

Headline Views - (written 9/15/08 after
a weekend of prayer & fasting - based upon
news headlines of that time)

HUMAN ERROR, AN "ACT OF GOD,"
AND NO FAITH IN THE ECONOMY.
A COMPUTER TRAIN, A HURRICANE,
AND A PAGE FROM DEUTERONOMY.

AS POLITICIANS BICKER,
THE STOCK MARKETS TICKER
SHOWS A "FLICKER" OF FEAR.

AND THE "HEADLINE NEWS"
ONLY HIDE THE VIEWS
THAT "THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES" ARE NEAR.

WHAT COULD PEOPLE POSSIBLY BE THINKING,
WHO SAY "YOUR END OF THE BOAT IS SINKING."

IN JUST ONE 48 HOUR SPAN,
IN IRAN, INDONESIA, AND JAPAN
THE EARTH "QUAKED" IN VARIOUS PLACES,
SHAKING MORE THAN JUST VASES.

THE TREMORS RUN THROUGH OUR TOMORROWS,
LIKE THE BEGINNING OF OUR SORROWS -
BLUE CHIP STOCKS REDUCED TO RUBBLE
IN THE TIMES OF JACOB'S TROUBLES.

BEAR STERNS AND LEHMAN BROTHERS
SHOWED A WEAKNESS IN THE SYSTEM,
DON'T BE LONG TIL SOME OTHERS
WONDER HOW WE COULD HAVE MISSED THEM.

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THE TEARS BEING SHED FOR LEHMAN?
I GUESS PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN.
WERE NOT FIRST, SHED BY "FREEMEN" -
THEY BUILT A FORTUNE BY TRADING COTTON.

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY BLOWS
STORM CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON.
THE TIMES OF JACOB'S TROUBLES
WILL NOT BE TOO SURPRISING.

IF WE'RE THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD,
COULD SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME.
WHY THE HOMELESS RATE SEEMS TO ESCALATE,
AND THERE'S NO WAR ON POVERTY.

FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO HAVE PENTHOUSE VIEWS -
I DON'T BEGRUDGE THEM, NOR ENVY THEIR PLANS.
IT'S THE OTHER PART THAT BREAKS MY HEART -
THE HOMELESS EATING OUT OF GARBAGE CANS.

NOW I'M NOT TRYING TO RATTLE NERVES,
I HOPE NO ONE FEELS DISRESPECTED -
I JUST HOPE THIS POEM SOMEHOW SERVES
TO SHOW HOW WE'RE ALL CONNECTED.

IF YOU WATCH THE NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR VIEWS,
I THINK THAT ALL COULD AGREE.
THE TENSIONS RUNNING HIGH, AND WITH CASH 'DRIVE-BY',
THERE'S JUST MORE HOSTILITY.

We couldn't build PRISONS fast enough,
OR throw up enough "BORDER FENCES".
NOT STOP MORAL decline with a hand out!
IT'S TIME WE ALL came to OUR SENSES.

BANKS ARE NERVOUS, PEOPLE ARE SCARED,
WHO HAS TIME FOR A "WAR ON TERROR"
IT'S TIME THE GOSPEL TRUTH BE DECLARED,
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HUMAN ERROR.

WHAT COULD PEOPLE POSSIBLY BE PANICKING?
COULD THERE HEADS BE BURIED IN THE SAND.
WHO SAY "YOUR END OF THE BOAT IS SINKING".
COULD IT BE THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.

"THAT PROBLEM'S UP THERE IN THE HILLS" THEY SAY,
"WE'LL BE SAFE DOWN HERE IN THE VALLEY".
OK, "OUR STREETS ARE SAFE - ABOVE THE FAY,
THE PROBLEM'S BACK THERE IN THE VALLEY".

SHE SAID "HEALTH INSURANCE COVERS MY KID'S SHOTS,
THEY SIMPLY SCHEDULE VACCINATIONS".
WHILE IN THE RESTAURANT WASHING POTS
WITH HEPATITIS COMPLICATIONS -

IT'S THE GUY WHO TOSSED HER CHEF SALAD,
WITH HIS SLIGHTLY TREMBLING HANDS -
BECAUSE HIS GREEN CARD WAS INVALID,
HE COULDN'T GET CHECKED FOR HIS SWOLLEN GLANDS.



He said "My kids go to private school."
And he said it rather proudly.
But the "drop out dealer" called him a fool,
And walked away laughing loudly.

His kids took his jewelry to the pawnshop,
When their allowance suddenly ran dry -
And though they felt badly, they had to cop,
They couldn't face him if they weren't high.

See - whatever happens on that mountain top,
Will surely roll down into the valley.
And your "safe streets" will never stop,
The crimes born back there in the alley.

So now we chase the Taliban
From the mountains of Afghanistan
Across the border into Pakistan -
How long until we bomb Iran?

People please! Come to your senses!
We need more than border fences.
All this intrigue and suspense is -
Just a part of our recompenses.

"The people shall labor in vain
And the high gates shall be burned with fire"
That's a fact that was made plain -
Way back in the Book of Jeremiah.

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THE FRONT LINE IN THE WAR ON TERROR IS IN OUR HEARTS - AND IN OUR MINDS. TO BLAME ISLAM WOULD BE AN ERROR, LIKE SQUEEZING JUICE FROM THE RINDS.

THE RINDS ARE JUST THE COVER, WHAT'S INSIDE IS THE FRUIT. WE MUST DIG DEEPER TO DISCOVER THE BASIS FOR THE BITTER ROOT.

IT MAY SEEM LIKE A MYSTERY, WHEN IN FACT, IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR - JUST TAKE A LOOK AT HISTORY, MAN - A BOMB CAN'T STOP AN IDEA.

"WHERE DO WARS AND FIGHTING COME FROM AMONG YOU DO THEY NOT SPRING FROM YOUR OWN DESIRES; OR SOMEONE SPEAKING ANOTHER TONGUE - WHO HAS SOMETHING THE WORLD REQUIRES.

AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT ONLY OUR WAY OF THINKING IS BEST - IT WILL ALWAYS BRING US TO THE BRINK, OF WAVING SWORDS AS IF WE WERE POSSESSED

THE STOCK MARKET TANKS, THE MAJOR BANKS, AND INVESTMENT FIRMS BEGIN TO FAIL. THE PRESIDENT SAID "THEY'RE SACROSANCT," AND GOT THE TAXPAYERS TO PUT UP BAIL.

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NOW TAXPAYERS WHO CAN'T PAY THEIR MORTGAGES,
 PAY TO BAIL OUT INVESTMENT BANKS -
 WHILE DIGGING OUT OF DEBT WITH SAND WEDGE
 AND FINDING SPARE CHANGE TO FILL THEIR TANKS.

BUT NOW "WHO WILL GUARD THE GUARDIANS"
 WHO HAVE THEIR HANDS DEEP IN OUR POCKETS.
 THE LAST STAND BY SOME POLITICIANS
 WHO TOOK OUR FUTURE JUST TO HOOK IT.

THEY WANT TO PROPEL IT UP AND HOPE IT FLOATS.
 THEN JUMP THE SINKING SHIP LIKE RATS -
 THAT WAY, AFTER THE COUNTRY VOTES,
 THEY CAN BLAME IT ON THE DEMOCRATS.

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE POLITICAL
 BOTH SIDES LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED.
 BUT WHEN THE SITUATIONS CRITICAL,
 WISDOM AND HONOR IS WHAT'S REQUIRED.

I BELIEVE IN THE SEPARATION -
 IN THEORY - OF THE CHURCH FROM THE STATE.
 BUT WE MUST SEEK RECONCILIATION -
 WE HAVE GOT TO DIFFERENTIATE!

THE WORD SAYS WE MUST PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS,
 I PRAY WE GET SOME WE CAN TRUST.
 THAT WAY WE, AS INTERCEDERS,
 WON'T HAVE TO LOOK AWAY IN DISGUST

AS THEIR "POLICIES" ENRICH THEIR FRIENDS
WHILE "WE THE PEOPLE" BEAR THE BURDEN
AND OUR "MEANS" JUST JUSTIFY THEIR ENDS,
BEFORE "WE" CAN EVEN GET A WORD IN.

"SOME LEADERS THINK OF THE NEXT ELECTION,
TRUE STATESMEN THE NEXT GENERATION."
WHO WILL LEAD US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION,
DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION.

OUR SONS FIGHT AND DIE ON FOREIGN SOIL,
AS THE VICTIMS OF A GREAT DECEPTION -
TURNS OUT IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE OIL,
JUST SLEIGHT OF HAND AND MISDIRECTION.

THE WORD "MAN" IS THE ROOT OF MANKIND
BUT WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD HAVE EXPECTED,
THAT OUR ROOTS WERE NOT ALL INTERTWINED,
OVERLAPPING AND INTERSECTED.

WE TEND TO TAKE SOME THINGS FOR GRANTED,
LIKE, SOMEHOW, WE'RE LIVING IN A SHELL -
AND OUR VIEWS THEN TEND TO GET SLANTED,
PROUDLY OUR CHESTS BEGIN TO SWELL.

"THAT PROBLEMS AN OCEAN AWAY" WE SAY,
LET THOSE PEOPLE FIND THEIR OWN SOLUTION.
AND THEN A WAVE STARTS TO HEAD OUR WAY,
THAT WE CAN'T STOP WITH THE CONSTITUTION.

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JUST AS RIPPIES REACH FOR DISTANT SHORES,
AND JUST A SPARK CAN START A RAGING FIRE,
THOSE "PROBLEMS" WON'T STAY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS,
THEY'LL REACH OUT AND DRAG US INTO THE MIRE.

JUST AS A RISING TIDE CAN LIFT ALL BOATS,
A STORM SURGE CAN SWEEP THEM ALL AWAY.
BOTH YACHTS AND DINGHIES CAN BECOME FOOTNOTES,
ABOUT VESSELS FLOATING IN THE BAY.

OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING,
OR YOU'LL BE HIT BY THE UNEXPECTED;
AND FIND THEY WERE NOT ALONE ON QUICKSAND,
AND THAT - YES - WE WERE ALL CONNECTED.

THE WORD "MORAN" MAY BE THE ROOT OF MORMONISM,
BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FAR BETTER THING -
IF WE'D THOUGHT OF THAT ROOT AS BEING KIND
PERHAPS IT WOULD CAUSE AN AWAKENING.

WE MUST START WITH OURSELVES - AS A NATION,
BEGIN TO FIND OUR STRENGTH FROM WITHIN -
WE NEED SPIRITUAL REJUVENATION,
TO TURN BACK TO GOD - AND FLEE FROM SIN.

2ND CHRONICLES MAKES IT VERY CLEAR,
OBEDIENCE BRINGS ON GOD'S BLESSING,
BUT ALL THOSE "BLESSINGS" QUICKLY DISAPPEAR,
WHEN WE "TURN OUR BACKS" AND START DEPRESSING.

DEUTERONOMY 28:2
 CONTAINS A VERY REVEALING VERSE;
 AS WE FACE THIS NATIONS RISING DEBT -
 WE NEED THAT BLESSING, AND NOT THIS CURSE.

If we "hearken NOT" to the voice of God,
 Our fields, stores, bodies and flocks -
 Will fall under His wrath, and His rod,
 And our 'stocks' will fall faster than rocks.

"If my people who are called by my name,
 shall humble themselves, seek my face and pray:
 If we don't - We'll have ourselves to blame,
 For the misfortune that's headed our way.

We call ourselves 'ONE NATION UNDER GOD' -
 Yet we stand divided by our own sin.
 In a place where the grapes of wrath are trod,
 Can we expect healing to begin?

Will He hear from heaven and heal our land,
 If we just try to do things on our own?
 If pray to God that we may understand,
 We need those blessings which flow from His throne.

IT'S TIME THE GOSPEL TRUTH BE DECLARED,
 WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF "HUMAN ERROR"
 And if it's not too late, we may be spared
 His divine wrath - and our mortal terror

— Fini →

I WROTE HEADLINE VIEWS
 BACK ON 9/15 OF 2007 -
 I'D SPENT THE WEEKEND OF 9/11 IN
 PRAYERS AND FASTING (I GREW UP
 IN JERSEY CITY, N.J. - ACROSS THE
 HUDSON RIVER FROM THE WORLD TRADE
 TOWERS - I WATCHED AS THEY WERE
 BEING BUILT - AS THEY BEGAN TO
 DOMINATE THE SKYLINE...) IT WAS
 THE WEEKEND OF THE CALIF. CONNOR
 TRAIN CRASH, HURRICANE IKE SLAMMING
 TEXAS, PRE-ELECTION HOOPLA, THE
 FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR ECONOMY,
 EXPOSING ITS VULNERABILITY - ETC.

WHEN THAT WEEKEND WAS OVER -
 I HAD A LIST OF ABOUT 45 "NEWS
 ITEMS" - THIS POEM RESULTED ALMOST
 AS A STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS -

I'm going to TRY THE SAME
 THING THIS COMING SEPT 10 - 13, 2012
 IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO COMPARE
 THE 2 " " OF COURSE I'll
 KEEP YOU POSTED " " (GROAN - I
 COULDN'T RESIST THE CHEAP PUN.)

GARY