

# American Religious History

*Edited by*

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## God's Judgment of White America (1963)

Malcolm X

### Introduction

More radical both politically and theologically than Martin Luther King, Malcolm X condemned Christianity as the religion of white people who invoked the name of God to cover their oppression of others. Islam was the true religion of God, Malcolm believed, rooted in the religious history described in the Hebrew Bible, but fulfilled in God's revelations to the Prophet Muhammad and uncorrupted by the distortions introduced by Jews and Christians. Interestingly, Malcolm's anticipation of God's wrath coming down on America's head reflects the persistence of a deeply entrenched, biblical vision of America. Despite its rejection of Christianity, his denunciation of the moral corruption of American society has much in common with the "jeremiads" preached in the spirit of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah by many Puritan ministers and their successors.

On a path that a number of American blacks followed, Malcolm X gravitated from the Nation of Islam, a sectarian religious group founded in the United States by W. D. Farad and Elijah Muhammad, toward Sunni Islam, the main branch of Islam to which the majority of the world's Muslims belong. The Nation of Islam, led by Elijah Muhammad and his successor Louis Farrakhan, condemned the white race as the evil invention of a mad scientist and called blacks to strengthen and defend themselves. Malcolm aligned himself

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Excerpted from Malcolm X, "God's Judgment of White America" (December 1, 1963), reprinted in *Malcolm X: The Man and His Times*, ed. John Henrik Clarke (Trenton: Africa World Press, 1990; orig. 1969), 282-7.

with the beliefs of this separatist group until a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1964 changed his mind. Profoundly moved by the universality of Islamic teaching and practice, and by the colorblindness of Muslim society he experienced in Mecca, Malcolm promoted an inclusive understanding of Islam until his assassination in 1965. His shift in understanding Islam foreshadowed the movement of a significant minority of American blacks toward Sunni Islam and their increasing involvement with Muslims from other ethnic backgrounds.

White America is doomed! Death and devastating destruction hang at this very moment in the skies over America. But why must her divine execution take place? Is it too late for her to avoid this catastrophe?

All the prophets of the past listed America as number one among the guilty nations that would be too proud and blind to repent and atone when God's last messenger is raised in her midst to warn her. America's last chance, her last warning, is coming from the lips of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad today. Accept him and be saved; reject him and be damned!

It is written that white America will reject him; it is also written that white America will be damned and doomed – and the prophets who make these prophecies are never wrong in their divine predictions.

White America refuses to study, reflect, and learn a lesson from history; ancient Egypt didn't have to be destroyed. It was her corrupt government, the crooked politicians, who caused her destruction. Pharaoh hired Hebrew magicians to try and fool their own people into thinking they would soon be integrated into the mainstream of that country's life. Pharaoh didn't want the Hebrews to listen to Moses' message of separation. Even in that day separation was God's solution to the "slaves' problems." By opposing Moses, the magicians were actually choosing sides against the God of their own people.

In like manner, modern Negro magicians are hired by the American Government to oppose the Honorable Elijah Muhammad today. They pose as Negro "leaders." They have been hired by this white Government (white so-called liberals) to make our people here think that integration into this doomed white society will soon solve our problem.

The only permanent solution to America's race problem is the complete separation of these 22 million ex-slaves from our white slave master, and the return of these ex-slaves to our own land, where we can then live in peace and security among our own people.

The American Government is trying to trick her 22 million ex-slaves with false promises that she never intends to keep. The crooked politicians in the government are working with the Negro civil rights leaders, but not to solve the race problem. The greedy politicians who run this Government give lip service to the civil rights struggle, only to further

their own selfish interests, and their main interest as politicians is to stay in power.

In this deceitful American game of power politics, the Negroes (i.e., the race problem, the integration and civil rights issues) are nothing but tools, used by one group of whites called liberals against another group of whites called conservatives, either to get into power, or to remain in power.

The white liberal differs from the white conservative only in one way: The liberal is more deceitful than the conservative. The liberal is more hypocritical than the conservative.

Both want power, but the white liberal is the one who has perfected the art of posing as the Negro's friend and benefactor; and by winning the friendship, allegiance, and support of the Negro, the white liberal is able to use the Negro as a pawn or tool in this political football game that is constantly raging between the white liberals and white conservatives.

Politically, the American Negro is nothing but a football, and the white liberals control this mentally dead ball through tricks of tokenism: false promises of integration and civil rights. In this profitable game of deceiving and exploiting the political potential of the American Negro, those white liberals have the willing cooperation of the Negro civil rights leaders. These "leaders" sell out our people for just a few crumbs of token gains. These "leaders" are satisfied with token victories and token progress because they themselves are nothing but token leaders.

According to a New York *Tribune* editorial (dated February 5, 1960), out of 11 million qualified Negro voters, only 2,700,000 actually took time to vote. This means that, roughly speaking, only 3 million out of 11 million Negroes who are qualified to vote actually take an active part, and the remaining 8 million remain voluntarily inactive, and yet this small (3 million) minority of Negro voters holds the decisive edge in determining who will be the next President.

If who will be the next President is influenced by only 3 million Negro voters, it is easy to understand why the presidential candidates of both political parties put on such a false show with the Civil Rights Bill and with false promises of integration. They must impress the 3 million voting Negroes who are the actual "integration seekers."

If such a fuss is made over these 3 million integration seekers, what would presidential candidates have to do to appease the 8 million non-voting Negroes, if they ever decide to become politically active?

The 8 million non-voting Negroes are in the majority; they are the downtrodden black masses. The black masses have refused to vote, or to take part in politics, because they reject the Uncle Tom approach of the Negro leadership that have been handpicked for them by the white man.

These Uncle Tom leaders do not speak for the Negro majority; they do not speak for the black masses. They speak for the black bourgeoisie, the brainwashed, white-minded, middle-class minority, who are ashamed of black, and don't want to be identified with the black masses, and are therefore seeking to lose their black identity by mixing, intermarrying, and integrating with the white man.

The race problem can never be solved by listening to this white-minded minority. The white man should try to learn what the black masses want, and the only way to learn what the black masses want is by listening to the man who speaks for the black masses of America. The one man here in America who speaks for the downtrodden, dissatisfied black masses is this same man so many of our people are flocking to see and hear. This same Mr. Muhammad who is labeled by the white man as a black supremacist, and as a racist.

If the 3 million white-minded Negroes are casting their ballots for integration and intermarriage, what do the non-voting black masses want? Find out what the black masses want, and then perhaps America's race problem can be solved.

The white liberals hate the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, because they know their present position in the power structure stems from their ability to deceive and to exploit the Negro, politically as well as economically.

They know that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's divine message will make our people (1) wake up, (2) clean up, and (3) stand up. They know that once the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is able to resurrect the Negro from this mental grave of ignorance by teaching him the truth about himself and his real enemy, the Negro learns to think for himself, he will no longer allow the white liberal to use him as a helpless football in the white man's crooked game of "power politics."

The white liberals control the Negro and the Negro vote by controlling the Negro civil rights leaders. As long as they control the Negro civil rights leaders, they can also control and contain the Negro's struggle, and they can control the Negro's so-called "revolt."

The Negro revolution is controlled by foxy white liberals, by the Government itself. But the Black Revolution is controlled only by God.

The Black Revolution is the struggle of the non-whites of this earth against their white oppressors. The Black Revolution has swept white supremacy out of Africa, out of Asia, and is getting ready to sweep it out of Latin America. Revolutions are based upon land. Revolutionaries are the landless against the landlord. Revolutions are never peaceful, never loving, never non-violent, nor are they ever compromising. Revolutions are destructive and bloody. Revolutionaries don't compromise with the enemy; they don't even negotiate. Like the flood in Noah's day, revolu-

tion drowns all opposition... or like the fires in Lot's day, the Black Revolution burns everything that gets in its path.

History must repeat itself! Because of America's evil deeds against these 22 million Negroes, like Egypt and Babylon before her, America herself now stands before the bar of justice. White America is now facing her day of judgment, and she can't escape because today God Himself is the judge. God Himself is now the administrator of justice, and God Himself is to be her divine executor!

Is it possible for America to escape this divine disaster? If America can't atone for the crimes she has committed against the 22 million Negroes, if she can't undo the evils she has brutally, mercilessly heaped upon our people these past four hundred years, then America has signed her own doom, and our people would be foolish to accept her deceitful offers of integration into her doomed society at this late date!

How can America atone for her crimes? The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a desegregated theater or lunch counter won't solve our problems. An integrated cup of coffee isn't sufficient pay for four hundred years of slave labor, and a better job in the white man's factory or position in his business is, at best, only a temporary solution. The only lasting or permanent solution is complete separation on some land that we can call our own.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the race problem can easily be solved, just by sending these 22 million ex-slaves back to our own homeland where we can live in peace and harmony with our own kind. But this Government should provide the transportation, plus everything else we need to get started again in our own country. This Government should provide everything we need in machinery, materials, and finance; enough to last us from twenty to twenty-five years, until we can become an independent people in our own country.

If this white Government is afraid to let her 22 million ex-slaves go back to our country and to our own people, then America must set aside some separate territory here in the Western Hemisphere, where the two races can live apart from each other, since we certainly don't get along peacefully while we are here together.

The size of the territory can be judged according to our own population. If our people number one seventh of America's total population, then give us one seventh of this land. We don't want any land in the desert, but where there is rain and much mineral wealth.

We want fertile, productive land on which we can farm and provide our own people with sufficient food, clothing, and shelter. This Government must supply us with the machinery and other tools needed to dig into the earth. Give us everything we need for them from twenty to twenty-five years, until we can produce and supply our own needs.

If we are a part of America, then part of what she is worth belongs to us. We will take our share and depart, then this white country can have peace. What is her net worth? Give us our share in gold and silver and let us depart and go back to our homeland in peace.

We want no integration with this wicked race that enslaved us. We want complete separation from this race of devils. But we should not be expected to leave America and go back to our own homeland empty-handed. After four hundred years of slave labor, we have some *back pay* coming, a bill owed to us that must be collected.

If the Government of white America truly repents of its sins against our people, and atones by giving us our true share, only then can America save herself!

But if America waits for Almighty God Himself to step in and force her into a just settlement, God will take this entire continent away from her; and she will cease to exist as a nation. Her own Christian scriptures warn her that when God comes He can give the "entire Kingdom to whomsoever He will," which only means that the God of justice on Judgment Day can give this entire continent to whomsoever He wills!

White America, wake up and take heed, before it is too late!