

FROM OUR PASTOR

October 1, 2016

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

The US Congress and Senate this week shocked the world, and may have upset the fragile world order and “justice system”—if the system deserves being called just or a system. This week may be noted by historians as the beginning of upheaval.

Yahoo News reported: “(AFP) – *Saudi Arabia on Thursday warned of “disastrous consequences” from a United States law allowing 9/11 victims to sue the kingdom, in a major spike in tension between the longstanding allies. The warning came after the US Congress voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to override President Barack Obama’s veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) on relations between states. JASTA allows attack survivors and relatives of terrorism victims to pursue cases against foreign governments in US federal court and to demand compensation if such governments are proven to bear some responsibility for attacks on US soil.*”

The lawsuits that will surely be filed are going to transgress on the territory of the **International Court of Justice** or the “**World Court**” at **The Hague**. The ICJ is the primary judicial branch of the United Nations (UN). Seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, the court settles legal disputes submitted to it by nations and provides advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international branches, agencies, and the UN General Assembly. Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, the Court began work in 1946 as the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice. Success has been piecemeal at best even. The court, consists of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by the [UN General Assembly](#) and the [UN Security Council](#). Nations have the option of ignoring rulings of the court, as the USA has done on more than one occasion.

In 1986 the court ruled that the United States’s covert war against Nicaragua was in violation of international law (*Nicaragua v. United States*), so the United States withdrew from compulsory jurisdiction and opted since to accept the court’s jurisdiction only on a case-by-case basis. Also, enforcement is subject to the veto power of the five permanent members of the Council, so the likelihood of any substantial penalty being paid or required is remote.

But let me predict, even though I hesitate to predict anything, that the World Court will soon take up the side of Saudi Arabia and try to stop the US lawsuits. The Saudis will refuse to cooperate and there will be many harsh words and stern warnings, and the legal process will go nowhere. Attorneys hoping for a slice of huge settlements will likely be left wanting. In opposing the law, President Obama said it would harm US interests by undermining the principle of sovereign immunity, opening up the US to private lawsuits over its military missions abroad. There is also the Riyadh and Washington decades-old relationship based on the exchange of American security for Saudi oil.

Saudi Arabia was home to 15 of the 19 Al-Qaeda hijackers who carried out the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States which killed nearly 3,000 people. The number of potential lawsuits is staggering if the first suit has any measure of success. Trust me, it will not. This episode illustrates the need for a real system of justice and law for the entire world. That time is coming, although in spite of man's efforts not because of them.

Soon after the return of Jesus Christ to rule the earth, true justice will be established for everyone. The prophet Isaiah wrote about this coming legal system, "But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth, He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked." Isaiah 11:4 The result shall be peace, safety, and true knowledge for everyone. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea." (verse 9). Imagine that! The entire earth full of the knowledge of their creator God and Savior! No more lies, falsehood, or evil as we have today.

In less than two weeks people with the knowledge of the LORD will be keeping the Feasts of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles, picturing the return of Jesus Christ, the putting away of Satan the adversary, and the millennial reign of the King of Kings when there will be no more curse. Keeping God's ordained Feast days gives us hope for the future when true justice will prevail.

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