

Greetings from Tyler,

There is a new theme developing domestically here in the United States, and it has been illustrated in the events that unfolded this week. It is rapidly becoming clear that traditional American values, enumerated and guaranteed by the Constitution, are signs of dangerous extremism. Those who espouse those views, (pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, limited government, in other words, the precepts of our Founding Fathers) along with military veterans have been identified as potential terrorists by the recently appointed head of the Dept. for Homeland Security.

An estimated 10 million attended rallies all across the United States, expressing concern, if not outrage, about the trillions of dollars Washington is spending and planning to spend, in the depths of the economic crisis. The mainstream media reported, minimally, on the protest doing all within their power to discredit and dismiss the events as the efforts of a small contingent of the lunatic fringe.

As one pundit pointed out, when five people in pink shirts show up to act out on a sidewalk or in front of an office in Washington, the event is covered wall to wall. When ten million turn out to express concerns about the backbreaking debt being created for future American generations, they are dismissed as a handful on the far right, probably racist and potentially dangerous. Never mind the philosophies of Islamic extremism, and the world-wide reign of terror, now the most patriotic of Americans, including those who've served our nation and put their lives on the line to preserve our values and freedoms have been identified as targets by those responsible for protecting the homeland.

A divide is opening up across America between those who work productively and earn prosperity, and those who rely on government for their needs. The truth of the matter, that American (and for that matter Canadian, Australian British and European) prosperity is the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham is lost in the shuffle. The reality that prosperity and freedom are being squandered under the banner of change, is not going unnoticed by a growing contingent within our society that Washington and the mainstream media regard with utter contempt.

America's long-standing and unique alliance with Israel is also under tremendous strain. While Israel, under the newly formed government of Benjamin Netanyahu, weighs the heavy decision of whether or not to stand by while Iran gains the capacity to nuke Tel Aviv, the new American administration seeks military partnership with Iran as the key to prevailing in Afghanistan and stabilizing Pakistan. As several recent reports acknowledge, Israel has the military capability to destroy most of Iran's nuclear facilities, but is constantly reminded that such an act would seriously compromise their relationship with the U.S. According to an article on Debkafile, "Washington will apply all its resources to obstruct such action." Is this any way to treat an ally that has stood on the front line against terrorism for decades?

If it's any consolation, Israel was warned away from any such action under the Bush

administration as well. But that was before Netanyahu was elected. The Middle East remains as dicey as ever, with all the players still intact and armed to the teeth.

Pakistan remains a vital concern, with recent reports expressing worry that the government could fall to al Qaeda and the Taliban, with a turnkey nuclear arsenal in the balance.

Obviously, we've only touched on a fraction of the elements that are of importance and interest at a time when the template of end-time prophecy is beginning to take shape. Certainly the United States of America has entered a downward spiral of debt accumulation that spells eventual disaster.

The GTA television program this week fittingly concentrated on the fact that the Resurrection was Not on a Sunday, and offered the brochure Plagues and the Passover, and the sermon audio Christ our Passover. By midday we'd received 466 requests with one hundred ninety one first time contacts. We've certainly had an enjoyable Days of Unleavened Bread here in Tyler, and some particularly good and notable sermons that we're hurrying your way. Our thanks go out to you all, and we hope your Sabbath will be a good one.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong