

Greetings from Tyler,

Once again, the update is being written on Thursday and by the time it reaches you we should be at the Land between the Lakes facility at Kentucky Dam Village for Sabbath and Pentecost meetings.

Little attention is being given the Middle East, as most of the American media is concentrating on the twists and turns of the ongoing presidential campaign. Obviously, there is plenty of outlandish information and speculation that stimulates interest and glandular opinions. My view is that we simply do not have a prospective president who will guide our nation out of the downward moral, spiritual, economic spiral we're in.

The world is watching the Presidential campaign, and particularly in the Middle East where the stakes are so high. The soaring speeches are being carefully parsed to consider the impact one or another prospective president may have on the future for peace, national security for Israel, the disputed territories, and the future of Jerusalem.

But there is plenty of concern to go around about what may transpire prior to the inauguration of the next president. Israeli Prime Minister Olmert met with President Bush in D.C. yesterday and said he came out of the meetings with fewer questions than he went in with regarding "ways and means...and the resolve required to deal with the problem," meaning the Iranian nuclear problem. Even the UN's IAEA worries in public that Iran is concealing the military ambitions of their nuclear program.

There are further reports that Iranian bases involved in training and supplying insurgents in Iraq may soon come under U.S. attack.

What should we make of all the talk of war? Is Iran the "King of the South" of Bible prophecy? Would military conflict with Iran by either the United States or Israel signal the beginning of "tribulation"? As many advances as we've seen in the overall scenario, it seems that there are major portions of the equation that are simply not yet in place.

My Dad loved this country, demonstrated it in many ways, and I'm with him. As heartsick as we may be about the many wrong turns our nation has taken (the spectacle about to begin with the legal "weddings" in California comes to mind) I'm still rooting for the home team, the U.S.A. There are still many good and great aspects of our country and our peoples that we can cherish and thank God for.

There've been many panics and false alarms in the past. But an abiding sense of gloom and doom is simply not sustainable and certainly not productive. There is a tremendous amount of news and information available to us all. We will keep a close watch on developments, do our best to digest it in the light of all that we understand, and present what's pertinent in the clearest terms we can.

Now the Sabbath and the feast of Pentecost is upon us. Even the nominal "Christian" world recognizes the day of Pentecost as having been the time of the birth of the New

Testament church. It entailed the miraculous event of the pouring out of God's Holy Spirit. And the attributes of that spirit are spelled out in meticulous detail. Isn't it interesting how lacking those attributes are in the ostentatious leadership of many so-called "Christian" religious organizations? Love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness? These are points that deserve expansion, and something we can all ponder on this annual Holy Day.

My Mom and I are leaving tomorrow to meet with those who'll be attending at Land between the Lakes. Mr. Stan Roberts will be in Holland, Michigan for Pentecost weekend, and it will be observed by many, many groups across the nation and around the world. We hope all the meetings will be profitable, and any travel safe. Garner Ted Armstrong telecast results will come next week, as tabulations and reports will not be complete until tomorrow.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe Sabbath and Holy Day.

'Till next week,

Mark Armstrong