



The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. Revelation 18:3

From The President's Desk

As Americans we are still in shock over the bombing of the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Spiritually speaking, as a Christian, one truth is evident—be prepared to meet your Creator (and hopefully) Redeemer at any time. None of us has a firm hold on life and the quicker we learn this the better. And certainly one national pastime of amusing ourselves to death has come to a screeching halt.

From the Summit's point of view what happened on September 11, 2001 is just another example of the continuing war on Western Civilization. This war has been going on for centuries (the 20th century alone put the death toll at 172 million human beings) and will continue until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to set the record straight. Psalms 2 and Revelation 18 could well be pertinent to our present scenario.

I agree with Georgie Geyer who notes that Osama bin Laden isn't 21st century material, but 12th century! She notes that it was then that another Islamic leader, Hassan Sabah, was similarly intoxicated by radical religiosity and by the need to purify the world. She says that by the time Sabah was finish "he had overthrown every court and regime in the entire Middle East."

While it is true that certain passages of the Koran seem to portray "religious tolerance" especially toward Christians and Jews (II:62; XXII:40) other passages reflect just the opposite. And historically speaking, Islam has spread through conquest. Even today non-

Muslims in Indonesia are offered a choice of conversion to Islam or death. In the Sudan the Muslims in the north slaughter the Christians in the south. And when Iran's Khomeini took power non-Muslims who are not Jew or Christian were immediately executed if they did not convert to Islam. Jews and Christians were allowed to keep their religion as second class slaves with no civil rights.

Grant Noble insists that terrorism is a logical outcome of putting the Koran into practice. He says that Islam promises hell to non-Muslims (3:85; 4:56; 5:37; 5:72; 8:55; 9:28; 15:2, 21; 98-100; 22:19-22; 22:56-57; 25:17-19; 25:55; 29:53-55; 31:66 etc). Islam also calls on Muslims to wage war against non-Muslims and promises a sexual paradise for all who die in battle.

For Summit graduates looking for a good source on Islam and a telling defense of Christianity we suggest Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb's *Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross*.

Month In Review

Q "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.

"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron work, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

"The merchants of these things, who become rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying 'What is like this great city?'

"They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

–Revelation 18:9-20

Q "Earth, I think, will not be found by anyone to be in the end a very distinct place. I think earth, if chosen instead of Heaven, will turn out to have been, all along, only a region in Hell: and earth, if put second to Heaven, to have been from the beginning a part of Heaven itself."

–C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Q "Let us confess that probably every Christian now alive finds a difficulty in reconciling the two things he has been told about 'heaven'—that it is on the one hand, a life in Christ, a vision of God, a ceaseless adoration, and that it is, on the other hand, a bodily life. When we seem nearest to the vision of God in this life, the body seems almost an irrelevance. And if we try to conceive our eternal life as one in a body (and kind of body) we tend to find that some vague dream of Platonic paradises and gardens of the Hesperides has substituted itself for that mystical approach which we feel (and I think rightly) to be more important. But if that discrepancy were final then it would follow—which is absurd—that God was originally mistaken when He introduced our spirits into the Natural order at all. We must conclude that the discrepancy itself is precisely one of the disorders which the New Creation comes to heal...Spirit and Nature have quarrelled in us; that is our disease."

–C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

Q "Islam has rapidly grown to become the second largest religion in the world, with almost one billion adherents—nearly one in every five persons on earth. In the United States there are presently more Muslims than Methodists.

"What is more, Islam claims to be the true religion for humankind. It affirms that Muhammad is the 'Seal of the Prophets,' the last and the greatest of all prophets who superseded all prophets before him, including Jesus. The Qur'an is believed to be the verbally inspired Word of God, dictated to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel from the eternal original in heaven. It is said to contain the full and final revelation of God, surpassing and completing all previous revelations. By any measure these are outstanding claims that challenge all other religions and deserve careful scrutiny by any sincere seeker of truth."

–Norman L. Geisler, Abdul Saleeb, *Answering Islam*, p. 9

Q "On September 11, 2001, the era of moral relativism received a mortal wound."

–David A. Noebel

Q "Life is meaningless? The loss of thousands helped Americans see how precious it is. There is no objective right and wrong? But there sure seems to be something evil about mass murder. All religions are equally valid? But there seems to be something wrong with a theology that teaches that a sexual paradise is the eternal reward for those who murder innocent people."

–Gene Edward Veith, *World*, September 29, 2001, p. 15

Q "The editor of the international Arabic paper Al-Hayat met Osama bin Laden six months ago and said that the aides and bodyguards who surrounded him, almost 200 people, were all Saudis. In an article in the current *Spectator of London*, Stephen Schwartz points out that every major terrorist attack against the West in recent years has been conducted by people who have embraced Wahhabism. 'Bin Laden is a Wahhabi. So are the suicide bombers in Israel. As are his Egyptian allies, who exulted as they stabbed foreign tourists to death at Luxor...So are the Algerian terrorists...So are the Taliban-style guerrillas in Kashmir' It is clear that Saudi Arabia now exports two products around the globe—oil and religious fanaticism."

–*Newsweek*, October 1, 2001, p. 34

Q "These [killers] are not wild-eyed pistol wavers. Bin Laden recruits are more likely to be multi-degreed professors (or commercial pilots) than Islamic school dropouts or street criminals. Highly educated in the best schools of Saudi Arabia himself, Mr. Bin Laden over the years has won to his cause doctors and other professionals from the Muslim world's elite. His operations are fronted through Saudi charity organizations, Sudanese banks, and London think tanks."

–Mindy Belz, *World*, September 22, 2001, p. 34

Q "At a three-day terrorist convention of sorts held earlier this year in Beirut, Mr. bin Laden's al-Qaeda organization joined forces with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah to pledge themselves to joint jihad, or holy war. Their immediate aim: the destruction of Israel. But why stop there?"

"That Beirut declaration of war did not make front-page headlines in the United States. Now Mr. bin Laden has achieved a major victory and won the attention of the world. World War II cost six years of blood, sweat, and tears, and millions of lives. What will this war cost?"

—Mindy Belz, *World*, September 22, 2001, p. 34

Q "Consider the nationalities of the suicide bombers. Almost all are from Saudi Arabia, Egypt or that quasi-Saudi gulf state, the United Arab Emirates. This is not a coincidence. These countries have been the fertile ground on which radical Islamic terrorism has grown. We will almost certainly attack Afghanistan (as we must, because the Taliban has sheltered al-Qaeda), but it is worth remembering that not a single Afghan has been directly tied to any terrorist attack against the West. This is a vast Arab operation that happens to be based in Afghanistan.

"Saudi Arabia's connection to these terrorists is particularly illuminating. Embracing Wahhabism, a rigid, puritanical version of Islam, the Saudi regime has tried to bolster its faltering legitimacy in the past two decades by fueling a religious revival in the Arab world. It funds mosques, trains preachers and builds schools across the globe that teach its fiery interpretation of Islam, one that views the outside world and modernity with hostility. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the Saudis sent money to the mujahedin and glorified their cause. Tarek Masoud, a writer who grew up in Saudi Arabia, recalls that 'my Islamic-studies teacher told me that the world's best Muslims were Afghans because they were fighting the unbelievers.' The Saudi regime has tried to deflect questions about its management of the country, its alliance with America and its own corruption by supporting and spreading an uncompromising religious dogma."

—*Newsweek*, October 1, 2001, p. 34

Q "For decades, Americans have been paralyzed by intellectual, moral, and religious relativism, a wishy-washy self-doubt about our own history and institutions. We have tried to be multicultural, as if we had no culture of our own. Exhibitions of faith and patriotism have

been embarrassing, politically incorrect, and retro-primitive. But now that our nation has been attacked, this is changing. Americans are seeing that we have a civilization worth defending.

"The Irish poet William Butler Yeats saw the problem as early as 1920, in his poem 'The Second Coming': 'The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.'

"The 'best' people of the West, the well-educated, creative, intelligent leaders of the culture, lack all conviction. They are skeptical about everything, cultivating an amused, detached irony instead of any kind of commitment. They are agnostic, dismissive of every kind of moral authority, self-indulgent, and self-absorbed.

"Truth is relative, say our educators. There are no absolutes, say our ethicists. Religion, ideals, and civilization are frauds. Life is meaningless. We just need to have a good time before we die.

—Gene Edward Veith, *World*, September, 29, 1002, p. 15

Q "In February 1998, bin Laden, along with other leaders, issued this *fatwa* against American civilians: 'The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque [of Jerusalem] and the holy Mosque [of Mecca] from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all the land of Islam....We—with God's help—call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it.' "

— *Human Events*, September 17, 2001, p. 3

Q "Osama bin Laden is the leader of al Qaeda, 'The Base,' a network of terrorists spread out in different cells around the world. Centers affiliated with al Qaeda have trained 50,000 terrorists over the years. Camps under bin Laden's personal control in Afghanistan have trained 5,000. These men are now operating in the United States, Western Europe, Africa and Asia, as well as the Middle East. He also has a financing group called the Foundation for Islamic Salvation."

—*Human Events*, September 17, 2001, p. 3

□ "In his 'Declaration of War,' a 12-page document using the Koran to justify his actions, bin Laden said, 'What bears no doubt in this fierce Judeo-Christian campaign against the Muslim world, the likes of which has never been seen before, is that the Muslims must prepare all the possible might to repel the enemy.'

"In an interview with CNN in 1997, bin Laden identified the Persian Gulf War as escalating his murderous hatred for the United States. He called the American military bases still in Saudi Arabia 'occupation of the land of the holy places.'

"In 1998, he issued another *fatwa* authorizing attacks on American civilians. In November 1998 he sent a message to a conference in Pakistan. 'At this moment, Israel and the United States are dominating Palestine and other holy places in such a way that mujahedeen are being killed and besieged and Muslims have been economically ruined. Therefore, it is obligatory for all Muslims to continue jihad by sacrificing their wealth and life so long as their holy places are not liberated from the subjugation of Jews and Christians,' he said.

"The official legal religious experts of the Taliban, rulers of Afghanistan, confirmed bin Laden's *fatwa* and said, 'No steps for total elimination of America by force should be avoided.'

"When asked by a Pakistani correspondent from the *al-Sharq al-Awsat* newspaper after the 1998 bombing if he was trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction, bin Laden replied, 'Our nation is facing aggression and it has the right to possess what is necessary to defend itself.' He also justified the killing of civilians in the United States, Britain and Israel. 'The American and British peoples stated widely that they support their leaders' decision to attack Iraq. This means that all individuals of these two nations, as well as the Jews in occupied Palestine, are belligerent people and every Muslim must stand against them and must kill and fight them,' he said."

—*Human Events*, September 17, 2001, p. 3

□ "There are 1 million students studying in the country's [Pakistan] 10,000 or so madrassas [Muslim religious seminaries], and militant Islam is at the core of most of these schools."

—Jeffrey Goldberg, *The New York Times*, September 23, 2001

Q "The Haqqenia madrassa is, in fact, a jihad [holy warrior] factory."

—Jeffrey Goldberg, *The New York Times*, September 23, 2001

Q "Christians are saddled with Paul Hill, who murdered a doctor outside a Florida abortion clinic in 1994. Jews are burdened by Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 people in a West Bank mosque the same year. And Muslim are shackled to Osama bin Laden.

"All killed in the name of God. All are rejected by the mainstreams of their faith.

"The tradition of mainstream Islam holds that Muslim individuals and nations all are involved in a sacred struggle to purify their hearts and act in accordance with God's will. Sometimes the struggle is external, defined as a war of self-defense.

"But who is their enemy? What kinds of force are justified? Extremists such as bin Laden jump the track by rejecting Muslim theologians who have wrestled with these questions, many experts on Islam say.

"Muslim leaders here and abroad have lined up with powerful condemnations of the terrorist attacks. U.S. officials say they still are building their case against bin Laden and his followers. But many American Muslims say they fear that even the speculation has put their faith on trial.

"Like parts of the Bible, parts of Islam's text justify fierce fighting. Judaism and Christianity have long traditions of interpretations that define a morally appropriate war. Islam has similar traditions that many Muslim scholars say have been perverted or ignored by terrorists.

" 'Anyone can prove anything from any scriptures, provided he has a \$2 piece of equipment,' said Dr. Jamal Badawl, head of the Canada-based Islamic Information Foundation. 'That is enough to buy a cheap pair of scissors to cut up verses and put them together the way you want.'

"Most Americans understand Christianity and Judaism well enough to recognize the religions' extremes. But despite the presence of as many as 6 million Muslims here, Islam is still a mystery for many.

"The image of Islam is not helped by news reports of Muslims who have been linked to terrorism. And some of the world's most infamous terror groups claim to be acting in the

name of Islam: Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Gamaa al-Islamiya.

" 'I think they believe that what they are doing is religiously not just justified but mandated,' said Dr. Khaled Abou el Fadl, a professor of Islamic law at the University of California, Los Angeles. 'And they believe that they are sufficiently pure, that they rather than anybody else, represent Islam.'

"Most Muslims would disagree, he said.

"The extremists represent a theology foreign to most of the 1.3 billion Muslims in the world, experts say. Even some Muslims who embrace the causes these groups fight for say extreme pro-terror beliefs represent the lunatic fringe of a puritanical, literalist branch of Islam."

—Jeffrey Weis, *The Dallas Morning News*, September 23, 2001

Q "For Samiul Haq and the other teachers in his madrasa, the world is divided into two separate and mutually hostile domains: the dar-al-harb and the dar-al-Islam. The dar-al-harb is the 'abode of war.' The dar-al-Islam is the 'abode of peace.'

"In the 1980s, the Soviet Union epitomized, for fundamentalist-minded Muslims, the abode of war. Today, it is the United States that symbolizes the dar-al-harb. How this came to pass, how America, which supported—created, some would say—the jihad movement against the Soviets, came to become the No. 1 enemy of hard-core Islamists is one of the more vexing questions facing American policy-makers and the leaders of a dozen Muslim countries today.

"One school of thought, Samiul Haq's school, says it's the Americans' fault: American imperialism and the export of American social and sexual mores are to blame.

"The other school of thought holds that Islam, by its very nature, is in permanent competition with other civilizations. This is the theory expounded by Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington, who coined the term 'Islam's bloody borders' —a reference to the fact that wherever Islam rubs up against other civilizations—Jewish, Christian, Hindu—wars seem to break out."

—Jeffrey Goldberg, *The New York Times*, September 23, 2001

Q "At the UN's recent Racism Conference held in Durban, South Africa, we witnessed the

most vicious and vitriolic tirades against the United States of America—by Muslim extremists. The hostility was so severe that the US delegation walked out of the Conference. As terrorism is armed propaganda, it seems to me that the multiple terrorist attacks on the United States were co-ordinated to follow after the extraordinary verbal attacks on the US at the UN Conference in Durban. Reports and disgusting scenes of open jubilation by Arabs in Palestine, Libya and Sudan—celebrating this spectacular strike against what they call ‘the great Satan’ confirms that the propaganda war against America is well advanced."

—Peter Hammond, *Frontline Fellowship*, September 12, 2001

Q "The terrorists who crashed the airlines did not sneak into the United States from some dark corner of the Middle East. They lived in America and were trained as pilots in American flight schools. They may even have benefited from federal education money.

"U.S. immigration policy makes it easy for members of every terrorist group in the world to hang out in America, and they do. There are far more Islamic Terrorists living in America and Canada than there are with bin Laden in Afghanistan. Knowingly or unknowingly, religious and civil rights organizations provide terrorists cells with support groups.

"Other villains in the story are the American political left and multi-culturalists. In the 1970s the political left used committee hearings conducted by Sen. Frank Church, Idaho Democrat, to protect Fidel Castro by emasculating the CIA, depriving the agency of ability to eliminate foreigners who pose a threat to our security.

"The FBI has not infiltrated Muslim groups in the U.S. because under the civil rights laws Muslims are a ‘protected minority.’

"Terrorists in the U.S. are able to build their networks undeterred and to raise money under a variety of guises from a large Muslim community.

"Multi-culturalists in American universities champion Third World people and denigrate America, thus helping to fashion a moral atmosphere in which Muslims are championed as ‘oppressed people’ and America is challenged as the white hegemon, the oppressor of women and minorities.

"Perhaps it was this moral atmosphere that saved the Muslims who attempted to blow up the World Trade Center in 1993 from the death penalty, despite the death and injury to numerous Americans.

"September 11 proved that some Muslims are a danger to us, but we can’t tell one from

another. Civil rights laws require airports to employ them in security positions and airlines to employ them in flight crews and airliner servicing.

"Isn't life in a multi-cultural country wonderful?"

—Paul Craig Roberts, *The Washington Times*, September 17, 2001, p. A 17

Q "A campaign to smash the global terror network has already clashed head-on with Pakistan's two states within a state—the Islamic clergy and the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI).

"By any measure, Pakistan has long been a state sponsor of terrorism. But what the U.S. regards as an integral part of the transnational network is seen in Pakistan as Kashmiri 'freedom fighters'—called 'terrorists' in India—willing to commit suicide to 'liberate occupied Kashmir.' Most of them have been trained in Osama bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan. They consider themselves blood brothers of thousands of fellow guerrillas—known as terrorists in the U.S.—from many parts of the Muslim world, from Indonesia's Laskar Jihad organization to Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers and Filipino ransom kidnapers. Bin Laden was their common mentor and hero. Pakistan has long been their safest of safe havens. Harkat-ul-Mujahideen is a militant group that acts as a link between the Kashmir underground and the Taliban.

"Most of these groups share the same enemies list—the U.S. and Israel. Their larger agendas, beyond their respective local issues, are also remarkably similar: Judeo-Christian decadence and depravity that must be smashed by destroying U.S. capitalism."

—Arnaud de Borchgrave, *The Washington Times*, September 25, 2001, p. A 19

Q "The madrassas—or Koranic schools—were created in the early 1980s, mostly in the Northwest Frontier Province and Baluchistan, the two provinces bordering Afghanistan along the 1,3000-mile Durand Line. ISI, at the time, calculated the madrassas would provide long-term protection against communist ideology and what was then the fear of future Soviet expansion into Pakistan. The madrassas eventually spread to the entire country. One million children now study at these schools. The attraction for parents is a free education, albeit entirely Koranic, in a country that is 70 percent illiterate with a per capita income of \$450.

"Arguably the most important Koranic institution is the University for the 'Education of Truth' in the town of Khattak. Taliban's nine top leaders, with the exception of 'Supreme

Leader' Mullah Mohammad Omar, graduated from Khattak. ISI and wealthy Saudis have been funding the university for the past two decades. Every Muslim country is represented in its 2,500 student body. Two retired generals told UPI that each graduating class provides recruits for ISI. The more promising students are encouraged either to extend their eight-year course by two more years to qualify for title of mufti or mullah, or to go on to Afghanistan for training in bin Laden's facilities.

"A former army corps commander said, not for attribution, that ISI continues to help Taliban with communications and safe houses in Quetta and Peshawar to this day.

"Gen. Gul now heads an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) called Service for All (SFA). A former military intelligence officer, now in the private security field, told UPI it should be called CFA, or Cover for All. The officer said SFA organizes Afghan refugee volunteers for 'a wide variety of conflicts in which guerillas fight for Muslim causes.'

"Gen. Gul wants for Pakistan what bin Laden wants for his native Saudi Arabia: Destruction of established governments and their replacement by an Islamic state. His friends say he has political ambitions.

"Stay tuned for the 'real-time' intelligence pledged by President Musharraf to the U.S. in its global war against the transnational terror network. Definitions of what constitutes terrorism remain to be determined—or negotiated."

—Arnaud de Borchgrave, *The Washington Times*, September 25, 2001, p. A19

Q "President's Proclamation on National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on Sept. 11.

"On Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America in a series of despicable acts of war. They hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers, a third into the Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon, causing great loss of life and tremendous damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling well short of its intended target apparently because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board. This carnage, which caused the collapse of both Trade Center towers and the destruction of part of the Pentagon, killed more than 250 airplane passengers and thousands more on the ground.

"Civilized people around the world denounce the evildoers who devised and executed these terrible attacks. Justice demands that those who helped or harbored the terrorists be punished—and punished severely. The enormity of their evil demands it. We will use all the resources

of the United States and our cooperating friends and allies to pursue those responsible for this evil, until justice is done.

"We mourn with those who have suffered great and disastrous loss. All our hearts have been seared by the sudden and senseless taking of innocent lives. We pray for healing and for the strength to serve and encourage one another in hope and faith.

"Scripture says: 'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.' I call on every American family and the family of America to observe a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, honoring the memory of the thousands of victims of these brutal attacks and comforting those who lost loved ones. We will persevere through this national tragedy and personal loss. In time, we will find healing and recovery; and, in the face of all this evil, we remain strong and united, 'one Nation under God.'

"Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, Sept. 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001.

"I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance with noontime memorial services, the ringing of bells at that hour, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I encourage employers to permit their workers time off during the lunch hour to attend the noontime services to pray for our land. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in these solemn observances.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth."

—*The Washington Times*, September 14, 2001, p. A17

Q "We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express our nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead, and for those who love them.

"On Tuesday, our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty. We have seen the images of fire and ashes, and bent steel.

"Now come the names, the list of casualties we are only beginning to read. They are the names of men and women who began their day at a desk or in an airport, busy with life. They

are the names of people who faced death, and in their last moments called home to say, be brave, and I love you.

"They are the names of passengers who defied their murderers, and prevented the murder of others on the ground. They are the names of men and women who wore the uniform of the United States, and died at their posts.

"They are the names of rescuers, the ones whom death found running up the stairs and into the fires to help others. We will read all these names. We will linger over them, and learn their stories, and many Americans will weep.

"To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the nation. And I assure you, you are not alone.

"Just three days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil.

"War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.

"Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to pray. In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching, and an honesty. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Tuesday, a woman said, 'I prayed to God to give us a sign that He is still here.' Others have prayed for the same, searching hospital to hospital, carrying pictures of those still missing.

"God's signs are not always the one we look for. We learn in tragedy that His purposes are not always our own. Yet the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral, are known and heard, and understood.

"There are prayers that help us last through the day, or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers, that give us strength for the journey. And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.

"This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end. And the Lord of life holds all who die, and all who mourn.

"It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous

and kind, resourceful and brave. We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion; in long lines of blood donors; in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.

"And we have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice. Inside the World Trade Center, one man who could have saved himself stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A beloved priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two office workers, finding a disabled stranger, carried him down sixty-eight floors to safety. A group of men drove through the night from Dallas to Washington to bring skin grafts for burn victims.

"In these acts, and in many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another, and an abiding love for our country. Today, we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. This is a unity of every faith, and every background.

"It has joined together political parties in both houses of Congress. It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils, and American flags, which are displayed in pride, and wave in defiance.

"Our unity is a kinship of grief, and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world.

"America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America, because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

"On this national day of prayer and remembrance, we ask almighty God to watch over our nation, and grant us patience and resolve in all that is to come. We pray that He will comfort and console those who now walk in sorrow. We thank Him for each life we now must mourn, and the promise of a life to come.

"As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor power, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God's love. May He bless the souls of the departed. May He comfort our own. And may He always guide our country.

"God bless America."

—President George W. Bush, *The Washington Times*, September 15, 2001, p. A5

