

FROM OUR PASTOR

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There is something fishy going on in the Persian Gulf. There is something fishy about how a high-tech U.S. craft can “stray accidentally into Iranian waters due to a navigation error,” as Defense Secretary Ash Carter described it on Thursday to Univision. The Pentagon previously claimed engine trouble, then later said it was “navigation error.” Someone is lying to us again. This incident humiliated the U.S. and then Iran showed a video to the world of American sailors on their knees at gunpoint. This was followed, incredibly, by a U.S. sailor apologizing to the world and thanking the Iranian Revolutionary guard for their “hospitality.” Iran publically stated that they stole the high-tech electronic equipment from the boats before they were returned. We are no longer “the home of the brave.”

If Teddy Roosevelt or Ronald Reagan were president things would be different. Investors.com stated yesterday. *“All of this warrants a high-profile congressional investigation. Sailors and valuable equipment get captured, are humiliated on video, and finally one ends up making a statement that serves terrorist propaganda purposes.”*

We are seeing the curses that God foretold in Leviticus 26:17-20 come to pass before our eyes. ***“I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. . . .I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; ...And your strength shall be spent in vain.”***

Our national sin is a stench to the God of Abraham. God is patient and kind. In fact, God’s first words describing Himself to Moses were, “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. . . Exodus 34:6.” But God is also the Lawgiver and Judge of

the world, and is now judging the nations of Israel as an example for all the world to see.

We have known for years that the decline of modern Israel would take place prior to the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord. It is not easy to see cowardice and failure in our leaders and in society at large. One more lesson here: Those who trust in God are courageous, those who trust in men become cowards (Proverbs 28:1, Psalm 1:18). Our time of testing is now.

Remember to “Stand fast, having the belt of truth around your waist and wearing the breastplate of righteousness: (Ephesians 6:14 RSP).”