

April 9, 2010

Weekly Update

Greetings from Tyler,

We had a most enjoyable Last Day of Unleavened Bread, with good turnout and a wonderful feast of a meal. Tomorrow we're expecting visitors, including Dr. James Ricks and his wife Natalie, Ken and Debbie Nelson and Aunt Lois Chapman. We'll be holding our annual board meetings before and after services.

I've run across some, here at home and in my travels who say they can't stand to pay attention to domestic or international news, it's too frustrating and depressing. Some have said that they depend on HQ to highlight the things that are important and try to tune the rest of it out. At times like these I almost wish we could all tune it out and avoid the frustration that comes with studying the depths of the outrages we see being visited upon our nation.

U.S. allies are beyond concerned, and with good and obvious reasons. Several of the eastern European nations who stood up to their oppressors, forged ahead toward freedom and tied their security to confidence in the United States are mighty concerned with the direction we've taken on a whole host of fronts. Powerful signals or more accurately, signals of weakness have been sent indicating that the U.S. is now more interested in appeasing, even befriending the dangerous powers that represent enemies of their freedom. It's apparent that eastern Europe has been effectively cut loose, leaving them vulnerable to the whims of Russia and the threat from Islamic factions.

Perhaps an even more startling development is the animosity the U.S. administration has shown toward Israel in recent weeks. Today, Prime Minister Netanyahu canceled plans to attend a U.S. sponsored summit on terror because, according to several reports, he feared Israel would be "ambushed" (diplomatically speaking) by representatives of the U.S. and Islamic nations.

Iran is once again boasting of an acceleration of their drive to become a nuclear power. U.S. response has been to seriously consider sanctions. What a bad joke. At this stage, Israel is left to wonder whether the U.S. might actually intervene to prevent them from any potential attempt to set back Iran's nuclear program, and that question is up in the air. Several analysts believe that the current administration is "resigned" to Iran obtaining nuclear weapons.

Things are becoming more uncertain by the day as to what will become of the freedoms Americans have enjoyed like no place else on earth. It's beginning to look like the government is going to get hold of every last vestige of freedom and the free moral agency that God intended for mankind. Opinion polls indicate that a large and growing segment of the public is becoming aware of the scope of "fundamental change" that is taking shape rapidly now, and becoming more resentful by the day. Flames of class envy

and racial animosity are being fanned, and there is now genuine concern for the survival of the entire American experiment.

The airing of those concerns is being met with ridicule and dark accusations and characterizations, as our nation is plummeted headlong into policies that make the world's most brutal of dictators brim with approval. It seems all but certain now that the U.S. is headed unavoidably for some civil strife. We can only hope and pray that the strife plays out in words rather than actions.

We're being told daily now that the economy is pretty much out of the woods, in the wake of the terrible recession and near miss with economic catastrophe. Happy days are here again, according to the mainstream media. Maybe there's some truth to that in the short term, but where is the economist anywhere in the U.S. or anywhere else on planet earth that says the country can support the unbelievable sums that are being allocated for social programs and every bogus project you never heard of? A number of financial commentators believe that the U.S. is already effectively bankrupt. The effects are being staved off due to the government's ability to print currency backed by nothing but the fading faith in Washington D.C. That ought to just about finish off your weekend. Sorry.

The GTA telecast this week brought **516 requests with two hundred fifty eight first time contacts**. Thank you all for your efforts in the field, and for "holding fast" amid every imaginable challenge and irritation. Have a great Sabbath. Mark

P.S. We should have confirmed this earlier, but the Destin site is secure for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. It should be great!