

March 2010

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A Fundamental Transformation

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. --Matthew 25:32

The President said his election was about the “fundamental transformation of America.” It wasn’t just talk. In little more than 14 months, government has acquired banks, investment firms, auto companies, and, last week, America’s health care system—alone some 1/6 of the U.S. economy. Coupled with a soaring jobless rate and projected budget deficits, double that of George W. Bush, it’s tempting to think of the Carter years and long gas lines as “the good old days.”

Pundits thought the mid-January upset election of Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA), would bring to naught the mad dash towards socialized medicine. But in the end, wisdom, experience, the will of the people and even the Rule of Law, proved no match against raw political power and pork. House Democrats voted to scrap America’s health care delivery system for an experiment on paper.

After signing his landmark bill into law, the President chided *the party of no*, asking when we should expect Armageddon? Jay Leno joked, “Do you know who will be in charge of health care? The IRS. You thought getting audited was bad? Wait until your next prostate exam!”

Most Americans, however, are not laughing at the fact that the Internal Revenue Service is expected to hire some 16,500 new federal agents to become the snoopers and the enforcement vehicle for what can’t help but become a behemoth, if not dispassionate government health agency. Following are reactions to the new national health care law from several noted conservative commentators:

"A terrible thing happened to America on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The country took its biggest step ever down a road diametrically opposed to its original intent of keeping the state small so that the individual can be free and great."

--columnist Dennis Prager

"As America's teetering tower of unkeepable promises grows, so does the weight of government, in taxes and mandates that limit investments and discourage job creation. America's dynamism, and hence upward social mobility, will slow, as the economy becomes what the party of government wants it to be -- increasingly dependent on government-created demand."

--columnist George Will

If Barack Obama does nothing else in his term in office, this will make him one of the most consequential presidents in history. It's a huge transformative event in Americans' view of themselves and of the role of government... governmentalized health care not only changes the relationship of the citizen to the state but the very character of the people."

--author Mark Steyn

Next up for Mr. Obama along the road of fundamental transformation is cap-and-trade, amnesty and more homosexuality in the armed forces. It will be extremely difficult to blunt the administration’s efforts if republicans become demoralized and Stupak democrats remain anesthetized.

But if domestic policies constitute one bronzed leg, foreign policies are necessarily the other. And a seismic *transformation* seems to be taking place in that arena as well.

A new policy appears to poke and prod Israel and other close allies, but slobbers over Syria, Russia, Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah. Frank Gaffney with the Center for Security Policy says that Obama “has pressed Israel relentlessly for territorial, political, and strategic concessions to the Palestinians. He has reportedly denied Israel access to weapons, including bunker-busting bombs, even as sales of advanced arms to others in the Middle East—all of whom have tried to destroy Israel in the past—continue apace.”¹

Ralph Peters, a retired Army Lt. Colonel, concurs. “It’s surreal,” says Peters, “to watch our president act as if terrorist organizations, autocracies and outright dictatorships are morally superior to Israel’s rule-of-law democracy. The aura of unreality extends to the assumption that Israel, faced with threats to its very existence, can be bullied by a White House aligned with its enemies.”

An example of bullying took place during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington last week. It’s no secret that the White House is upset with Netanyahu’s recent decision to approve Jewish construction in east Jerusalem. Sources say “The White House denied Netanyahu the red carpet treatment generally afforded to visiting heads of state.”²

“The Israeli prime minister and Obama didn’t pose for photos together, and Netanyahu was excluded from dinner with the president Tuesday night. When Netanyahu wouldn’t agree to concessions, Obama left a meeting with him, though he invited Netanyahu to stay at the White House, talk to Obama advisers and ‘let me know if there is anything new,’ a U.S. congressman who spoke to Netanyahu, told *The Times of London*. ‘It was awful,’ the congressman said.”^{ibid}

“One Israeli newspaper called the meeting ‘a hazing in stages,’ conducted in such an adversarial environment that the Israeli delegation eventually left, worried that their White House phone conversations were being bugged.”^{ibid} Washington Post columnist Jackson Diehl disclosed on March 22 an open secret: “Behind Obama’s deliberate fight with Netanyahu last week . . . seemed to lie a calculation that a peace settlement will require the United States to bend or break Israel’s current government.”

According to a Smith Research poll reported in *The Jerusalem Post*, just 9 percent of Jewish Israelis think Barack Obama’s administration is more pro-Israel than pro-Palestinian. By contrast, the same polling organization “found that Israelis’ views of Obama’s predecessor in the Oval Office, George W. Bush, were nearly the opposite. Some 88 percent of Israelis considered Bush’s administration pro-Israel...”³

A more troubling CNN poll (March 19-21) also cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, found that 39 percent of Americans see Israel as an ally while 58 percent do not. That is not good news—for Israel.

Matthew 25 tells us when the Son of Man returns to earth He will judge the nations (or Gentiles—the Greek word can mean either). Three specific groups are mentioned; sheep, goats, and Christ’s (Jewish) brethren. The sheep will be placed to the right and the goats to the left, based upon their treatment of the Lord’s brethren. The unrighteous goats are told to depart from Him into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels because they failed to care for Him (his Jewish brethren) during the terrible *Time of Jacob’s Trouble*. One Commentary adds, “Gentiles are not saved by befriending the Jewish remnant, but that this kindness reflects their love for the Lord.”⁴

That our “rulers” appear slack-handed or treacherous in their dealings with “the apple of God’s eye,” does not relieve our obligations. Think Oscar Schindler, Corrie ten Boom and countless others. If we believe the words of Jesus, we will pray for, and thus find ways to encourage and support *the least of these*, His brethren.

The more difficult part of the journey towards the sheep gate might be the acknowledgment that God has purposed or permitted Barack Obama to be president. Simply put, praying for him is NOT an option.

Rick Forcier

¹ Israel Has Reason to Worry About Obama’s Policies, Frank Gaffney, *NewsMax.com*, 3/22/2010

² Obama Snubs Netanyahu at White House, Dan Weil, *NewsMax.com*, 3/26/2010

³ New Poll Finds Only 9% Of Israelis Believe President Obama Is Pro-Israel: Joel Rosenberg, *Flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com*, 3/26/2010

⁴ *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, Wm MacDonald, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995, pg.1300