the country to acknowledge God.

# 1865

On March 3, 1865 the United States' Congress passed an Act saying "In God We Trust" should be stamped on all coins. In that year and the next it was stamped in the gold double eagle coin, the gold eagle coin, the gold half eagle coin, the silver dollar coin, the half dollar coin, the quarter dollar coin, and the nickel three cent coin. Also the Civil War ended in this year with a victory for the north- the Republicans.

## A portion of the Gettysburg Address

"...It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



## The mid 1900s

In the mid 1900s the Protestant leaders were astir. They did not like President Franklin D. Roosevelt's reforms called the New Deal. This Deal regulated businesses; they said it was socialism and against the Bible. The religious leaders united with the business men to protest and work against the Deal. Another thing that the Protestants (and the whole USA) didn't like was the USSR. It was communistic and atheistic. The USA wanted to be as far from them as possible so they tried to make themselves Christian and "with God" as opposed to the atheistic Soviet Union. In this history the Protestant leaders tried to influence the government to make the USA more of a Christian nation- although the USA was not created to be a Christian nation in the first place.

### 1948

In 1948 a group called The Sons of the American Revolution started saying "under God" in relation to the United States when they recited the United States' Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge had been written in 1892 by a Baptist pastor named Francis Bellamy and it was completely secular (it had nothing to do with religion). But at this time it started to be changed. The man (Luis A. Bowman) who led The Sons of the American Revolution to start adding Christianity into the pledge of the United States was even given a reward by an affiliated group- The Daughters of the American Revolution- for coming up with the idea.

### 1951

In 1951 The Knights of Columbus, which was the largest Catholic service organization in the United States, included "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance when they recited it.

### 1952

On August 21, 1952 The Knights of Columbus sent copies of their resolution to make the addition of "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance universal to the President, Vice President, and Speaker of the House (the three top people in the US government).

### 1954/1956

The President since 1953: Dwight D. Eisenhower attended a church service in February 1954. The pastor pushed that "under God" should be added to the Pledge of Allegiance. On June 14<sup>th</sup> Eisenhower passed a bill officially adding "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. He did this partly because he was in the Cold War with the atheistic USSR; he wanted everyone to think God was on the USA's side, not the USSR's. This bill adding "under God" combined church and state (which we know is wrong). Two years later Eisenhower passed another bill. Previously, the USA's national motto had been "E Pluribus Unum" which is Latin for "Out of Many One"; this signified that the USA was open to everyone in the world. But then, Eisenhower changed the country's national motto from "E Pluribus Unum" to a Christian favoring church and state motto- "In God We Trust".

## The original secular Pledge of Allegiance, 1892

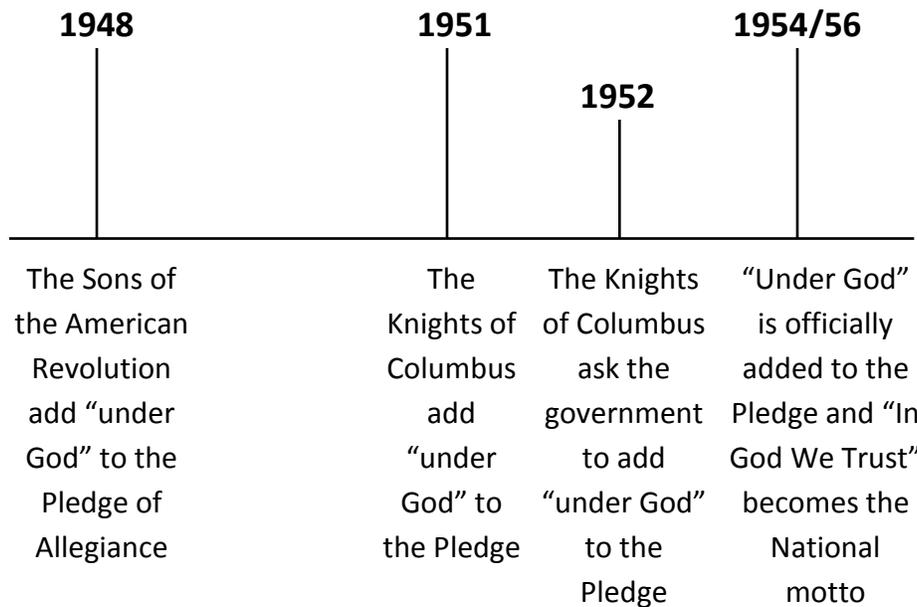
"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands- one nation indivisible-with liberty and justice for all."

## The official secular Pledge, 1942

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## The official Pledge with "under God" (religious), 1954- The pledge of today

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

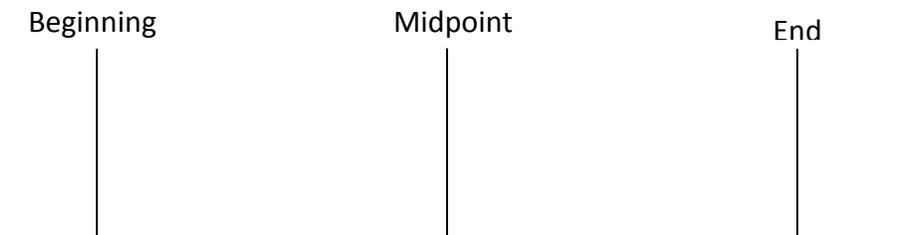


# Line upon Line

We know about midway or midpoints. We see one in Millerite History- July 21, 1844- and we see one in our history (the history of the priests) - 2014. The midpoint is a simple and useful symbol, we can use the structure: the beginning, the middle (midpoint), and the end to apply things prophetically to our line because we know that 9/11, 2014, and 2019 follow that pattern as well. We also know that we apply time periods to our waymarks and see where they take us to in past history; we then apply those symbols to our time.

We use the 151 often; it is a symbol of the 2520. One hundred and fifty-one years before 2014 is 1863. Both 2014 and 1863 are midpoints; 1863 is the middle of the Civil War and, as we have seen, the middle of a history where the Protestant leaders were starting to combine church and state. And 2014 is the symbolic middle waymark on the line of the Priests. We can line up the history of the Civil War to the midpoint structure and it would be 1861, 1863, and 1865. We can then apply this structure to our/the history of 9/11, 2014, and 2019.

The 2520 can be halved into two 1260s; similarly the 126, a form of the 2520 in our time, can be split into two halves- two 63s. This number can be used as a prophetic symbol. Sixty-three years before 2014, our midpoint, is the year 1951. This year happens to be in the middle of another history when again the Protestant leaders were combining with the government to bring religion into secular areas. This history: 1948, 1951, and 1954/6 lines up with 9/11, 2014, and 2019.



# Our Time

## 9/11

In 2001, on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the statement “In God We Trust” was put in schools in Mississippi. After the terrorist attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> “In God We Trust” began to get more leverage because the Protestant leaders said that God was judging them because of all the immoral people in the United States and because the US was secular. In the history after 9/11, the Democrats were winning because Barack H. Obama (a Democrat) was President, but in our time, we know that the Democrats (liberals) are the good people and the Republicans (conservatives) are the bad people in the US.

## 2014

In 2014, Lea Carawan, the Executive Director of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, said that the separation of church and state was a liberal plan to ruin America (WRONG). The US Court of Appeals ruled in May of 2014 that having “In God We Trust” on money does not have a religious purpose or advance religion. But we all know it does.

## 2016

In 2016 Donald J. Trump became President; he is a Republican so he wants to combine church and state. He is backed by conservative Protestants- the Religious Right. They want the government to enforce their morality and ideas of the Bible. So in 2016 the Protestants got one step closer to making the United States a “Christian nation” that discriminates against other religions and religious ideas and enforces theirs. Also in that year some Protestant leaders formed a program called Project Blitz. In this program they want to get the government to enforce their version of Christianity step by step until the US is how they want it – fully under their power, enforcing their morality, and persecuting minorities. One of the first steps in Project Blitz is to get states to put the United States’ motto “In God We Trust” in nearly every room of public schools. Public schools are funded by the government, they should not be religious- this is combining church and state.

## 2018

In 2018, Project Blitz, a group of Right-wing Christian organizations, introduced over 70 bills they wanted to have passed in numerous states. These bills included the requirement of displaying “In God We Trust” in schools. Nine of the bills were passed in states including Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee. In July of the same year, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions created a Religious Liberty Task Force to use religion to discriminate against certain people. Trump also finalized some rules that allowed businesses to discriminate against people based on their religion. An example of this is when a cake shop, the Masterpiece Cakeshop, used their religious beliefs to refuse to bake a gay couple a cake. The couple took it to court but the Supreme Court ruled in the cake shop’s favor. These, along with other discriminatory actions, took place in 2018.

## 2019

This year (2019) we saw the further development of “In God We Trust” being pasted in public areas where it should not be. At least ten “In God We Trust” bills have been introduced or passed nationwide. In June, the city council of Bakersfield (a city in California) voted to put "In God We Trust" stickers on the city's police and fire vehicles. These are just a few church and state issues that have taken place in 2019.

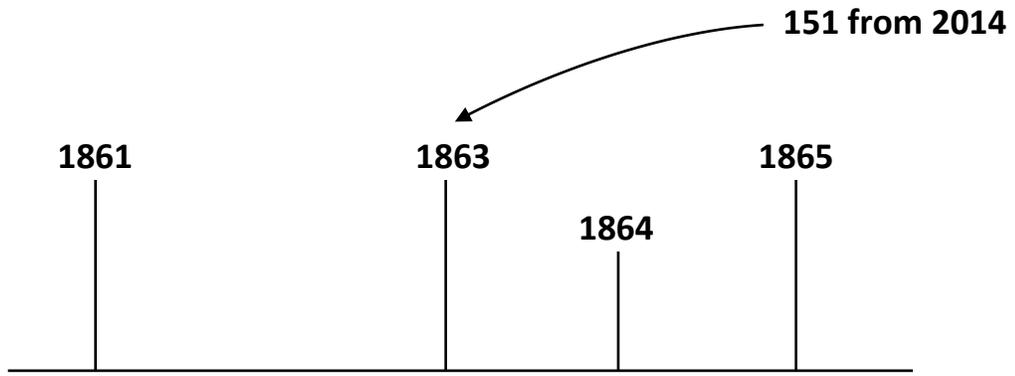
## 2021

As a result of the push for “In God We Trust” to be recognized in the US, we will see Church and State coming together even more in 2021.

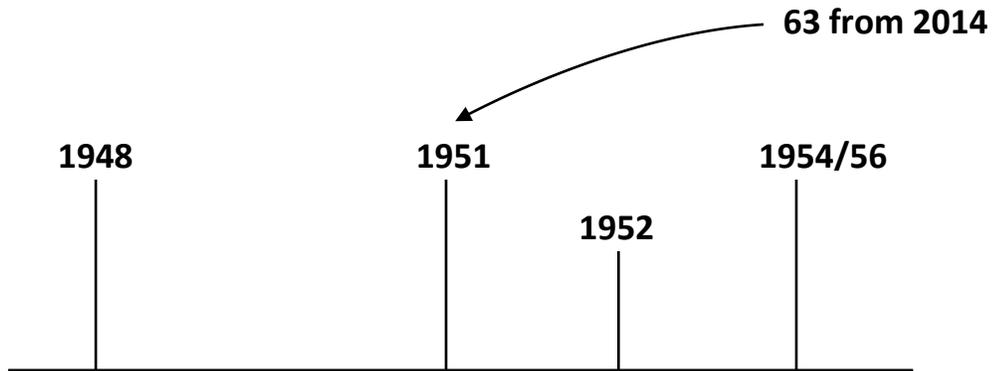
## The Purpose of Project Blitz

- “To protect the free exercise of traditional Judeo-Christian religious values and beliefs in the public square.
- “To provide research, information, and analysis to support lawmakers who are enacting specific legislation to fully protect religious liberty and the free exercise of our faith in the public square by eliminating paths for legal retribution or government interference.
- “To encourage conservative legislators at the local, state and federal level who are submitting legislation and public policy positions, while building a broad coalition of citizens supporting them with public relations, messaging and grassroots activists on multiple fronts.
- “To properly frame the narrative and the language of religious liberty issues.”

Millerite History



The mid 1900s



The Line of the Priests

