

Greetings Everyone,

Last week the Garner Ted Armstrong program aired at the new time on the ION Network. It offered the Answer to Unanswered Prayer, resulting in 502 requests with two hundred fifteen first time contacts. This week, right on the heels of the 4th of July, our power went out somehow disconnecting our phone system from the answering service. Consequently, we may have missed some of the calls. However, 383 people called to request material on the concept of The Rapture, Heaven on Earth, and Way of Escape, with one hundred ninety one first time callers.

The combination of energy concerns, Iran's "Great Prophet III" war games, missile tests, and threatening statements has pushed the Iran nuclear crisis onto the front pages. Warnings from OPEC about an "unlimited rise" in the price of oil, along with fears of Iranian retaliation against Israel and U.S. assets "around the world" have been the subject of numerous articles and interviews.

Several aspects of this complicated crisis are covered in a new commentary, [The Coming Moment of Truth with Iran](#). Today we learn that Iran apparently exaggerated the number of missiles they successfully launched. Other analysis indicates that Iran's military capabilities are nowhere near as potent as their threats. But that could certainly change in the event they should be left to complete work on nuclear weapons.

It was in 2004 that we first saw the first House Armed Services report on the devastating effect that an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack would have on critical American infrastructures. Now another report has been issued, reiterating all of the warnings of the last report and stating that several entities could carry out such an attack. It is a terrible scenario to contemplate, and the most recent report expresses concern that not enough is being done to plan for such an eventuality.

Response to recent letters and material offered continues to be strong, and we are very thankful to all of you and many others on the mailing list who continue to show interest and dedication.

Hope you'll all have a good Sabbath,

Mark Armstrong

The Coming "Moment of Truth" with Iran

The latest in a long line of [Iranian](#) provocations was this week's [test-firing of nine ballistic missiles](#), with coincidental statements by one of supreme leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's](#) spokesmen for the [Revolutionary Guard](#). The statement indicated that [Tel Aviv](#), U.S. ships in the Gulf and U.S. interests around the world will be "burned down" if "the first bullet" is fired against [Iran's nuclear facilities](#). Late word is that Iran has fired another [20 ballistic missiles](#) on day 3 of "The Great Prophet" war games.

What could be more apparent than the coming showdown with Iran? The question is, will it come before or after Iran has the ability to employ nuclear weapons?

Discussion of military action against Iran is surfacing throughout the international media. Not only is Iran test firing yet more of its missiles, but boasting that they have thousands more "ready to launch." Some of these missiles are capable of reaching [Israel](#) and designed to carry nuclear warheads. One analyst went so far as to say they were "otherwise worthless."

Israel is in a real predicament. In the event of military hostilities with Iran, Israel would likely come under fire from at least three fronts, maybe four if [Syria](#) were to get involved. [Hezbollah](#) has reportedly been furiously adding to its rocket stockpiles in southern [Lebanon](#) and now has three times more than they had when the last skirmish broke out in the summer of 2006.

The U.S. is in something of a predicament as well. Regardless as to whether Israel or U.S. assets are used against Iran's nuclear facilities, the U.S. will definitely be involved if Iran strikes back. We are pledged to act in Israel's defense, regardless.

The head of [OPEC](#) has warned that oil prices would see an "unlimited increase" if Iran's 4 million barrels per day contribution to world exports should be interrupted. In addition, Iran has warned that it would shut down [Persian Gulf](#) shipping lanes if attacked in a threat that is contradicted by the [U.S. Pentagon](#). Consider the following quote from a current article in the Washington Post. "Peter Zimmerman, a nuclear physicist who was formerly chief scientist for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the accuracy of the missile (capable of hitting Israel) was poor and could miss its target altogether. A missile with a nuclear warhead, by contrast, would not need to be accurate since it would destroy an area far beyond its range of accuracy."

The upshot seems to be that Iran will not have the capability of "burning down Tel Aviv" unless it is able to complete its work and actually utilize a nuclear warhead.

Nevertheless, the fallout from an attack on Iran may well be considerable. It may mean dramatic increases at the pump. Hopefully that would be temporary if our leaders here in the U.S. can bring themselves to allow more domestic resources to be brought on line.

There is still talk, even current statements from [President George W. Bush](#), of solving the Iranian conundrum through diplomacy. But Iran has been aggressively defiant at every opportunity. And there is recognition at high levels that Iran's religious leaders have an apocalyptic view of their role in the grand scheme of things that does not lend itself to a peaceful resolution.

Arab regimes in the Middle East are wary of Iran and its quest for regional power, and there is concern that any military move by Israel or the U.S. might spark an uprising by [Shia](#) minorities in [Sunni](#) ruled Arab countries.

The whole tangled scenario is a major subject of political posturing in both Israel and in the U.S. Former Israeli Defense Minister [Amir Peretz](#) is [cited in today's Jerusalem Post](#) as saying that any attack against Iran should be undertaken by an international force lead by the United States. "At the moment of truth, America will be with us." But the still politically active Peretz also allowed for the possibility that Israel might have to go it alone.

Either way, the Iran situation reigns as the most dangerous current threat to the Middle East, and to the world's economy. It seems clear that there will be no clean way out of this problem, particularly given Iran's angrily defiant posture. The situation has vexed the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. for years now. At length, Iran dealt with the UN's nuclear regulatory body in apparent good faith, until they were caught in repeated bald face lies regarding their enrichment work. Most analysts suspect that Iran is now very near to completing work on their nuclear weapons program. The "moment of truth" cannot be far off.

Mark Armstrong
[Posted here](#)