

21 May 2010

Greetings from Tyler,

What further ignominy can be visited upon us? Please don't answer that just now. Rather, let's look at some of the current developments that are leading to that painful answer.

Can you believe the convolutions and convulsions that have been contrived over the situation in Arizona? Federal officials are intoning ominous charges of discrimination and racism over the passage of a bland law that simply gives local and state law enforcement the ability to enforce federal immigration laws that have been on the books all along. Threats of legal action from an Attorney General embarrassed to admit he'd never read it; dark surmising from the head of Homeland Security, with no idea what she's talking about; and well, let's leave the chief executive out of it for now.

But what about the astonishing spectacle of the Deputy Secretary of State, lobbying the Chinese to agree that the U.S. is all but an equal in the violation of "human rights"? All manner of analysis has been brought to bear since he boasted of having brought the matter up "early and often" in meetings with China's diplomats. Some believe it was just a huge faux pas by a high ranking diplomat, second only to the Secretary of State in matters of U.S. foreign policy. Did he "misspeak" as they so often say? Or wasn't it more likely the kind of "in your face, America" kind of tactic that is becoming tiresomely familiar?

The greatest threat to the future of the United States, and its role as a blessing to all nations seems to be coming from some of the highest offices in the land, boldly and without apology. Over the past year we've witnessed the socialist style takeover of industry and finance and the passage of laws designed to result in the massive redistribution of income. Debt is being accumulated on a scale that can only be destructive. Our leaders are bending over backward (?) to make buddies with the world's foremost enemies of liberty while allies get rough treatment.

Now we're told that it's a new day for U.S. relations with Israel. Hopefully you haven't forgotten the rude treatment of PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his staff in D.C. a few weeks ago. But suddenly official spokesmen are coming out of the woodwork to declare that the U.S. stands firmly in support of Israel. Allow me to quote from an op-ed in today's Jerusalem Post under the title, *The US-Israel Crisis is Far from Over*. "Proclamations of support for Israel by the administration are of course welcome. But regrettably there is no evidence of any change in US policy. Pressure continues to be exerted on Israel to make further unilateral concessions with no commensurate effort to modify Palestinian intransigency. The administration seems to have given up on preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power and instead appears to be implicitly endorsing efforts to neutralize Israel's ambiguous nuclear deterrent."

There you have it. Indirect peace talks are supposed to be in the immediate offing, with Palestinian leader Abbas expecting the U.S. to impose concessions on Israel according to the best sources. They talk peace, but there is no peace. When they eventually do declare peace and safety for Jerusalem, we'll know that a major piece of the prophetic puzzle is in place, and big trouble close behind.

I hope you all have plans for the observance of Pentecost this weekend. There are special services planned in several areas, including Atlanta where Mr. Jim Josephsen will be the guest speaker, and at Land Between the Lakes near Padukah, KY, where Dr. James Ricks is hosting meetings. Mom and I will be leaving early tomorrow morning to travel there and looking forward to seeing quite a few of ya'll.

Whatever your plans, have a safe and happy Sabbath and Pentecost and we'll be in touch next week.

Mark Armstrong