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It's Post-Election—the Sky Hasn't Fallen!

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. —1Thessalonians 5:18

Although the meteoric rise of Barack Obama from community organizer to president-elect of the United States suggests that he has become an incredibly potent political personality, it does not guarantee he will inherit the mantle of his recent predecessors—that of leader of the free world. A seismic shift in the world's power structure has just occurred which is not of Obama's making and perhaps not to his liking. Regardless, the Church must urgently intercede for our country and our new President.

Last week, U.S. Treasury Department officials held a closed seminar entitled "Islamic Finance 101." The advertised purpose was to provide federal regulators with objective information on Sharia-Compliant Finance (SCF). Introducing the event was Neel Kashkari, the administrator of the \$700 billion dollar government bailout (experts say nationalizing) of the U.S. banking system.

Speaking at the seminar were "Sharia advisors," including Rushdi Siddiqi, the founder of the Dow Jones Islamic Index Fund who has strong ties to Mufti Taqi Usmani, a jihadist cleric who preaches violence, as well as Harvard professor Samuel Hayes, an insider at Harvard's Wahhabi-funded Islamic Finance Project. Says *Human Events*, "...the picture of Sharia finance that emerged from the presentations of these worthies was that of a God-ordained, socially-conscious, morally superior and more profitable financial system that's ready to replace its failed capitalist counterpart."¹

It's no secret that Sharia finance has been closely linked with radical Islam. Not mentioned at the Treasury seminar, were three of the early Sharia institutions, Bank Al-Taqwa, Akida Bank and BMI (Bait ul-Mal al-Islami) that Treasury knows were terrorist entities because Treasury had to shut them down.

Treasury also knows or should know that IDB, the Saudi-controlled Islamic Development Bank (the largest Islamic bank) manages some \$1 billion Al-Aqsa and Intifada funds specifically set aside for Palestinian suicide bombers. And, feds must surely know that Islamic banks generate huge funds, even in the West, through the obligatory zakat tithe, "purification" of "unclean" income that must be given away or paid to Sharia "advisors."

While federal regulators were being briefed on the religious benefits of Sharia banking and finance, President Bush was 200 miles north at United Nations headquarters for a two-day conference on religion presided over by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Abdullah opened the conference with a call for moderation in the Middle East, insisting that religious differences in the region have "engendered intolerance, causing devastating wars."

President Bush told the largely secular audience that faith can transform relations between nations and cultures. "...We may profess different creeds and worship in different places," said Bush, "but our faith leads us to common values."

A general statement of common values that the UN is expected to endorse includes “respect for religions, their places of worship, and their symbols.” But at least two members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, point out “this language is a cleverly coded way of granting religious leaders the right to criminalize speech and activities that they deem to insult religion.” If so, King Abdullah will return home with UN approval for Islamic “blasphemy laws,” not to mention the President’s concurrence.

In yet another strange, if not apocalyptic eleventh-hour meeting this week, President Bush hosted a G-20 economic summit where he pledged to subordinate the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and other American financial regulatory authority to an international *College of Supervisors*. According to the *Washington Post*, the European-dominated College of Supervisors, under this plan, would also have the power to weigh in on issues like executive compensation and investment practices.²

News analyst Dick Morris says that President-elect Barack Obama will not need to govern from the left. “George W. Bush,” he says, “has done all the heavy lifting for him. It was under Bush that the government basically took over as the chief stockholder of our financial institutions and under Bush that we ceded our financial controls to the European Union.”

Both friends and foes of Mr. Bush agree on one point. Without a vote of the people or their elected representatives, the U.S. appears to be a de facto member of the European Union. Supporters admit Mr. Bush may have gone down without a fight, but given America’s financial mess, they say he had little choice.

Understandably, the vast number of limited-government conservatives feel like the wind was kicked out of them on November 4. Also discouraged are many Christians who believe we are witnessing prophetic end-time events concerning a one-world government. Like Jonah, some may consider further involvement in elections and moral issues futile. Should we continue Kingdom work knowing that a great falling away is going to occur and the son of perdition will be revealed?

Precisely 388 years ago this week, a weary but battle hardened band of English emigrants landed at Plymouth Rock. They had endured many hardships, disappointments and much testing of their faith, believing they were sent to the New World to be a “planting of the Lord.” But more testing of their faith, much more, was immediately ahead.

The Pilgrims had barely waded ashore and trudged through snow before entering a time of “General Sickness.” They were ravaged with consumption and pneumonia, perhaps from sleeping on cold damp ground. In December, six Pilgrims died, in January, eight, and 17 more in February. When the worst was over, 47 Pilgrims—nearly half of them—were gone.

Leader William Bradford wrote that through this terrible time, their hearts remained soft towards God. They managed to find many ways to express thanks to God, not necessarily for their circumstances, but in them and through them. When the Pilgrims came together that Fall with their new native friends for that very first official day of feasting and proclamations of thanks to God, they rejoiced in the Lord for His goodness, His favor, and His bountiful blessings.

Psalm 112 tells us that the righteous do not live in dread or fear of bad news. Vs 4 says, “Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness,”... [their hearts are] steadfast, trusting in the LORD.” (v7)

A good reminder as we join with others this week to give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

Rick Forcier

¹ Alex Alexiev, [What Is Sharia Finance? Don't Ask the Treasury](#), *Human Events.com*, 11/12/2008

² Dick Morris & Eileen McGann, [Bush Hands Over Reins of U.S. Economy to EU](#), *Newsmax.com*, 11/19/2008