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Losing Is an Option

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. --Luke 21:36

Dear Friends:

It has been the policy of the Bush administration since September 11, 2001, to refer to Islam as a “religion of peace.” In keeping with that policy, the White House on Monday, issued a greeting to Muslims worldwide celebrating the *Hajj*, noting that this was a time for “demonstrating charity and reaching out to family, friends, and those in need.”

The White House memo, however, did not receive mention on Iranian TV broadcasts from Mecca where pilgrims had gathered for a “peace” rally. Viewers tuning into the *Hajj* celebration from Tehran were treated to a speech from their spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamenei who called America the “Great Satan,” while crowds chanted, “May the hands of the infidels be chopped off,” and “Death to Israel! Death to America!” Interestingly, polls indicate that Islam is viewed more favorably in America now than before the events of 9/11.

For the moment, U.S. news sellers are focused on the confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee for Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito. But, following an up or down vote on the nominee in the full Senate, the war and Middle East policies will resume center stage. With eyes to the November mid-term elections and control of Congress at stake, more than a few candidates will be tempted to pledge a vote to terminate the war in Iraq—especially since public support for the war is in decline.

When it comes to the *war on terror*, Gary Bauer, President of *American Values*, thinks “losing is an option.” He argues that virtually every step President Bush has taken since September 11th to help ensure our victory has been opposed by the political Left and big media.¹ As a result, Bauer says the country is divided right down the middle in the polls. He shudders when considering the likely consequences of a pre-determined withdrawal from Iraq. In that, he is not alone.

Chuck Colson, former White House advisor to President Richard Nixon and founder of *Prison Fellowship*, was in the Seattle area over the weekend to address Christian leaders on prison ministry issues. During an open question session, Colson was asked to elaborate on his most recent and most unusual *BreakPoint* commentary on the subject of a unilateral pullout from Iraq.² Following is that commentary:

Something very strange happened to me this past week. I was seated in my library chair, mulling over current events, trying to make a few [N]ew [Y]ear's predictions, which is the custom for commentators. I was concentrating hard, when suddenly I saw before my eyes a headline from the New York Times. It read, “Congress Votes to End War; Troops Ordered to Abandon Iraq.”

The view changed. Just as in Vietnam three decades ago, I saw Americans clinging to helicopters, trying to get themselves out of Baghdad along with friendly Shiite Muslims. There was massive confusion, bombs going off in the background.

And then, I saw pictures out of Afghanistan. Al Qaeda had toppled the new Afghan government. Marines and soldiers again were hurriedly boarding choppers...

The next thing I saw was a picture of Palestine, where most of the al Qaeda terrorists had now gone. The Israeli government was in disarray, reeling under a series of huge bomb blasts in Jerusalem.

Country after country was falling to the Islamic fascists: Saudi Arabia. Turkey. Egypt. For the most part, the terrorists simply refused to ship oil, and what they did ship was priced at over \$150 a barrel. It was a worldwide crisis. Europe quickly signed a non-aggression pact with al Qaeda in exchange for oil.

Then came the most devastating picture of all: panic in the streets of Washington, D.C., as a dirty bomb exploded not a quarter of a mile from the Capitol. Huge sections of the city were cordoned off, uninhabitable. Even people with the best protective equipment suffered serious radiation burns. Projections were that the area would be off-limits for years. Then came the bombing of the Holland Tunnel, connecting New York and New Jersey—then the collapse of the pillars of the Golden Gate Bridge.

The government threatened retaliation, of course—but there was no one to retaliate against. The Islamofascists were spread throughout the world, and it was impossible to strike against all the countries that were harboring them or being run by them. Osama...himself appeared on Al Jazeera, boasting that he had known all along that the Americans wouldn't fight.

By now, most American television was not operating. But I could still get one channel. Talking heads were arguing frantically over how this could have happened. One man's voice stood out when he said, "It was all so foreseeable. Once you rule religion a private matter, and declare all religions alike, no one in this country could understand the dimensions of a great religious struggle. No one understood the clash of civilizations or the evil of Islamofascism. We didn't even have the language to describe religious beliefs anymore..."

And that's when I woke up in a cold sweat.

It was 5:00 a.m. I went immediately to the front door. Good—the newspaper was there. I flipped it open. There was nothing in the headlines except the confirmation fight over Alito, more quibbling over Iraq—all the usual banter that goes on endlessly in the press. But as I walked into the house, my knees were still shaking. It was only a dream. We're okay, I told myself. Or are we?

Although Colson doesn't suggest his dream was from God, it's chilling to ponder.

Sadly, many leaders see the war in terms of politics and economics. The Church knows better. We have been given glimpses of end-time events so that we will not be ensnared by that which is coming upon the world, our hearts will not fail us for fear, and we will occupy until He returns.

Dare we neglect to watch, fast, and pray—especially for our leaders and those in authority?

Sincerely,

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

¹ Bauer, Gary, *American Values*, [Losing Is An Option](#), 1/4/2006, www.ouramericanvalues.org

² Colson, Chuck, *BreakPoint Commentaries*, [A New Year's Dream: Nightmare or Prophecy?](#), 1/3/2006