

Greetings from Tyler,

As Treasury and government officials bounce from one idea to another as how to best deal with what is described as economic meltdown in the United States, Germany has just officially declared itself in recession. France, Italy and other European nations are also facing a major economic slowdown as the catastrophe instigated in the U.S. housing market continues to circle the globe, wreaking destruction as it goes.

The world's major trading markets have all lost vast amounts of wealth, thanks to the "global economy," and the fact that supposedly secure financial "derivatives" of U.S. Government chartered assets were considered virtually without risk until the bottom fell out. Unprecedented actions have been taken to restore confidence in the banking system, actions that threaten to transfer lifelong debt to generations yet unborn.

Here we are, over a month since our representatives determined there was "no choice" but to requisition some \$700 billion out of thin air without popular support or input outside the inner circle of our panicked leadership, and they keep changing their minds as to how the blank check should be spent. It is the subject of endless argument and speculation with no clear answers at all.

Already, nearly thirty percent of our national wealth has disappeared, and the rest of the developed world has been pulled down to a similar degree. As we see major American institutions and industries founder on the brink of insolvency, the urge of those in power is to "bail them out," acquiring control and national ownership as they go. The concept of limited government, a crucial tenet of our founders, is out the window.

There seems now no end to the need for "bailouts" and "handouts." Over a period of recent decades we've watched the American electoral process become something akin to mass bribery, where citizens are promised a direct monetary benefit in exchange for promoting some candidate to power. We've seen it at work in cities and states across the United States. Now it's occurred on the national level.

It has been amply demonstrated that corruption and greed (not to mention conflict of interest) at very high "oversight" levels are to blame for the economic panic that's driving the markets crazy and devastating the savings of millions of trusting people trying to save for the future and their families. The inmates have taken over the asylum, and they're in charge of managing the disaster they've created! The answers all seem to fall within the realm of government control and power, so far as they're concerned. With the crew that's destined for 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., and the majorities in the Senate and House, we can expect much more of that.

We've watched the major institutions of the United States evict God from the national equation over the last four decades. Feeble efforts to cling to the most obvious rudimentary tenets of civilized behavior are routinely struck down and brushed aside by arrogant judges and legislatures.

The warnings to Israel throughout the writings of the Major and Minor Prophets are beginning to take on significance as never before. This was a major theme at the Feast of Tabernacles this year, and it is one that is playing out before our dumbstruck eyes as we witness the inevitable outcome of our nation's Godless folly. It's getting nigh unto impossible for any objective observer to claim that the warnings do not apply to our nation and to our time.

The GTA telecast this week brought in a total of 771 responses with five hundred fifty-five first time contacts. The program this week discussed the false concept of going immediately to heaven upon death, and also the establishment of God's Kingdom here on earth. Almost three hundred of the 771 were additional late arriving responses to the Bible, Fact or Fiction program from last week, which means the total response to last week's program came to 1,214!

Response to recent letters has also been very strong, and the income remains encouraging despite uncertainty about the economic future. Thank you all very much for your part in promoting the witness and warning despite the concerns and challenges we face.

Have a great Sabbath,

Mark Armstrong