



7 MOUNTAINS OF INFLUENCE

News Corp Australia Network

Jamie Seidel

January 07, 2019

The Dark Ages have a certain appeal for some. It was a time when good and evil were white and black. The state dominated by the Church. And the word of the priests was like the law.

That's when the Roman Catholic Church effectively ruled the entire Western world. Under an idealized gaze, it controlled every aspect of civilian life. The parish priests dominated the small towns and communities. Cardinals and Popes could bend kings and nobles to their will.

In reality, things rarely worked that way. But it was the accepted doctrine of the times.

Now, some evangelical groups want this universal power back.

They call themselves Dominionists.

Their stated goal is to take control of society. And the US government is in their sights.

He wants "One nation, under God"... their god.

Only when that's achieved, believe the followers, will Jesus return at the Second Coming, beginning the End of Days and the prophecies of the Book of Revelation.

It is an interdimensional movement that seems to have been born among television and radio evangelists in the 1970s. They quote a passage, Genesis 1:28, as justification:

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over all living things that move upon the earth.

It is interpreted as God's command that his followers should control all aspects of life.

These new apostles are preaching a message that places the church above the state, and its interpretation of Christian tradition above secular law.

And they have a plan for that to be imposed.

SEVEN HEADS ARE SEVEN MOUNTAINS

The discussion is more or less like this:

The long-awaited Second Coming has not yet happened, as the criteria outlined in the Bible have not yet been met. Christians have not participated in their communities. Instead, they have been piled up in their own churches. This has exposed the very pillars of society susceptible to the influence of the devil.

It is up to the believers to change this, they argue, by taking control of key institutions.

Some evangelical movements believe that this is required by prophecy. They argue that the Bible verses of Isaiah 2:2-3 instruct their followers to take control:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the mountains; and all nations shall flow unto him.

Many people will come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His ways".

He argues that there are seven "mountains of the Lord.

The key to this thought is Revelation 17:1-18, which depends on verse 9:

And here is the mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains.

The prophetic passage speaks of an evil woman "drunk with the blood of the saints" who rides a beast with "seven heads and ten horns. It ends up saying how this beast will turn against the woman, destroying her.

Most theologians see the reference to 'seven' as being Rome - famous for being built on seven hills.

But some evangelicals argue that this beast-and its seven heads that are mountains-represents the structure of society itself.

"So this is now called the Prophecy of the Seven Mountains," says lawyer David Barton. "To establish the kingdom of God, one must have these seven mountains, and again that is family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business and government."

RELIGION: "With a multitude of categorized religions throughout the world, it is the Church's responsibility to reach the lost with the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to expand the Kingdom in ministerial efforts, both nationally and internationally.

FAMILY: "God is calling fathers and mothers (both spiritual and biological) to bring order to the chaos that the enemy has unleashed against families in America.

EDUCATION: "A reintroduction of Bible truth and Bible-centered values is the key to the renewal and restoration of America's failed educational system.

GOVERNMENT: "We must see a change in this arena in order to preserve the Christian heritage on which America was founded. The goal is to put in place just political leaders who positively affect all aspects of government".

MEDIA: "...the arts and entertainment industries exert a significant influence. The body of Christ needs powerful and righteous men and women who are not afraid to take their God-given talent into the arts and entertainment arenas.

BUSINESS: "We believe it is the will of the Lord to make His people prosper and that He desires His Church to use its wealth to finance the work of expanding the kingdom. Simply put: Prosperity for a purpose."

SEVEN MOUNTAIN MANDATE

White evangelical Christians in the United States remain a powerful voting bloc. Although they are a decaying group.

In the 1990s, they represented about 27 percent of the total population of the United States, now they represent about 15 percent.

And that loss of prominence has proven to be galvanizing.

Dominionist thinking is becoming dominant among this minority group, and Seven Mountains is seen by many as a road map to "regaining" control of the country.

The idea came about in 1975 when Bill Bright, founder of the Campus Crusade, and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission (YWAM), had what they describe as a miraculous revelation. Both had received a dream from God, they declared. Their message revealed the need to dominate the Seven Mountains (or Spheres) of influence.

Since then, theology has been pushed into political circles through media events, youth movements and campaign activities.

Central to its teachings is that members must build the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. And this begins with the transformation of the United States into a Christian state.

The movement met for the first time with some sympathy under the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

At the 1980 Republican National Convention, attended by some 17,000 evangelical Christians, Ronald Reagan famously declared that the movement met for the first time under Ronald Reagan: "I know you can't support me, but... I want you to know that I support you and what you are doing".

Reagan won in a landslide, attributed mainly to a "Moral Majority". And his government has since been called "God's strategy" after the evangelicals were appointed as Secretary of the Interior, Surgeon General and for the Department of Education.

But under the Bush Republican presidencies, the evangelical influence weakened.

The leaders of the Seven Mountains movement felt they had been betrayed. Despite encouraging words during their campaigns, Presidents George H. Bush and George W. Bush simply did not keep up with the desired appointments.

President Trump, however, represents a new opportunity: an opportunity that has been fulfilled.

THE KING CYRUS FACTOR

The Seven Mountains movement experienced a certain revival in the early 2000s under the leadership of evangelist Lance P. Wallnau and political activist David Barton.

Wallnau is one of the most vocal prophets of theology. He is a strong advocate of the need to "go and make disciples of all nations".

But now that only a few remote tribes in the Amazon of South America and the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Islands, have not been ministered, Wallnau is endorsing a broader interpretation of the passage. He sees it as an instruction to inject his version of Christianity into the way societies are run.

And President Trump is the vessel for such change.

Wallnau has declared that Trump has an "anointing of Cyrus" over him -- a reference to the ancient Persian king Cyrus who, although not a friend of Israel, defeated the Babylonians and freed that nation. Cyrus was therefore blessed by God to do his work.

In the modern context, the "anointing" of Trump means that evangelical Christians can also liberate their religion.

To that end, Wallnau bragged to fellow evangelical leader David Barton about having "ninja sheep" working with activists, politicians - and members of Donald Trump's presidential transition team.

OF 'NINJA SHEEP' AND 'CLANDESTINE' AGENTS.

Wallnau says Satan is in control of academia, entertainment, politics, and business: "Our real enemies are those who are shaping the laws, shaping the media, and shaping the next generation.

To combat them, he is promoting what he calls the "7M Underground" - an affiliation of producers, directors, lawyers, politicians and economists.

"We should go to the top of these mountains," Wallnau said. "Christians are called to go to the gates of hell. That's why they're appearing in government. They should appear in journalism..."

"I'm working with believers that I call ninja sheep -- these are believers who are really believers, but they have to keep a low profile with their public profile."

"And what we want to do is reinstall a culture that honors God and revive a morality essential to America's survival as a nation of Christian influence.

"So the underground is where we find ourselves and basically we have already mobilized believers from all over the country to intercede, pray and be informed and then appear at the decisive points of the culture where there can be a presence behind what is Trump's mission". So it's very exciting".

Barton used the Seven Mountains as the logical outcome of his controversial (but incorrect) belief that the Founding Fathers of the United States were all born-again Christians. This means, he says, that the Constitution should be interpreted through Christian eyes-not secular. This can be done through the Seven Mountains.

"?those are the seven areas you have to have, and if you can have those seven areas, you can shape and control everything that happens in nations, continents, and even the world," Barton said in a 2011 radio interview. "Now that's what we always believe you have to be involved with these things. Jesus said, "You occupy yourself until I come. We don't care when he comes, that's up to him. What we have to do is take the culture however, and you have to get involved in these seven areas."

"TAKE BACK THE COUNTRY

The separation of Church and State is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Although this has always been an intense arena of dispute.

It is intended to avoid the repetition of the crises that many fled during the founding of the United States: combinations of churches and individual states that oppressed other faiths.

The Constitution itself specifies "no religious test shall be required as a Qualification for any public office or trust under the United States.

The First Amendment says: "Congress shall not make any law that respects a religious establishment, or prohibits its free exercise..."

Seven Mountains and the Dominionist Evangelicals don't see this as a problem. The United States is a Christian country, founded by

Christians, they argue, so the Constitution should be interpreted from a Christian perspective. The country's motto is "In God We Trust," after all.

"We realize that 3-5 percent of a leadership operating on top of a cultural mountain is enough to change the view of culture on an issue," states the promotional page of an upcoming 7 Mountains 'International Culture Shapers Summit'. <http://www.7culturalmountains.org/>

Under Trump, they've been getting more than that.

Their vice president, Michael Pence, is a frank evangelist. The former conservative radio host was even declared a "covenant man" - placing him alongside Moses, Jacob and Noah - for his apparent obedience to God in a corrupt and sinful political arena.

Trump's new Attorney General, Matthew Whitaker, once proposed a ban on nonreligious people from being appointed to the judiciary. He also said that judges needed a "biblical view of justice": "What I know is that as long as they have that worldview, they will be good judges. And if they have a secular worldview, that 'this is all we have here on earth,' then I will be very concerned about how they judge.

The President regularly trumpets the Christian character of his office.

His first Chief of Staff, the already dismissed Reince Priebus, was a devout member of the Greek Orthodox Church. Ousted advisor Steve Bannon came from Irish Catholic background, as did the disgraced head of National Security, General Michael Flynn. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions is a Methodist, while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is a Presbyterian. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos belongs to the Christian Reformed denomination. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley was born into a Sikh family but converted to Christianity and now attends a Methodist congregation.

That's just a sample.

But Trump even gave an evangelical group open access to the White House - Capitol Ministries - to conduct Bible study groups.

That's why - despite the endless cloud of controversy surrounding the president - his support among evangelical leaders has remained firm.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Charismatic, Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians are among the most devoted supporters of President Trump. And he knows it.

He won 81 percent of their votes in 2016. A poll published shortly before the 2018 mid-term elections by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 72 percent of white evangelical Protestants still had a favourable opinion of him.

And Trump keeps telling them what they want to hear.

In a closed-door meeting with more than 100 evangelical leaders in August, President Trump said he repealed a law that prevented them from preaching politics from the pulpit. He hadn't done so, although it's something he sometimes talks about.

He also said he had repealed a law that prevents religious and other tax-exempt U.S. institutions from endorsing political candidates. He had not done so, although he had signed an executive order that smoothes the way for religious groups to get involved in politics.

It was enough to motivate conservative religious groups centered on the right to abortion, a conservative majority in the Supreme Court and support for Israel, to support their mid-term election campaigns.

But churchgoers in the progressive United States are increasingly facing the bold character of Trump, and the divisive approach of race, immigration, and women.

They've begun to retreat. Entre aqueles que levantam sua voz na oposição está o bispo anglicano Michael Curry, que oficiou no casamento do príncipe Harry e Meghan Markle.

He is pushing a manifesto - claiming Jesus - and warning of a "dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches.

The manifesto rejects white nationalism, calls for political exploitation of racial fanaticism, denounces misogyny and sexual misconduct, defends immigrants and refugees - and advocates a renewed focus on the poor.

"Representatives of Christianity were buying into political agendas that often do not reflect the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth," Bishop Curry said.

But religious law is showing few signs of being moved.

And Trump is anxious to keep them on their side.

The elections, he warned, were "a referendum on his religion, it is a referendum on freedom of speech and the First Amendment.

"We're gonna protect Christianity," declared Trump. "I can say that. I don't have to be politically correct."

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/world/the-seven-mountains-revelation/news-story/be825c6262f5e764a3c2cbd385442702>

Traduzido pelo DeepL Translate