

Dear Members and Co-workers,

Keeping up with the developments in world events that accrue to aspects that are important for us to watch and warn about as they relate to the scenario of Bible prophecy is becoming a very painful, maddening exercise. Let's review, briefly, where we are in the grand scheme of things.

Iran now has enough enriched uranium to build their first nuclear bomb. We knew this was inevitable. Diplomacy has failed despite the focused efforts of the United Nations and the best of European negotiators. Yes, we're aware that the incoming administration campaigned on the basis of meeting with, and talking to our most intractable, dangerous enemies. Meeting, talking, extending incentives, issuing sanctions, all that has been tried. And here we are.

Thankfully, Iran does not yet have a functional weapon. But according to the best experts on the subject, another "milestone" has been reached in the unyielding quest of the terrorist state to obtain the means to blackmail the West, and ultimately fulfill its oft-stated goal of eliminating the existence of Israel.

As you know, Israel is between active leaders right now with Olmert politically impotent and elections not scheduled until February. But the theme in Israel, in the Bush Administration, and of every presidential candidate in our recent election has been the same. "Iran must not be allowed nuclear weapons." But talk is cheap, and this is one crisis that threatens to trump all others.

But a majority of Americans have their attention elsewhere right now. You cannot turn around without being reminded that we are in the early stages of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Somewhere upwards of thirty percent of America's national wealth has already been lost, largely due to the fraudulent mortgage scam that has been perpetrated and perpetuated by our politicians. Perpetuated, because those who facilitated the spreading worldwide debacle are intent on bailing out the scam to keep it operating just as it was before it became apparent that the western world's financial system was on the brink of collapse.

The experts have no idea where our national economy is headed, or how badly the international markets will be damaged. Carnage is everywhere, not only on Wall Street but in every major market around the world. We're only beginning to see the effects of massive layoffs, major institutional bankruptcies, growing unemployment and devastated savings accounts. Politicians sworn to uphold our Constitution and represent our best interests "so help them God," are "playing god" and remaking our nation according to the discredited ideology that created the economic crisis. We are on a toboggan slide toward full-blown socialism and gathering speed, nationalizing once proud icons of American productivity as the price of each bailout!

The humble, reverent foundation laid by the founders of the United States is crumbling beneath our feet as arrogant godless politicians take advantage of the emergencies they

themselves created. The predictable consequences will take their toll. The very notion of our God-given, constitutionally guaranteed freedoms is giving way to another doctrine of state intervention in every conceivable instance. Not only intervention, but control and even ownership we see unfolding.

Consider how far our society has strayed from the moral absolutes that built and sustained this nation! In our modern environment, all opinions are deemed equal whether or not they have any basis in fact or morality. The logic that began to take hold in the late 1960s and early Seventies caught on. There are fewer and fewer absolutes in our society. Who's to say what's right or wrong? If a majority of voters should still stand for at least one vestige of moral certitude, as just happened in California, judges stand ready to strike it down. "O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths" (Isaiah 2:12).

Did God guide our founders when they embarked on this great experiment of freedom? Are our liberties endowed by the state, or by God? The great men who prayerfully and painstakingly wrote our Constitution and Bill of Rights knew and wrote that our liberties could only be sustained so long as we remained a moral and God-fearing people. "The religion and public liberty of a people are intimately connected, their interests are interwoven, they cannot subsist separately; and therefore they rise and fall together. For this reason, it is always observable, that those who are combined to destroy the people's liberties, practice every art to poison their morals." So wrote Samuel Adams.

We are living at a time and in a society that has eliminated any mention of God from the educational system under the ruse that it would constitute the establishment of a religion. They dare not even introduce the historical writings left us by the likes of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton and others. Stand up against those who insist on redefining even something so basic as marriage, and you can expect angry, perhaps physical retribution!

Our founders warned us that abandoning God would destroy freedom. The Bible shows that it leads to captivity and death. We are still enjoying many of the great blessings and advantages of the freedoms afforded because of Abraham's obedience, and the inspiration God afforded our forefathers. But the way this nation is headed, it cannot last. Recent history is replete with examples of failed godless nations ruled by arrogant leaders, not to mention ancient and Biblical history. How do we opt out of the turmoil and trouble that stalks this society?

Mainstream religion does not have the answer! They only have arguments and gurgling feel-good anecdotes. Real guidance and protection will come only with adherence to the truth, to the faith once delivered, and with a personal relationship with the only one who can see us through the looming trouble ahead.

Will God give this society another chance? It's looking a little late in the day for that. We, as members of His true Church must hope and pray for deliverance from what lies ahead.

I hope you'll request the free DVD by Garner Ted Armstrong on the study of Galatians, Part II. If you need information and guidance on the subject of the upcoming Christmas holiday, please write a little note on the return coupon and we'll include an additional booklet and CD on that as well.

Thanks to all of you who've continued to make this work possible in the face of these very trying times.

Sincerely,

Mark Armstrong