

Greetings from H.Q.,

Just when you thought nothing was going to turn out all right, the Supreme Court came out yesterday with the [historic ruling reaffirming our Second Amendment right](#) to keep and bear arms. Given the court's penchant for re-writing the Constitution to fit the "evolving standards" of society, this affirmation of our founders' clear intent comes as a pleasant surprise. But it was a [close 5 – 4 spit decision](#), close on the heels of the outrage perpetrated by the same body earlier in the week, that it would be "cruel and unusual" to confer the death penalty upon a child rapist.

Our domestic news could hardly be more frustrating. The future [price of fuel](#) is being talked and speculated to dizzying heights as the stock market falls and the [U.S. dollar continues to lose value against other currencies](#). Investors fleeing the securities markets are reportedly putting their money into commodities, specifically oil, driving the price ever higher according to a business writer with the Associated Press. This must be music to the ears of the so-called environmentalists. Stuck with CNN over the weekend, I watched one analyst commentator after another warn against new drilling and refinery construction because it might lower the price of energy so that fervor for alternative (and so far, unavailable) energy might abate. It's enough to drive you crazy.

In European news, [Spain just "overwhelmingly approved" the EU's Lisbon Treaty](#) that was rejected by a referendum in Ireland just last week. Ireland is the only country to date where citizens have been asked their opinion. If you have the time or the patience, you might want to check out [an article](#) in Germany's [Der Spiegle](#) describing how EU politicians are gradually, slowly implementing their policies without the consent of national constituencies.

[Nicolas Sarkozy](#), France's pro-American president is in line to be the next president of the EU. He is a proponent of a "[common European defense](#)," and is linked to proposals that France team up with the British Royal Navy toward that end. This is not exactly what you might have expected in terms of an EU military, and we'll have to see where it leads. We've carried several articles on our website on this subject, and Murray Allatt also addressed these matters in his update this week.

The truce hailed as a breakthrough in Israel/Gaza relations has already been [violated repeatedly](#) by the usual indiscriminate rocket fire out of Gaza into Israel. How utterly predictable! But, as always, the "peace process" must continue.

Observers have been unnerved by some recent Israeli air maneuvers, fearing that it constituted a rehearsal for an attack on Iran's nuclear installations. Israel denies it. The latest round of sanctions, including the [freezing of Iranian accounts](#) in European banks has brought the usual defiance from Ahmadinejad. How long before we wake up to the news that Iran has completed work on a nuclear warhead? Let's hope we wake up to a different kind of headline regarding Iran's nuclear facilities!

Domestic economic news is bad, and predictions are worse. The energy news is bad, and

beyond pie in the sky about future alternatives, many mainstream reporters and commentators seem to hope it stays bad. It seems as if maybe the bad news may be somewhat overplayed in the media in order to attach blame and disgust to the current administration and emphasize the need for “change.”

It is certainly a serious time in our domestic history, and it would behoove us all to take wise precautions with regard to our preparedness for potential disasters and/or shortages. But we (organizationally) simply will not “merchandize” the bad news, or claim that the “great tribulation” of Bible Prophecy is at hand while several key aspects of the scenario are missing. There’s no question, we’re in for a rough ride. Let’s keep our sanity our credibility, and realize that further tests lie ahead for the nation, and for the church.

Our trip to Atlanta was a great one. With 40 plus in attendance, I thought Jim Josephsen was at his very best and the group was enthusiastic and appreciative. We also had opportunity to spend some quality time with good friends after the official events were concluded.

The GTA telecast generated 290 requests with one hundred one first time contacts last week, and 344 with one hundred twenty new responders this week. Don’t forget, we’ll be back on the ION network (satellite and cable only) beginning next Tuesday at 6:30 am EST and 6:30 am Pacific.

Response to letters and recent offers has been terrific, and very encouraging. We sure appreciate all your efforts in the field. Thanks to everyone, and have a great Sabbath.

‘Till next time,

Mark Armstrong