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TWO HORNS LIKE A LAMB

Adventists have long fitted America into last-day prophetic events. But how can a professedly Christian America ever sell the Muslim or Hindu world on its prophetic agenda?

And at home, in America, how can we expect cooperative ventures involving the Christian Right and the Liberal Left? Or Protestants and Catholics?—let alone cooperation on the international scene!

Of course, there's the United Nations, but for most of its history, "united" is hardly illustrative of reality.

But conservative Christians in the U.S. and Islamic governments have found enough common ground to link hands. As Columnist Lynch observed in the *Washington Post*, this new coalition "has been largely galvanized by conservative Christians who have set aside their doctrinal differences, cemented ties with the Vatican and cultivated fresh links with a powerful bloc of . . . moderate and hard-line Islamic governments."

The unifying element: family values, including resistance to abortion and extending rights for gays. A key player: The World Policy Center, a Mormon group established in 1997 to, says Lynch, "promote family values through an alliance that includes conservative Christians, the Catholic Church, and Islamic governments." In July of that year, the center brought together, at Brigham Young University School of Law, anti-abortion advocates and legal critics of the United Nations along with more than 60 U.N. diplomats, including delegates from conservative Catholic and Islamic countries.

It was President Teddy Roosevelt who advocated that the U.S., in implementing its policies, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." President Bush has upgraded that policy to "Speak harshly and carry a big bomb."

John the Revelator spoke of the end-time beast power "even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of all" (Rev. 13:13, NRSV). Some would-be expositors have seen, in John's description, the fiery trail of an ICBM slashing down through the atmosphere. Others may be closer to the truth in seeing a firestorm of false miracles falling on an update of the altar on Mount Carmel. In his good time, God will reveal the reality still hidden behind the symbols of his prophetic book.

Meanwhile, we see Muslim-dominated nations—Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya (yes, Libya) and Turkey—reluctantly (and in some cases, very quietly) yielding to American foreign policy as the prophetic earth-beast speaks. The worst is yet to come. But so is the best. One from the powers of Earth, the other from the powers of heaven.—Eds.