

# Standing in the Gap

By Randall Ricker February 27, 2021  
Sabbath Church of God

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# Freedom of speech

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

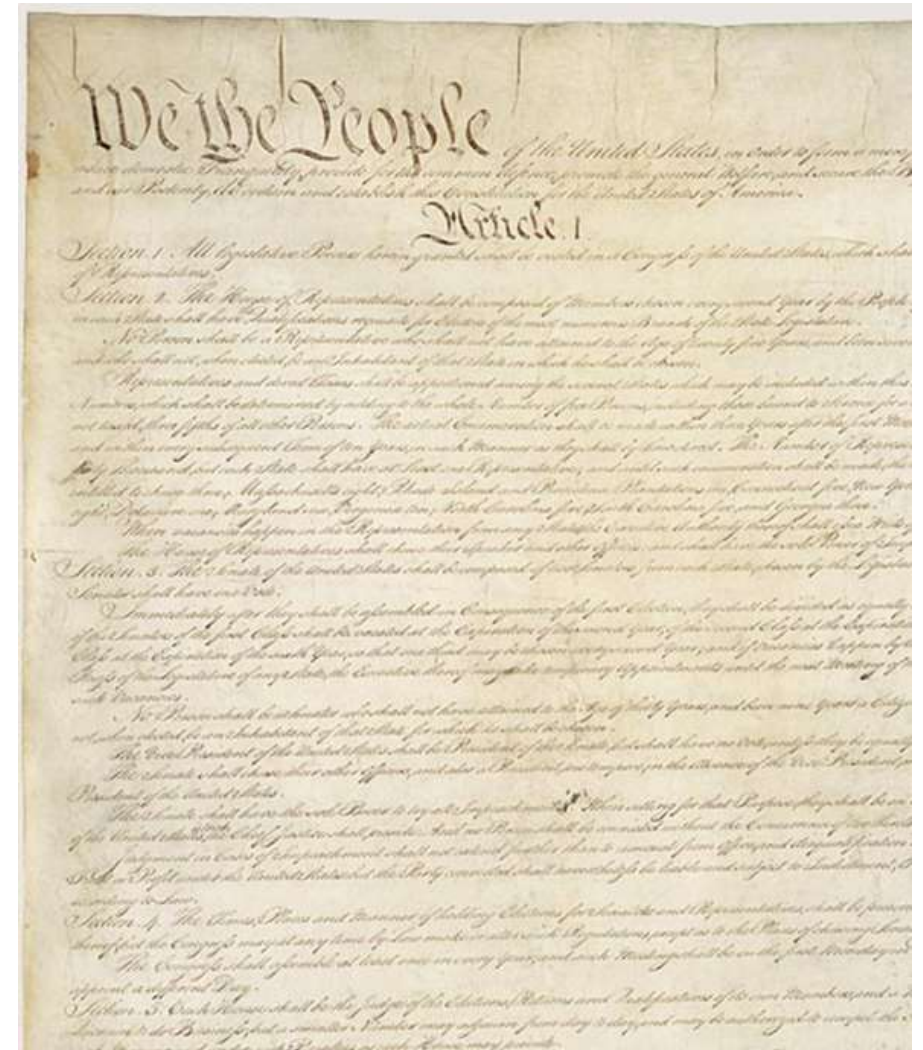
Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

“stand in the gap” Webster: to expose oneself for the protection of something, to make defense, to take the place of a fallen defender or supporter.



# Get the facts

Ephesians 5:15-16

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

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# A Biblical Worldview

Why we exist – God's plan

Titus 1:1-2

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in hope of **eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,**

Why evils in the world – The 2 Trees

Genesis 3:22-24

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"-- 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

# A Biblical Worldview

How world will be repaired- Personally

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**."

How world will be repaired- Globally

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the **kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ**, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

# A Biblical Worldview

How to use the Biblical worldview – determine right and wrong

John 18:10-12

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?' Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now all these things happened to them as examples and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

# Be a Christian example

2 Timothy 3:14

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Ezekiel 22:30

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

“stand in the gap” Webster: to expose oneself for the protection of something, to make defense, to take the place of a fallen defender or supporter.

# Satan's methods

Revelation 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, who deceives the whole world...**

Genesis 3:1-3, 5

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."... For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'



# Changing history

1619 Project, 1776 Report, or Genesis Project?

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28

21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca! [4469 empty one, i.e., thou worthless (as a term of utter vilification)]' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire... 27 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

# Slavery and discrimination

Acts 17:26

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

James 2:8-9

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

16 Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him. 17 You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

# Abortion

Exodus 21:22-23

22 If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 **But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life,**

Luke 1:39-42, 44

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that **the babe leaped in her womb**; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ...For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

# What not to do

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

John 18:36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

# Repairing faults

Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1835 Chapter 13

“The great privilege of the Americans does not simply consist in their being more enlightened than other nations, but in their being **able to repair the faults** they may commit.”

