



Lesson 112

2022 Third Quarter Summary

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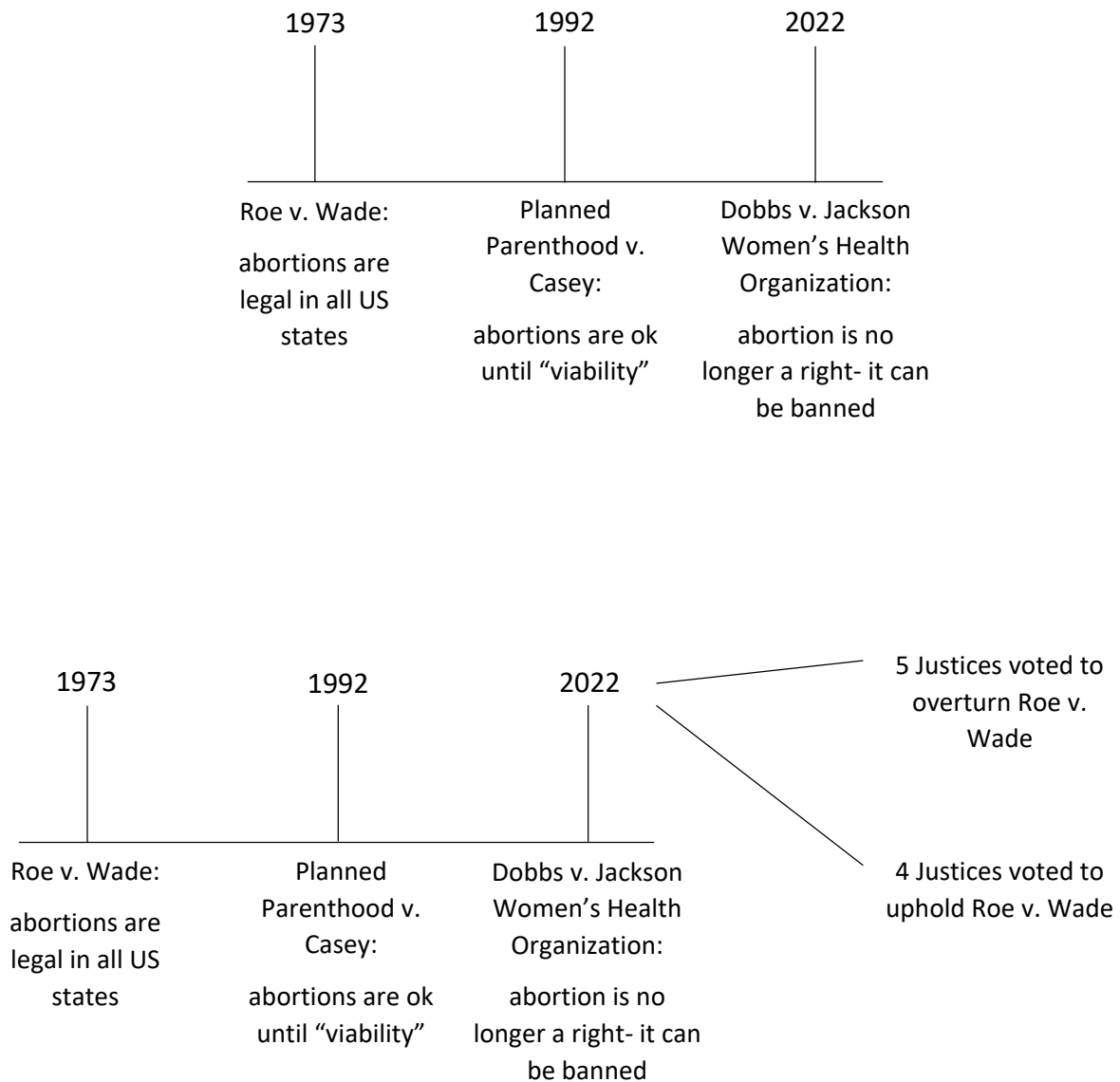
In this lesson we are going to be reviewing the last five Youth Prophecy Group lessons.

Lesson 107- July 3, 2022

Abortion and the Supreme Court

In Lesson 107, we looked at the issue of abortion and the United States Supreme Court. There were many cases that involved abortion. In 1969, Norma Leah Nelson McCorvey decided that she needed an abortion, but in Texas, where she lived, abortions were not legal. Shortly thereafter she was recruited by two women who wanted to argue for the right of abortion in front of a Texas court. McCorvey used the name Jane Roe for the case instead of her real name and on June 17, 1970 a District Court ruled in her favor. The women then appealed to the Supreme Court and on April 22, 1971 their case was accepted. Then on January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States with a 7-2 majority. This case, called Roe v. Wade established abortions in the context of the trimester system. A few years later the state of Pennsylvania added more requirements to get an abortion (in 1988 and 1989); this, of course, caused several people to sue them. By 1992 this case, Planned Parenthood v. Casey, had made its way to the Supreme Court. The court was more conservative at this time than it had been with Roe v. Wade and there were several things that the justices voted on. Ultimately, Roe v. Wade was upheld by a 5-4 majority. But Planned Parenthood v. Casey did change something: the trimester framework was changed to the framework of viability and “undue burden”. On March 19, 2018 Mississippi passed a law that banned abortions after 15 weeks, so the only abortion clinic in the state: Jackson Women's Health Organization, sued them. A District Court sided with the clinic, and so did an Appeals Court, then on June 15, 2020 the opposing side appealed to the United States Supreme Court, and we know that thanks to Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell the court is packed with conservatives. This case is called Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization and on May 17th of last year the Supreme Court agreed to take the case. On June 24, 2022, with a 5-4 majority the Supreme Court took away the right to an abortion on the federal level. The majority said that the right to an abortion isn’t specifically in the Constitution so it cannot be upheld by federal law; they also said that the arguments in support of Roe v. Wade were “weak”. Both Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey were overturned leaving it up to the states to determine if abortion will be legal (in their state). All of the liberal justices dissented, and they gave several reasons why. They said that denying the right to an abortion deprived women of liberty and equality, and that this would affect lower income women the most. They also said that the court should not overturn its past rulings in this fashion. In that lesson, we also looked at extremism on the right and the left. Shortly before the ruling that overturned Roe and Casey was officially announced (because the majority decision was leaked), on June 15, 2022, a man was arrested. He was from California and he had called the police on himself because he had traveled to Maryland to kill a Supreme Court justice. He didn’t like the idea of the right to an abortion being taken away and that led him into extremism - but he was left-wing, not right-wing. We also saw how Justice Clarence Thomas said that the court should revisit other decisions like gay marriage to see if they should be upheld (and we know that he would want those decisions to be overturned as well). This is something that the liberal justices warned about in their dissent - they said that if the court only considered rights that are literally in the Constitution to be valid then many other rights that Americans now have are in danger. Now since Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey have been overturned it is up to each individual state to keep or ban abortion. We saw that many states had old laws banning or severely restricting

abortions or new “trigger laws” that did the same thing, which either went into effect immediately when Roe and Casey were overturned, or shortly thereafter. Only about half of the states in the United States allow abortions under the conditions of Roe and Casey. This case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization was another build-up towards the Sunday Law. We know that the Sunday Law will be about gender equality and the right to an abortion is a fundamental part of that.



What we learned about some liberals:

They can be just as extreme as conservatives.

What we learned about some conservatives:

They are planning to overturn more laws that establish gender and LGBTQ rights.

The Sunday Law:

It comes from the Legislative and Judicial branches of government and deals with gender equality.

This court case shows us what the Sunday Law will look like.

Lesson 108- July 17, 2022

The Vote for Our Time

Lesson 108, *The Vote for Our Time*, was presented and published on July 17, 2022. In *The Vote for Our Time*, we began by recapping YPG lesson 105. We saw how based on the parable of the field in Matthew 13, everyday people (the plants) are able to affect and create prophecy, because they are growing in, and influencing the world (the field). Next, we looked at a traditional Adventist view on politics. As Adventist, this Movement used to avoid politics just as Ellen White says. In Lt 95, 1899 paragraphs 2 and 3, she says “We cannot with safety vote for political parties, for we do not know who we are voting for...people of God 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.” However, this position contradicts the model of the plants and field, because here Ellen White says voting is wrong, but such an act allows us to affect the world and create prophecy. In light of this, we next looked into other passages in Ellen White and the Pioneer’s writings to see if a position against voting is the sole position. In *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* volume 59 (which was written in 1882), the Pioneers stated that if one thought a moral principle at stake, voting to express their preference wasn’t wrong. Also in the article they spoke in favor of voting for a temperance law: “We have no question but that it is the duty of every Seventh-day Adventist voter in the state to cast a ballot in its favor...” In another *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* article written in February of 1891, Ellen White connected voting to prayer: “Were we living under an absolute monarchy, all we could do would be to pray; but in this Republic we have an instrument given us with which we can second our prayers, and that is, our ballot.” She connects voting to prayer, and if prayer is a religious duty, voting must be as well. Ellen White also spoke favorably about voting outside of the Review. During the 1800s the SDA church supported the temperance movement. In her book *Temperance* we can find several quotes supporting the act of voting for temperance laws. For example, in *Temperance* 253.5 she says: “The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence by precept and example—by voice and pen and vote—in favor of prohibition and total abstinence.” Lastly, we looked at one more quote supporting the act of voting. In the 1865 General conference, the newly formed SDA church passed a resolution on the subject of voting: “Resolved, that in our judgment, the act of voting when exercised in behalf of justice, humanity and right, is in itself blameless, and may be at sometimes highly proper; but that the casting of any vote that shall strengthen the cause of such crimes as intemperance, insurrection, and slavery, we regard as highly criminal in the sight of Heaven.” (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* May 23, 1865 p. 197.4). Next, we looked at the test for Modern Israel. In 1865, the great test was slavery, in the 1888 history the great test was the Sabbath, and in our history the great test is sexism. So what is the Movement’s position on voting? Before we answer that we have to understand noise. In the Millerite history if you voted for an intemperate person you were responsible for their actions, whether or not they kept Sunday was noise; we know it was noise because in the 1865 General conference they didn’t mention Sunday worship in the list of things that were highly criminal. That doesn’t mean they thought Sunday was ok, but it just wasn’t the test for their time. The same applies to us, since sexism is the test today, then it is what we judge people by. The act of voting for a politician who is in support of radical feminism is accepted in the Movement. Whether or not that politician keeps Sunday is noise, and if they pass a Sunday law we won’t be responsible for their actions, but we know they won’t pass that law because Sunday is not our test, sexism is.

REVIEW



OBSERVE



EXPERIENCE



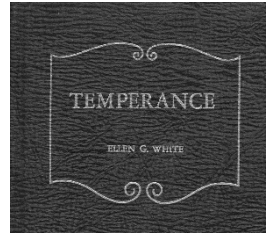
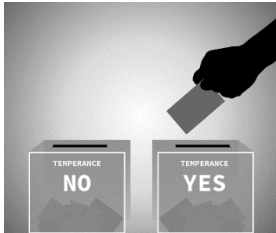
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Traditional EGW Quote

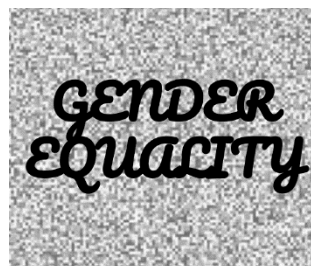


The Pioneers & EGW for Voting



How the Test Affects Voting

MILLERITE
Slavery and temperance
1888
Sabbath
144,000
Sexism



Lesson 109- August 7, 2022

The Rise of New Atheism

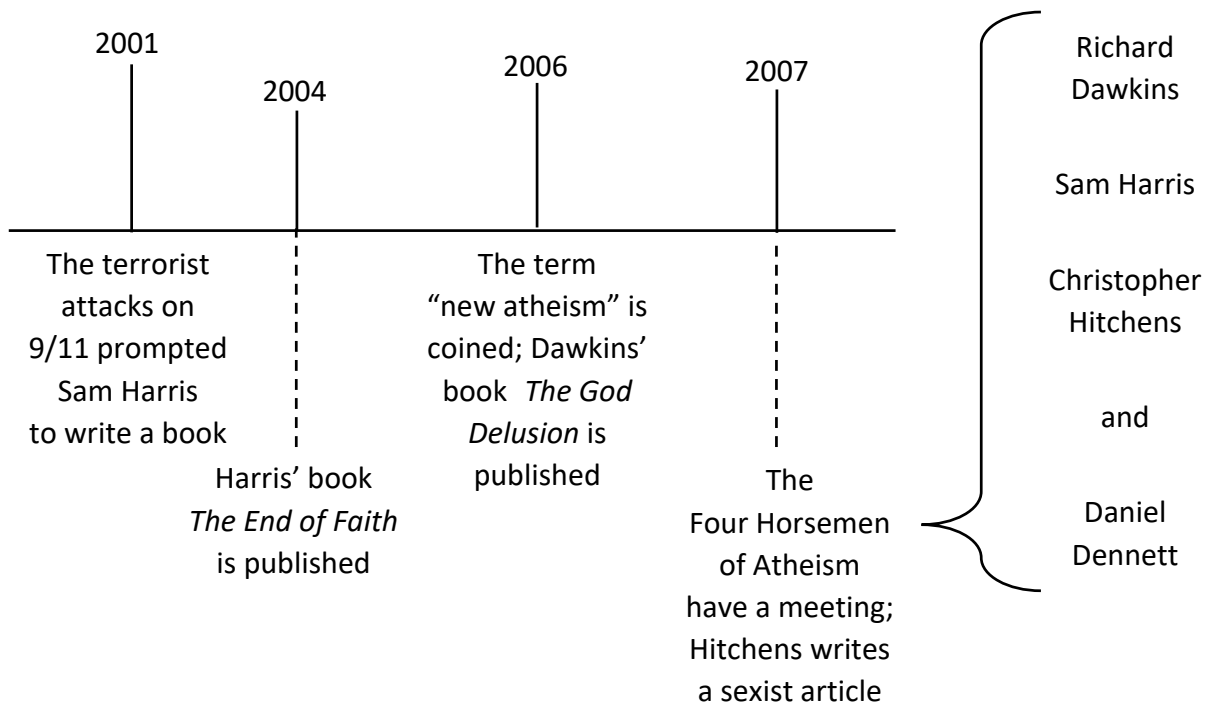
Youth Prophecy Group lesson 109 is titled *The Rise of New Atheism*. First, we started off by looking at old atheism. Old atheism was based on arguments that were aimed at scholars. They tolerated religion. Old atheists believed in Darwinism because they needed something to explain how everything came about. Charles Darwin believed that everything had a common ancestor and evolved over time through natural selection (when the best genes are passed down until they become the most dominant gene type). Darwinism is still believed today and has led people to justify inequality. Then we looked at new atheism which began after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Unlike old atheists, new atheists are confrontational and do not tolerate religion. Like old atheists, however, many new atheists also support inequality. Next, we began looking at the history of new atheism. The 2001 terrorist attacks caused two primary reactions. The first was a call to join the church and confess your sins because God was punishing the United States. The second reaction was that of an atheist such as Sam Harris. He began writing the book *The End of Faith* on September 12th. It was published in 2004. Essentially, Harris blamed religion for the terrorist attacks and called for the total destruction of it. Next, we looked at the year 2006. In 2006, the term new atheism was coined. Also, Richard Dawkins published the book *The God Delusion* where he argued that God doesn't even exist because people do not need religion to be moral. The following year, 2007, is when the four horsemen of atheism met for the first and only time. The four horsemen, Christopher Eric Hitchens, Daniel Clement Dennett III, Richard Dawkins, and Samuel Benjamin Harris, were essentially the most prominent men in new atheism. They met and spoke about simple issues and why they thought religion was so ridiculous. In the same year, Hitchens also wrote an article about why women aren't funny, essentially saying that men had to be funny while women didn't because everything comes easy to them. The article is extremely sexist and based on evolution. Then we looked at the four horsemen individually. Harris was raised neither religious nor atheist. He became atheist after he traveled around Asia and saw the different religions. Harris does not like religion at all and is extremely sexist. Dennett is a scientist and a professor. He, like Harris, believes that everything comes through evolution. Dawkins is a biologist and author. He was raised a Christian, but later on thought that evolution was a better explanation for how things were created. He is also sexist and offends a lot of atheists with his tweets. Hitchens was raised as a Christian, but became a Jew when he was 38. He later on rejected religion. He believed that religion is the source of the world's problems. He died in 2011. Lastly, we looked at new atheism and feminism. New atheists believe that it is a religion because it is based on emotion and not facts (evolution), and therefore they believe that it should be destroyed with all other religions.

Old Atheism

- Didn't believe in God
- Believed in evolution/
Darwinism
- Supported things like racism,
sexism, and imperialism
- Left religions alone

New Atheism

- Doesn't believe in God
- Believes in evolution/
Darwinism
- Supports things like racism,
white supremacy, sexism, and
homophobia
- Actively fights religion



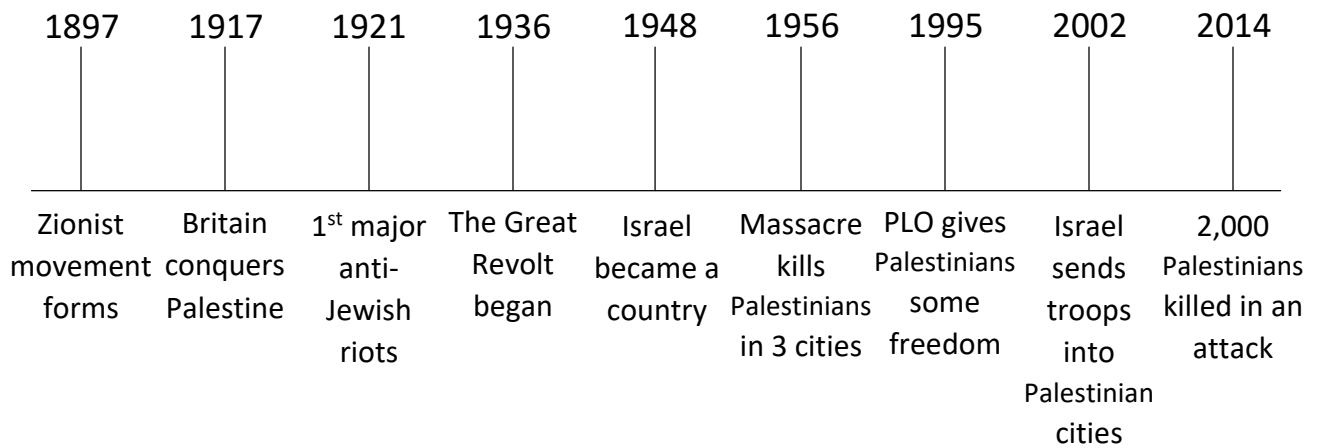
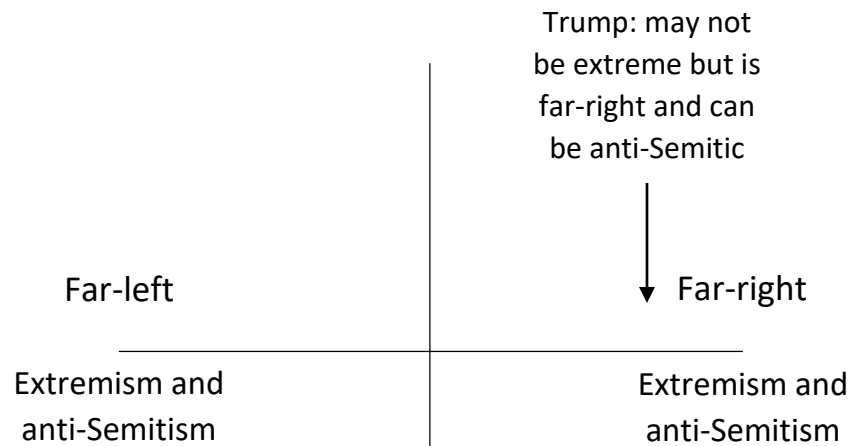
We saw that new atheism is sexist:

- Through evolution, new atheists think women are inferior to men.
 - They also think that feminism is irrational.
- They even consider feminism to be a religion - and they believe that religions should not exist.

Lesson 110- August 21, 2022

Israel and the Conflict with Palestine

In the 110th Youth Prophecy Group lesson we looked at the country of Israel and the conflict between the Jews and the Palestinians. We know that we can find extremism in both the right-wing and the left-wing, and the topic of Israel is a good example of this. Anti-Semitism is defined as prejudice, discrimination, hatred, and hostility towards Jewish people. The right-wing is full of anti-Semitism, for example Neo-Nazis are far-right as well as Holocaust deniers and people who think that Jews are replacing white Americans. But the left-wing has anti-Semitism as well and to understand that you need to go back to the history of the country of Israel. In 1897, the Zionist movement was formed by the persecuted Jews in Europe - the purpose of this movement was for Jews to leave Europe and go to Palestine. Palestine was inhabited by Palestinian Arabs, and they of course, did not like the influx of Jews. Previous to World War I Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman Empire, but after it was defeated and dismantled at the end of the war Britain made Palestine an "international zone" - betraying the Arabs who had helped dismantle the Ottoman Empire. Britain then started to help Jews move to Palestine and it supported both a Jewish and an Arab state in the region (the two-nation theory). Jewish immigration increased and so did Arab resentment. In 1921, the first major anti-Jews riots took place - the Jaffa riots - in total 47 Jews and 48 Palestinians were killed. Riots against Jews in Palestine only increased, and yet on May 14, 1948 Israel became a country. After that, the violence increased even more with Jews massacring Palestinians; and the fighting is still going on. We then looked at the Evangelical Right's views of Israel. They believe that Israel is a part of prophecy at the end of the world, because of this they celebrated when Israel became a country. They also believe that Iran, Russia, and other countries will invade Israel and bring about the end of the world; because of this they get excited whenever Iran is in the news (especially when it comes to war). Also because of their worldview they support Israel, and unlike the other parts of the right-wing, they are not anti-Semitic. Next we looked at Obama. On May 22, 2015 he signed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act with Iran (and other countries). This act removed sanctions on Iran and in return Iran agreed to scale down its nuclear program so it couldn't make nuclear weapons, Iran also agreed to let its nuclear facilities be open to inspections. But the Evangelicals didn't like this because a weakened Iran could not start a war with Israel and bring about their views of the end of the world. So under Trump the United States removed itself from the deal. Trump said that the deal was not working - but that was not true, Iran was abiding by the rules, Trump was just listening to his Evangelical advisors. Trump also moved the United States embassy to Jerusalem - a move that the Evangelicals supported. So parts of the right-wing are anti-Semitic and other parts like Israel. Next we looked at the left-wing, and what its views of Israel are. Many people on the left-wing do not like Israel. We looked at the history of the BDS (boycott, divest, sanction) movement; it was formed in 2005 and it is anti-Semitic: the leaders don't support a Jewish country in the region at all and as another example the BDS branch in the US city of Boston supported all kinds of resistance against Jewish businesses and organization that supported the country. This movement is supported by many in the left-wing (around 50%), and we saw how the Squad also supports it. The left-wing is strongly against imperialism and colonialism, and many see Israel as an example of that - this leads them to support Palestinians and show hatred towards Jews and Israel. So on the left-wing there is anti-Semitism as well. We can see here only parts of the left-wing are the true stream.



Right-wing Evangelical view on Israel

Right-wing Evangelicals believe that Israel is going to be attacked at the end of the world but no Israelis will die, and Christians will be taken to heaven. Thus they support Israel.

In 2015, the nuclear deal was signed which limited Iran's ability to make a nuclear weapon.



In 2018, Trump backed out of the deal, because he was influenced by Evangelicals and they believe Iran will be one of the countries to attack Israel and bring about the end.

Far-Left view on Israel

The far-left hates Israel and supports Palestine. They think since Britain helped Israel it was colonialism and imperialism which they don't like. The BDS movement is one of the far-left's anti-Semitic organizations.

Our view on the Far-Left

The far-left can be extreme and anti-Semitic like the far-right and we don't support them. We should avoid far-left sources of information.

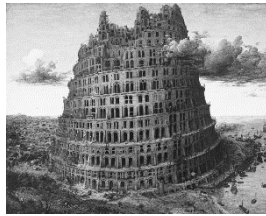
Lesson 111- September 4, 2022

Culture and State

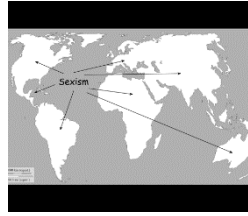
Lesson 111, *Culture and State*, was presented and published on September 4, 2022. In *Culture and State*, we began by defining what culture really is. According to Oxford Languages, culture is “the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.” An example of different cultures is how people greet each other in different countries. Next we looked at the tower of Babel. At the tower, the whole world shared a single language and culture. But when they were dispersed, they took on new languages and new cultures, as they traveled to different parts of the world (we can understand this because language is the most important part of a culture, different languages mostly mean different cultures). But even with different cultures they all kept three things in common- those were the curses of sexism, racism, and false worship. Because of this event at Babel, we can understand that sexism does not come from religion. The tower of Babel was built in defiance against God, but even still everyone there continued to be sexist. Sexism isn’t rooted in religion, its rooted in culture. We can see this reflected in today’s atheism. New atheists reject the existence of God, but they are still sexist; that's because they get sexism from their culture, not any religion. India and China are also great examples of this fact. (Like all countries) India and China are very sexist, in India, sons are seen as more “valuable” than daughters, and many employers in China do not want to cover maternity leave; they either make women sign a paper stating that she cannot have children for a certain amount of years while working there, or, they simply hire a man. Many businesses now advertise “men only” signs. For the most part, China is atheist and India is not Christian, therefore we can’t say sexism comes from Christianity or any other religion, it’s based in our cultures. Now that we understand the root of sexism, we can make two more conclusions. The first is that the Sunday Law in our time will be the combination of culture and state, not church and state. We know that the Sunday Law will be a test of sexism, and since sexism is culture, then the Sunday Law is culture, plus a state to enforce this culture. The Sunday Laws in 1850 and 1888 prove this. In 1850, slavery was the Sunday Law test, but slavery is not an issue that comes from any religion, it was the culture of the day, thus the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law was culture and state. Now even though in the 1888 history the Sunday Law was a literal movement to enforce Sunday, we have to look at the motive behind it. The motive was not to get everyone to become good Christians, the motive was to delete other cultures gaining prominence in the United States at the time, such as the Jews and Catholics. So, even in this history the Sunday Law can be seen as culture and state. Lastly, the final point we made in Lesson 111 was local to worldwide. Sunday Laws since the Millerite history have gotten progressively more influential. In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Law only affected those in the United States. In the 1888 history, Ellen White tells us the 3rd Angel which arrives at the Sunday Law affects all of Christianity, not just the United States. As for our Sunday Law, the curse of sexism is prevalent in all countries. Not every country is Christian so the church can’t be a requirement for the Sunday Law, instead the requirement is something all countries have- a sexist culture.



What is culture?



Different cultures
and no religion



Sexism is in
culture not
religion

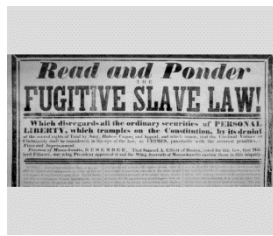


India and China
are sexist without
religion

Culture and the Sunday Law



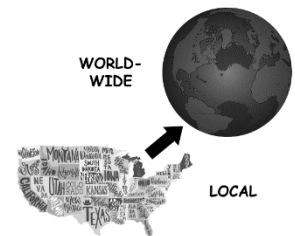
The Sunday Law is
culture + state



The Sunday Laws
in 1850 and 1888



The Sunday Law in
2014



Local to
worldwide

Official Youth Prophecy Group website:

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all the YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>