
VIEWS LETTER

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AWD's Views, News & Items of Interest

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Resurrection Morning

~By Max Lucado

“He is not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would.” Matthew 28:6

“When I first saw Him being led up the hill, I noticed He was different. He didn’t demand we let Him go. He didn’t shout or resist. And when we hammered the spike into His hand —” Claudius paused, wondering if he should have mentioned this. An encouraging nod from one of the women told him to continue. “— when we placed the spike in His hand, He held His hand still. He didn’t fight.”

“Sounds like something He would do,” a man in the back stated. Several nodded in agreement.

“He never seemed angry.” Claudius’s voice grew softer as he continued. “He never blamed anyone. People were cursing and laughing at Him, but not once did I see His eyes lose their calm.”

No one moved as Claudius spoke. When he had shared these events with his superiors earlier in the day, they had scoffed. It didn’t matter to the Romans how Jesus had acted. But it mattered to these people. They wanted to know every detail. For the first time Claudius felt a camaraderie with his listeners — a camaraderie based on a fascination with one Man.

He continued, “Forgive them,” I heard

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Understanding Iran

Michael Ledeen

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The following is adapted from a speech delivered at sea on August 4, 2008, aboard the Regent Seven Seas Mariner during the Hillsdale College “North to Alaska” cruise.

IF YOU READ the news carefully, you will find a notable story about Iran every morning. Nine times out of ten it is hilarious. Today’s Iran story is that the head of its armed forces announced that it has a new missile with a range of 300 kilometers or more, manufactured with technology that has never been used before in the history of the world. There is neither a picture of the missile nor any information about the nature of the missile, and, in fact, you can be quite sure that there is no such missile at all. Just within the last month, Iran released a photograph of a missile launch that initially caused great consternation in the West. It showed four missiles being launched, more or less simultaneously, with wonderful contrails behind them. This was

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"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Patrick Henry, patriot and Founding Father of our country, the United States of America.

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Him say. And when He spoke, I looked up. He was looking at me. His face was a mask of blood and spit. But He was praying for me.

The only movement in the room was the nodding of heads.

“After the crucifixion I helped lower the body and lay it on the ground. I waited as these women —” He motioned to several near the front. “I waited as they prepared the body, and then I saw that it was placed in the tomb.”

“I thought my day was over. It took four men to close the grave’s opening with a huge stone. When we turned to leave, word came that Pilate and the Temple leaders were nervous that someone would steal the body. We were told to seal the tomb and stand guard all night.”

“There were several of us, so we built a fire and took turns. I was the first to sleep. When they woke me for my turn, it was an hour before dawn. The night was black – as black as any night I can remember. The moon was small, and the stars were hidden by the clouds.”

“I stood on one side. Another soldier stood on the other. He laughed about how easy it was to guard a tomb. Not often does a soldier get guard duty in a cemetery. Maybe we dozed off because at first I thought I was dreaming. The ground began to shake – violently. It shook so hard I fell to the ground. Rocks fell from the walls behind us. Sparks flew from the fire. The soldiers asleep on the ground jumped up. I know they were standing because when the light hit them, I could see their faces like it was broad daylight.”

“What light?” someone asked.

“You tell me!” Claudius demanded. “Where did that light come from? The rock rolled back and the light roared out. A burst of fire with no heat. A gust of wind blew from the tomb, put out the fire, knocked us back, and the next thing I knew, the tomb was empty. I looked at the soldiers. They were stunned. About that time

these two women appeared.”

“That’s when we saw the angel!” Mary blurted. “He was sitting on the rock! He told us that Jesus was not here. He told us that . . .”

She hesitated, knowing her words would be hard to believe.

“He told us that Jesus is no longer dead!”

Her words rang in the room like the peal of a bell. No one dared speak. Finally one did. A clean-shaven younger man said softly, but firmly, “Just like He said He would.”

“You mean, He said He would do this?” Claudius asked.

“More than once. But we didn’t understand. We didn’t believe. Until today.”

“John,” one of the women asked the man speaking, “you were there. You went to the tomb. Is that what you saw?”

“Peter and I saw the tomb. We saw it open and empty. But we didn’t see Jesus.”

Once again the room was quiet. Then Claudius broke the silence. “I have a question. I’ve told you what you wanted to know. Now you tell me what I want to know. This has been on my mind all weekend. It’s been on my heart ever since I struck the nail into Jesus’ hand. Who is this man? Who is this Jesus?”

If any head had hung before, it lifted at this moment. If any thoughts had wandered, they wandered no more.

“Is there any doubt?” Mary said. Her eyes were bright. She jumped to her feet as she spoke. “I saw Him! I saw Him risen from the dead. He is who He said He was. He is the Son of God!”

With that statement the room broke into chaos.

“Impossible!”

“No, she is right. Let her speak!”

“Why did He let them kill Him if He is the Son of God?”

“It doesn’t make sense.”

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If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there'd be a shortage of sand.

Milton Friedman

“What doesn’t make sense is why you can’t believe!”

Claudius was silent. What he was hearing, he could not handle. But what he had seen at the grave, he could not deny. He leaned over and put his elbows on his knees and buried his face in his hands. Thoughts rumbled in his head. He was so intent that he didn’t notice the sudden silence. Stillness reigned for several seconds before he raised his head. A light filled the room. He looked at the door and the window; they were still closed.

Faces that had been cast in shadows now beamed. All eyes stared in his direction – not at him, but behind him. But before he could turn to see what they were seeing, a hand was on his shoulder. When Claudius turned to look at the hand, he found the answer for his heart.

The hand was pierced.

The Scandal of the Empty Tomb: The Glory of the Resurrection

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

“I do not think that anyone, anywhere, at any time brings dead people back to life.” That blunt assessment comes from John Dominic Crossan, a leading figure in the Jesus Seminar, and one of the most influential authors on religion in post-Christian America. Thomas Sheehan, another fellow of the Seminar, put it even more directly: “Jesus, regardless of where his corpse ended up, is dead and remains dead.”

The claim that Jesus actually rose from the dead on the third day is perhaps the greatest scandal of authentic Christianity in the face of modern secularism. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is so absolutely fundamental and necessary

to biblical Christianity — and to the Gospel — that its abandonment would mean the end of Christianity as revealed in the New Testament. Jesus would be just one more Palestinian rebel; one more wisdom teacher with rag-tag disciples.

Just in time for Easter, (2008) the Jesus Seminar is out with *The Acts of Jesus*, advertised as “The search for the authentic deeds of Jesus.” True to form, the fellows of the seminar have rejected most of the content of the New Testament as legendary. Using their customary procedure of voting by colored beads (red=authentic, pink=probably authentic, grey=probably not authentic, black=definitely not authentic) the seminar found only 16% of the events they considered to be either authentic or probably authentic.

In 1993, the Jesus Seminar released their version of the New Testament gospels. Using the same color-coded system, the seminar voted that only 18% of the sayings of Jesus recorded in the New Testament are either true or probably true. Put simply, their red letter edition of the gospels shows very little red.

Turning to the central issue of the resurrection of Jesus, the seminar released the following conclusions:

- * The resurrection of Jesus did not involve the resuscitation of a corpse.
- * Belief in Jesus’ resurrection did not depend on what happened to his body.
- * The body of Jesus decayed as do other corpses.
- * The resurrection was not an event that happened on the first Easter Sunday; it was not an event that could have been recorded by a video camera.
- * It is not necessary to believe in the

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"We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

James Madison, the fourth President of the United States of America.

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historical veracity of the resurrection narratives.

This denial of the resurrection as historical fact is now common in modern theology. By the nineteenth century, the biblical critics made a distinction between the mythic Christ and the historical Jesus. Later, critics would name this division the Jesus of History vs. The Christ of Faith. With the rise of historical criticism, the resurrection and the miraculous world of the New Testament were simply out of date. As Rudolf Bultmann, the most influential New Testament scholar of the twentieth century, commented: "It is impossible to use electric light and to avail ourselves of modern medical and surgical discoveries and at the same time believe in the New Testament world of demons and spirits."

We now know, claimed Bultmann, that bodies do not rise from the dead, and it is high time Christians stopped making such claims. Bultmann attempted to rescue some spiritual meaning from the disciples' belief in the resurrection, but later critical scholars saw little worth recovering. Gerd Ludemann, formerly of Vanderbilt University, minces no words, but simply states that "the tomb of Jesus was not empty, but full, and his body did not disappear, but rotted away."

Marcus Borg, another fellow of the Jesus Seminar, denies that the empty tomb is necessary to the Christian faith. "I think the resurrection of Jesus really happened, but I have no idea if it involves anything happening to his corpse, and, therefore, I have no idea whether it involves an empty tomb . . . so I would have no problem whatsoever with archaeologists finding the corpse of Jesus. For me that would not be a discrediting of the Christian faith or the Christian tradition."

The empty tomb does not matter? The Apostle Paul saw the case quite differently. Speaking for the modern secular naturalistic worldview, the Jesus Seminar may dismiss the resurrection as myth, claiming that, as all right-thinking moderns know, dead persons simply do not rise from the dead. Paul, who evidently would not qualify for membership on the Jesus Seminar, leaves no room for negotiation: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain." [I Corinthians 15:13-14]

Paul sets himself — and the true Church — against Bultmann, the Jesus Seminar, and all who deny or deride the empty tomb. Either the tomb is empty or our faith is in vain. Paul wants nothing to do with Bultmann's effort to find a spiritual meaning without a historical event, nor with the Jesus Seminar's anti-supernaturalism. Against modern skeptics, Paul cared deeply about whether the tomb was empty.

Why do so many hate the very idea of the risen Christ? Because the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the vindication of God's purpose in sending his Son for the redemption of sinners. A world full of degenerate moderns — who do not even see themselves as sinners — wants nothing to do with Jesus Christ as our sinless substitute, who shed his blood for the remission of our sins.

The work of the Jesus Seminar tells us virtually nothing about Jesus, but a great deal about the liberal scholars who sit around with colored beads, creating a Jesus in their own image. The Jesus invented by the Jesus Seminar is a Palestinian smart aleck who sounds like a cynical and sarcastic intellectual. Coincidence? No

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"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

-H. L. Mencken

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historical apologies are needed for the New Testament. The Jesus Seminar fascinates the media because its reports make for a good story.

But the Church knows the real story, and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The tomb was really empty. The Jesus of history is the Christ of faith. Looking into the empty tomb, the women heard the angels ask, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen."

That has been the faith of the true Church throughout the centuries. That will be the faith of the true Church when the risen Christ returns to claim his own. He is risen. He is risen indeed!

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supposedly a new intermediate range missile that could hit almost any target in the Middle East including U.S. military bases. Upon examination, that photograph turned out to be a double phony. First, there was only one missile, and the Iranians replicated it to make it seem as if there were four. Second, the missile was two years old and was not an intermediate range missile at all. A few days later, the Iranians announced that they had a fighter airplane and produced a photo of it. Upon examination, this airplane turned out to be a plastic toy made by Mattel with Iranian markings drawn on it.

So, the first thing to understand about Iran is that it is a country where lies and deception are a way of life. Another important thing to know has to do with the seriousness of Iran as a potential military enemy. In that regard, consider a story that originally appeared in U.S. News & World Report about two years ago. It concerned a joint Special Forces team of five or six Iraqis and five or six Americans that was patrolling the Iran-Iraq border because the Iranians had been smuggling improvised explosive devices and Iran-trained terrorists into Iraq. Off in the distance, this team spotted an Iranian military officer in uniform on Iraqi soil. They went after him, and he quickly hopped back onto the Iranian side. As the team continued along the border, they spotted

either the same person or another Iranian officer in uniform, and again, they went after him. This time he didn't move, and when the Americans started talking to him, the Iraqis with them disappeared and the Americans realized they had been surrounded by 15 or 20 armed Iranian soldiers. The Iranian officer told them to lay down their weapons or they would be shot. In response, the young captain leading the Americans told his men to open fire. Eleven of the Iranians were killed, no American was injured, and the remaining Iranians fled across the border.

This tells us, first, that the Iranians are tricky. They had arranged with the Iraqi Special Forces to turn the Americans over to be held as hostages, and then lured the Americans into an ambush. But it also tells us that they are not really prepared to fight—which is, in fact, what our forces have found in Iraq. We have captured and killed an enormous number of Iranian intelligence and military officers, and very rarely have they ever offered any serious resistance.

The Terror Connection

The simple facts regarding Iran are easy to understand. We are dealing with a regime that came to power in 1979, when the Iranian revolution overthrew the Shah. Immediately thereafter, Iran declared war against the United States, branding us "The Great Satan." The Iranians have been at war against us for 30 years, and prior to 9/11 the Iranian regime was directly or indirectly responsible for the murder of more Americans than any other country or organization in the world. It also may well be that the Iranian regime was involved in 9/11. In this regard, I call your attention to one of the most forgotten documents in contemporary American history. In the fall of 1998, the American government indicted Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda. There is a paragraph in the indictment that reads as follows:

Al Qaeda forged alliances with the National Islamic Front in the Sudan and with the government of Iran and its associated terrorist

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From Cowhand to Minister

Back in the early years of West Texas when ranch hands were cowboys, tougher than nails, ranches were miles from any semblance of a decent road, railroads were the high water mark of the modern age, hard work was something you did if you wanted to eat, and fences were new and required a great deal of maintenance—then, personal toughness was a requirement.

In the midst of Springtime, two mounted cowboys riding along side a barbed wire fence, one of them was searching for meaning in life, the other a very proud, vulgar man who resented any goodness what-so-ever. Their primary mission was to repair and secure the fence between them. Both were hardened men who had no fear of any man or any beast. They had been mounted for most of the day and had stopped only to make repairs on the fence. A squall line was rapidly approaching from their rear, this meant a good soaking and the possibility of being pelted by hailstones. This fact did not amuse Billy Frank the older of the two. He started complaining and cursing about the drenching they were about to receive as they dug their rain gear from the bottom of their saddlebags.

Before the rain began, a bolt of lightning struck a fence post ahead and between them which frightened both horses and ignited the sparse prairie grass.

"You missed me you Jew Bastard!" Billy cursed at God as he shook his fist up at the heavens, simultaneously struggling to control his excited mount.

Obie Fleming watched in amazement as his mare was bucking hard trying to rid herself of him and run away, but somehow Obie managed her.

In less than a few seconds after Billy Frank had cursed God, another bolt of lightning struck—this one more powerful than the first, the crashing sound was deafening, it left Billy and his mount dead and smoking on the ground amidst the burning prairie grass.

A moment in time can change a man. Obie suddenly became afraid and started to pray aloud. "Lord have mercy on me a sinful man! Dear

God, I'll do anything, I beg for your mercy!" The rain began and the grass fire was extinguished. There was nothing Obie could do. Rainwater began to puddle around the smoldering body of Billy Frank lying on the ground with his right leg beneath his dead mount. The disgusting mixed odor of cooked flesh, burning hair and ozone remained in the air.

With a ringing in his ears, Fleming continued to ride north in the cold soaking rain toward the ranch headquarters two miles away.

Upon reaching the empty bunkhouse, Fleming fell on his knees in prayer, rainwater still dripping from his wet slicker and asked God to come into his life. He confessed and repented for all his sins and told God that he was completely willing to do anything and everything that God asked of him. And, he did just that. He claimed an old dusty Bible that had been sitting on a shelf in the bunk house unread for years, and he began to study it. He continued as a ranch hand for a few years, however, he was a completely transformed man. Eventually, Fleming became a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and served as the Pastor of a Small Church in El Paso, Texas for nearly 50 years. He died while sleeping and went to heaven in 1953 at the ripe old age of 94. He left behind a wife, four sons, three daughters, twenty-three grandchildren and now there are more than sixty great-grand children. Most all of them are living examples of loving Christian men, women, boys and girls.

Based on a true story.

By A.V. Yaw

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group, Hezbollah, for the purpose of working together against their perceived common enemies in the West, particularly the United States.

When you read the newspapers nowadays you find every now and then someone saying that there is no real evidence that Iran is supporting Al Qaeda. More often than not, this person immediately goes on to say that Iran would not ever

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support Al Qaeda because Iran is Shiite and Al Qaeda is Sunni. This is nonsense.

The current chairman of the Intelligence Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives was once asked the difference between Sunnis and Shiites, and he didn't know the answer. The difference boils down to a historical disagreement about the proper line of succession to the prophet Mohammed. Sunnis and Shiites have been arguing about this since the Middle Ages, and it has played itself out into a very interesting disagreement over the relationship between mosque and state. In short, Sunnis have long believed that it is legitimate for religious leaders to function in government since Mohammed's successor is known and is with us, whereas Shiites have traditionally believed that the rightful successor to Mohammed is yet to come, and that therefore no religious leader is entitled to sit in a position of secular power. This is why the Ayatollah Sistani, who is the highest ranking and the most esteemed Shiite figure in Iraq, does not go to Parliament. He and other Iraqi Shiite clergy express their opinions about religious, political, and moral issues, but they don't sit in positions of political power.

This Shiite view on religion and politics broke down in Iran with the revolution of 1979. When the Ayatollah Khomeini took over in that revolution, he said that not only was it allowable for religious leaders to govern civil society, but indeed it was now mandatory. Khomeini's most revealing line, spoken on the airplane from France to Iran when he was about to seize power, came in answer to a question about what his rule would mean for Iran. Khomeini said, in effect, that he didn't give a damn about Iran. He was leading all of Islam, not Iran, he said, and he would happily sacrifice everyone in Iran if he could accomplish the global triumph of Islam.

So Sunnis and Shiites traditionally have this theological disagreement, but it isn't an unbridgeable chasm, as Khomeini's example shows. And in the history of the Iranian revolution, Sunnis and Shiites have worked mostly together from the very beginning—indeed, they worked together even before that revolution began. Iran's Revolutionary

Guard Corps was created in the early 1970s in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, and was trained by Yasser Arafat's --Al Fatah. Arafat was a super-Sunni who came out of the Muslim Brotherhood. In other words, today's most hardcore armed Shiite organization was trained by hardcore Sunnis. Sunnis and Shiites worked hand-in-glove to create a terrorist alliance that overthrew the Shah, took power in Iran, and has waged war against the U.S. ever since. The lesson here is that when you hear somebody say that Sunnis and Shiites can't work together, you should run, because those people don't know what they are talking about.

Can We Talk?

The Ayatollah Khomeini installed a regime in Iran which is best described as Islamofascist. It has followed, in every major detail, the model laid down by Hitler and Mussolini in the 1920s and '30s. It is a single party regime, and a dictator makes all the key decisions. There are today endless articles in the press about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the current president of Iran, but Iranian presidents come and go. The successor to the Ayatollah Khomeini, Ali Khamenei, has the title of Supreme Leader. He is the only person who really matters in Iran. He makes all the crucial decisions. The Revolutionary Guard Corps reports directly to him. Furthermore, if you watch Leni Riefenstahl's infamous 1935 film *Triumph of the Will*, about a National Socialist Party day in Nuremberg, full of "Sieg Heils" and programmed events, you'll see the similarity to rallies today in Tehran where they gather tens of thousands of people to chant "Death to America." And like the Nazis, the Iranians mean it.

My favorite response to people who say, "Why don't we just sit down and talk with the Iranians?" is to remind them of the movie *Goldfinger*. There's a wonderful scene in the middle of the movie when Sean Connery as James Bond is spread-eagled on a sheet of gold, a laser beam is cutting through the gold sheet and about to slice him in half, and Gert Fröbe as Goldfinger is standing up on a balcony looking down at him. Bond looks up and asks. "What is this Goldfinger?"

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Do you expect me to talk?” And Goldfinger replies, “No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to die.” That’s exactly the Iranian attitude.

In fact, we have been talking to the Iranians, almost non-stop, for 30 years. There isn’t an American president from Jimmy Carter to the present who has not authorized negotiations with Iran. The classic case occurred during the Clinton administration. We ended all kinds of sanctions against Iran, let all kinds of Iranians into the U.S. for the first time since the 1970s, had sporting matches with the Iranians, hosted Iranian cultural events, and unfroze Iranian bank accounts. Then President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright started publicly apologizing to Iran for this and that. But when all was said and done, Ali Khamenei reminded everyone that Iran is in a state of war with the U.S., and that was the end of negotiations. This is what has happened every single time we have tried talking to or appeasing Iran.

Einstein’s definition of a madman is somebody who keeps doing the same thing over and over while hoping for different results. Only a madman can believe that negotiating with the Iranians will produce some result different from what we’ve had now for 30 years, including very recently under the current administration. But many continue to believe it.

There is a striking tendency among people in modern Western governments not to recognize the existence of evil in the world. My professional career has largely been spent studying evil. My Ph.D. is in Modern European History, and I studied fascism. Before that I was research assistant for a historian named George Mosse, who wrote books on National Socialism. People from my generation studied these things because we were trying desperately to understand how men like Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin came to power, and why nobody saw it coming and understood what was at stake. Why was there the humiliation of Munich and then the Nazi invasion of Poland before an appeasement government in Britain fell and Winston Churchill came to power? Why did it require Pearl Harbor for the U.S. to enter World War II? Could we get

to the point where we understood these evil regimes so well that when the next one came along we would see it coming and stop it in its tracks? But over the past 30 years we have seen the same situation play out with Iran, and still we dream of negotiation.

In Natan Sharansky’s useful formulation, if you want to know how a country will behave internationally, look at the way it treats its own people. The Iranian regime treats its people with total contempt. Consider its treatment of women. Although you will never hear the American women’s rights movement complain about it, women in Iran are officially worth half a man. It is in Iran’s Constitution. If a woman who is pregnant with a male fetus gets killed in an automobile accident, Sharia law requires the guilty party in the other car to pay a full fine for the fetus and only half that fine for the woman. This carries through every aspect of Iranian society. Women can’t own or dispose of property. If a woman’s husband dies, the family of the husband disposes of his estate. That’s the contempt that awaits us if the Iranians have their way. In fact, they view the entire non-Muslim world as worth even less than Muslim women.

An Implacable Foe

The U.S. has much to learn about operating in the Middle East. Consider our history with Iraq. We went to war in 1991 to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Nobody in the Middle East thought that we had assembled a coalition of 500,000 soldiers just for that reason. They took it for granted that we were going to destroy Saddam Hussein, remove his regime, and replace it with something more civilized. That was true even of the Saudis. People who were at the highest levels of the first Bush administration have told me that Saudi Arabia was begging us to go to Baghdad even though publicly they were saying that we should stop at the borders of Kuwait. Yet stop we did. Even worse, President Bush the elder said how wonderful it would be if the Shiites and the Kurds would rise up against Saddam and liberate the country themselves. The

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Kurds and Shiites took this as an open invitation and a promise of American support if they did that. So they rose up, we didn't lift a finger for them, and they were massacred. In light of this, it was less than smart for American policy makers to believe in 2003, when we went into Iraq for the second time, that most Iraqis would trust us.

Look also at recent American policy toward Iran. Since 2001, Iran has been identified as part of the "axis of evil" and branded as the world's greatest sponsor of international terrorism. The Soviets always used to say, "If you say A, you have to do B." That is, if you accept certain kinds of information, that drives you to act. But we have not acted against the Iranian regime, even though, as luck would have it, Iran is tailor-made for the same political strategy that toppled the Soviet empire. If you stop to consider that we brought down that empire with the active support of maybe five or ten percent of its people, how could we possibly fail to bring down the regime in Iran—a country where we know from the regime's own polls that upwards of 70 percent of the people want an end to their government? But the Iranians, too, have been living in that part of the world and have seen American promises come to nothing. The Iranian people are waiting to see some kind of real action by the U.S. to support them against Khamenei, Ahmadinejad, and the Revolutionary Guard Corps because they know that the same thing will happen to them that happened to the Iraqi Kurds and Shiites if we are not there actively supporting them. Nor do I mean with ground troops. We should support democratic revolution in Iran.

The bottom line is that Iran is our principal enemy in the Middle East, and perhaps in the entire world. It is also a terribly vulnerable regime, and it knows that—which is why it makes up stories about airplanes and missiles that it doesn't have. As for the question of nuclear weapons, it seems hard to imagine that Iran does not already have them. Iranians are not stupid, and they have been at this for a minimum of 20 years in a world where almost

every major component needed for a nuclear weapon—not to mention old nuclear weapons—are for sale. A lot of these components are for sale nearby in Pakistan. And if the Iranians do have a weapon, it is impossible to imagine that, at a moment of crisis, they will not use it. The point is, we have an implacable enemy which has no intention of negotiating a settlement with us. They want us dead or dominated, just as our enemies did in the 1930s and '40s. You can't make deals with a regime like that.

Our choices with regard to Iran are to challenge them directly and win this war now, to do so only after they kill a lot more of us in some kind of attack or to surrender. There is no painless way out, and the longer we wait, the greater the pain is going to be.

CAUTION: *Understand this; any and all articles that promote war should be taken with a grain of salt and carefully scrutinized. During the past several centuries war has been the ways and means of world bankers to obtain wealth and power. In most cases, the very ones who promoted the past wars have been connected to one secret society or another. Most all of them are unaware of their own evil and each of them are unknowingly minions of the same Satan, the great deceiver and conspirator.*

Comment by AWD

Around The Doudney House

By Barkley Doudney Schnauzer Dog

I've been around here awhile now, but not long enough to learn everything I need to know in order to make Linda happy. First of all, I have to watch my step or she might step on me. She says that I am always under feet. Not only can a black gal get stepped on in the dimly lit hallway, but being stepped on hurts. My energy level is another problem that I must learn to deal with; it has gotten me yelled at more than once by Linda. I can't seem to resist the chance to jump upon Linda's leg, even when I know deep in my heart that sometimes this will displease her, I forget and before you know it I'm jumping and she is yelling. You would think that me being a puppy and her a grown woman that she would cut me some slack, but not her, not lately anyway. The Boss handles things much differently. When he doesn't want to

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mess with me or me mess with him, he just leaves me alone. No yelling from the Boss, but, I'm usually in a cage unable to do anything but bark, and if I bark he just ignores me.

When I'm on duty, I spend most of my time in Linda's lap or at her feet and during my off time I'm in the back yard just hanging out. Oh, I can come and go as I please as there is a doggie door to the outside which gives me the freedom to roam a little. I haven't learned to do a lot of barking at the neighbors as they are much larger than I and I don't want to get them riled up. I may be a young pup, but I'm not stupid.

I've gotta tell ya, There isn't too much that I can do wrong around here. I kinda have the run of the place. Ya have to expect a little yelling from a woman once in a while. The only thing more of a gamble than man and woman getting married is the gamble of what kind of a person will adopt a good, young girl pup like myself. I got lucky—if ya know what I mean. 🐾

R-12

Dichlorodifluoromethane (R-12), usually sold under the brand name Freon-12, is a chlorofluorocarbon halomethane, commonly known as CFC, used as a refrigerant and aerosol spray propellant until its manufacture was banned in the United States and many countries in 1994 due to concerns about damage to the ozone layer. It is soluble in many organic solvents.

What does R-12 have to do with anything anymore? It once was a very cheap way to keep cool, but someone said that it is destroying our ozone layer and managed to vilify it and to eventually make its manufacture unlawful in this USA.

Now I am glad that there was this controversy because it made R-12 easy to remember. And R-12 now means to me Romans 12 which is the description of the kind of Christian I want to be. From the first paragraph to the last it defines the traits of a true disciple of Jesus Christ. There is nothing to be done

except to choose. It reads:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Romans 12:1-13 ESV

I ran out of room. But check it out and read the whole chapter of Romans 12. It is a detailed description of a disciple of Jesus Christ. To know Him is to love Him, to love Him is to serve Him and to serve him is to present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Do you know someone that the above scripture describes? If you do, you know a real, certified, bona-fide disciple of Jesus Christ—a real honest to goodness Christian.

By A.V. Yaw

Socialism [modern liberalism] is not the pioneer of a better and finer world, but the spoiler of what thousands of years of civilization have created. It does not build; it destroys. For destruction is the essence of it. It produces nothing, it only consumes what the social order based on private ownership of the means of production has created.

~Ludwig von Mises