

Greetings from Tyler,

If you've paid attention to any of the newsworthy developments that have been playing out this week, you've been reminded repeatedly that we are living in prophetic times. [Huge earthquakes in Chile](#), coming close on the heels of the [earthquake disaster in Haiti](#) and now reports of [another one in Indonesia](#) remind us that these events strike without warning and are well beyond man's control. It's bound to be troubling to those living anywhere along the "[ring of fire](#)" or anywhere that is earthquake prone, but experts tell us they can strike most anywhere. The Bible tells us that earthquakes in diverse places are to be expected as a part of the end time scenario. That's not to say "this is it," but in the context of so many other events that fall within the realm of our expectations, it is concerning.

The [situation in Greece](#) is not exactly burning up the headlines, but it is a mess. More [violent protests](#), strikes and even attempts at "[storming](#)" the [Greek parliament](#) have been reported this week. Some have suggested that it is possible for us to look into the not too distant future for us here in the United States, as we see a virtual breakdown of social order in Greece result from the bankrupting of a nation grown dependant on government spending.

Last week we referenced the [bleak future for the euro currency](#), caught and squeezed by several governments that have spent way beyond their means in the cause of "social justice." That is exactly the policy that has been pursued in several of these United States, and is rapidly being developed as a model for the entire country. Every time it looks as though efforts to destroy the very foundational underpinnings of our great nation have failed, we are stunned to see that our nation's freedom and prosperity are still in the crosshairs of those who were elected to protect them.

Wherever you look at the business of governance, it seems corruption is rife. And unfortunately that is not limited to the political realm. Power certainly does corrupt, just as the cliché says.

I saw quite an interview this week, conducted with the [son of the founder of Hamas](#), the political/terrorist group that represents the Palestinian cause. He said something profound when he made the statement that [there is no such thing as "moderate Islam."](#) We've been assured, as have the Europeans, that it's a relative handful that subscribe to the defeat of the West and ultimate world domination of Islamic power. The vast majority are described as "peace loving" people. Well, someone well-positioned to know has just disputed that concept, and [there is a growing recognition of that fact in Europe](#). There is a significant and growing problem with Muslim adherents who promote jihad in Europe and in the UK, and the prospect of future upheaval as the perception continues to gain political traction.

And the Middle East is, as always, primed for conflict. The big question is whether that conflict will include [a nuclear-armed Iran](#).

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week was on the subject of [The Real Jesus](#), and we've had 566 requests, with two hundred sixty three first time contacts. We're beginning to look forward and plan for the Spring Holy Days, and I'm sure many of you are as well.

Have a great Sabbath,

Mark Armstrong