

AND THEY TOUCHED HIS ROBE

Stephen L. Bakke – April 19, 2009

(Please review the short **GLOSSARY of GOVSPEAK** near the end of this report.)

This is a commentary on our President's messianic approach and his relationship to religion. He and his "disciples" brought it up, I didn't.

P-BOB a Messiah? What You Talkin' 'bout?

For me it all seemed to start with TV news reporter and commentator Chris Matthews proclaiming the following: *"This is bigger than Kennedy This is the New Testament I felt this thrill going up my leg. I mean, I don't have that too often. No, seriously. It's a dramatic event"*. Such a reaction as that I found kind of spooky. But it got worse.

This from Ezra Klein, Associate Editor of the well known publication, "The American Prospect": *"Obama's finest speeches do not excite. They do not inform. They don't even really inspire. They elevate He is not the Word made flesh, but the triumph of word over flesh Obama is, at his best, able to call us back to our highest selves"*.

What did U.S. Representative Bobby Rush (Dem. Ill) have to say? *"I would characterize the Senate race as being a race where Obama was, let's say, blessed and highly favored. That's not routine. There's something else going on. I think that Obama, his election to the Senate, was divinely ordered I know that that was God's plan"*. Bobby is the one who came back from Cuba recently after telling Fidel, the Cuban dictator, that in the Rush family, Fidel is considered the ultimate survivor.

After P-BOB had sufficient delegates for the nomination, Jesse Jackson was quoted as saying: *"I cried all night. I'm going to be crying for the next four years. What Barack Obama has accomplished is the single most extraordinary event that has occurred in the 232 years of the nation's political history The event itself is so extraordinary that another chapter could be added to the Bible to chronicle its significance"*.

Oprah refers to him as "The One" because "we need politicians who know how to be the truth". But I thought Jesus said He was the truth. She says that Obama will help us "evolve to a higher plane". Jonah Goldberg speculates this puts P'BOB in the role of our Intelligent Designer. Disciples of P-BOB recite how they "came to Obama". And Goldberg goes on to say that the FLOTUS (that's "Govspeak" for Michelle – refer to the GLOSSARY) has insisted that "P-BOB has redeemed the entire nation (hence her newfound pride in America)".

Movie star and activist Susan Sarandan recently stated that *"He (Obama) is a community organizer like Jesus was, and now we're a community, and he can organize us."* Mark Steyn reacted to that by writing: *"So how's that going? Jesus took a handful of loaves and two fish"*

and fed 5,000 people. Barack wants to take a trillion pieces of pork and feed it to a handful of Democratic Party interest groups". Ouch!

Louis Farrakhan recently declared: *"You are the instruments that God is going to use to bring about universal change. And that is why Barack has captured the youth ... involved young people in a political process that they didn't care anything about. That's a sign. When The Messiah speaks, the youth will hear. And The Messiah is absolutely speaking".*

And then there are the miracles. P-BOB was in Ft. Myers in February to conduct a townhall meeting when he actually became a miracle worker of sorts. Two "down and out" people chosen to ask questions that night had "a miraculous improvement in fortune". One fellow, Julio Osegueda, when called upon at the meeting jumped out of his seat exclaiming: "Amen! Yes! It is such a blessing to see you. Oh! Gracious God, thank you so much!" Julio had worked at McDonalds for 4 years, without much improvement in his situation and wanted help. He was given a chance to be a temporary color commentator for the Ft. Myers "Miracle" baseball team. The other, Henrietta Hughes, essentially asked P-BOB for a house. Soon afterward she and her adult son were given a home to live in rent free until they "get back on their feet". These are just two examples of what some have attributed to be evidence of the President's magical, messianic aura. I don't even know if Julio or Henrietta even had a chance to "touch his robes", or if just being in his presence is enough to "heal" the situation.

There are in fact websites dedicated to investigate the question "Is Obama the Messiah?". If you Google some combination of Obama and Messiah, you will get tens of thousands of hits. Remember that old TV show from the 50s where it opens to the refrain, "Look, up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's

Has P-BOB Reinforced This Impression?

In reference to Morgan Freeman's portrayal in "Deep Impact" and "Bruce Almighty", P-BOB joked: "The guy was president before I was This guy was God before I was". He actually was making light of some of the messianic adoration he was experiencing. He's sharp – he knows what is going on.

In early 2008, the candidate Obama told Dartmouth students that they will know how to vote because "..... a light will shine through that window, a beam of light will come down upon you, you will experience an epiphany, and you will suddenly realize that you must go to the polls and vote for Barack".

The President was asked in an interview what he considers a sin. He defined it as "being out of alignment with my values." So now he's the ultimate judge. That's scary.

In his victory speech P-BOB proclaimed: "I am absolutely certain that generations from now we will be able to look back and tell your children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs for the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal. This was the moment – this was the time – when we came together to remake this great nation"

P-BOB's campaign and early presidency has been big on symbolism. Broad concepts, lavish generalities, and remember the "pretend knock-off" of the Presidential Seal that he started to use when at his PATOTUS (see the GLOSSARY) prior to inauguration? Who else but "The One" could be that presumptuous and actually think they could get away with it?

What do you think? Has he done anything to reinforce this "transformational aura"?

Obama the Theologian

While on a recent trip to Europe (G-20 etc.), P-BOB made a comment while in a Muslim country to the effect that we in America don't consider ourselves a Christian nation, or Jewish, or Muslim, or anything else. But why does it really matter that he makes a statement like that? David Limbaugh expressed it well when he said that our tradition of freedom is based in our predominantly Judeo-Christian roots. Those ideals were why we settled this continent and they ultimately resulted in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. Most of our founding fathers were Christians – hence the common labeling of the U.S. being a Christian nation. We are not, however, a Christian theocracy which makes other religions unwelcome or which gives preferential treatment to Christians. Why would P-BOB make this statement, if not to weaken the Judeo-Christian underpinnings of our country, thereby giving himself a little more wiggle room for pushing through his transformational programs. He knows he isn't a messiah, but he doesn't want to emphasize that fact – and he likes the adoration you can be sure.

Another recent comment by the President seems to show his ignorance about Christianity – even though he professes Christian belief. He said that his agenda in Europe should be the common goals among people of faith during holy days of Easter and Passover. Is he thereby attempting to re-define the theologies of these religions, in particular the meaning Easter and Passover, to suit his agenda? He went on to say: *"These are two very different holidays with their own very different traditions. But it seems fitting that we mark them both during the same week. For in a larger sense, they are both moments of reflection and renewal. They are both occasions to think more deeply about the obligations we have to ourselves and the obligations we have to one another"*.

What?! Where to start?! Contrary to his statement, these two traditions are deeply related. It was the Jewish Passover meal that became the "Last Supper" in Christian tradition. Jesus was a Jew and was observing the holy day with his disciples. Christians consider Jesus to be the Lamb of God who was sacrificed to free believers from their sins. This is referred to by Jesus as "the new covenant in my blood". The original "lamb" in the Jewish tradition was killed and its blood was put above each Jewish door in Egypt so that the Angel of Death would "pass over", and they could be freed and start their travels back to the Promised Land. This was also a covenant between God and his chosen people, the Jews. Jesus was crucified on the day after he celebrated the Passover meal. So, of course, tradition DOES INDEED have them occurring on that same "Holy Week". Our President had an opportunity to productively point out these parallels and did not – either because he didn't know any better, or because he doesn't want to further strengthen their theologies by acknowledging them. **But I digress.**

New World Order?

OK, now what? First we have somewhat goofy declarations about P-BOB which were nothing short of messianic adoration. Then we have some statements and actions by the President that I believe do nothing but weaken religious influence in our country. And it all reinforces this weird worship of him by many people. And to what end? Perhaps to provide an atmosphere and “cover” for him to transform the world, not just our country, into a new world order. What else would an international messiah be up to? P-BOB is no fool – he uses everything to his best advantage.

In contrast to the conservative philosophy of American Exceptionalism and using our power and influence to bring freedom to the world, P-BOB wants to “wile away the hours” listening and collaborating the heck out of the world. His world view came through very clearly several months ago when he emphasized to those present at his German rally that they were all “citizens of the world” and “the burdens of global citizenship continue to bind us together”. And later he said “it’s time for us to lead again”. Some on the Left seem to prefer to identify as citizens of the world. The Right would identify first as citizens of America.

Regarding the domestic front, Charles Krauthammer says it so well: “(Obama’s) goal is to rewrite the American social compact, to recast the relationship between government and citizen. Obama is a leveler. He has come to narrow the divide between rich and poor. For him the ultimate social value is fairness. Imposing it is his mission. If Obama has his way, the change that is coming is a new America: ‘fair’, leveled and social democratic. Obama didn’t get elected to warranty your muffler. He’s here to warranty your life.” This conforms very well to the what author Eric Alterman says about liberalism. Specifically, liberalism is limited only by what is “deliverable justice or fairness”. He wrote: “What is not deliverable by government, we leave to parents, and clergy, and the like”. In other words, in this person’s opinion, our government is only limited by what it can’t practically deliver – the balance is left for others. Religion and families are to take care only of the things government can’t deliver. P-BOB’s big plans for socialized health care, a green economy, universal college education are all about extending the reach of the state. That’s very European and fits with his apparent international strategy of “world citizenship”.

On the international scene, he’s an ideologue and a utopian as well. He seems to want to unilaterally weaken the defenses of the U.S. because he dreams of a nuclear free world and world wide climate control – and he knows he can’t get there without there being a single authoritative control cutting across national boundaries. He’s willing to be that “savior”. I too want a clean peaceful world, but it can happen only if a responsible U.S. remains clearly powerful enough to deal situations as they arise. That’s not a desirable responsibility, but it is a real one! The President wants a perfect world-wide community within which he has created a perfect society. “It sounds wonderful – but the road to economic ruin and loss of liberty is paved by well-meaning men with good intentions” says commentator Linda Chavez.

Will he extend his healing powers to world citizens by letting them touch the hem of his robe?

GLOSSARY of GOVSPEAK (Language of the Government)

– Feel free to make these terms a big part of your life.

P-BOB – President Barack Obama

FLOTUS – First Lady of the United States

Da-Veep – Vice President

SECS – Secretary of State (pronounced “sex”)

T-Sec – Treasury Secretary

T-Sec(2) – Whoever replaces the current T-Sec

Cha-Fed – Chairman of the Federal Reserve

AGOTUS – Attorney General of the United States

TOTUS – Teleprompter of the United States

PATOTUS – P-BOB’s position at the Teleprompter of the United States

COTUS – Congress of the United States

SOTUS – Senate of the United States

HOTUS – House (of Representatives) of the United States

SHOTUS – Speaker of the House (of Representatives) of the United States

JOCOTUS – Joint Session of Congress of the United States

More comments will follow on important topics and personal thoughts as our President battles through tough territory. As I said in my December 2008 “essay” on liberals and conservatives, “I want to be on record joining with other conservatives in uniting behind our new President. We must show that we will act more respectfully than liberals did during George W. Bush’s presidency. Such treatment was beyond mere disagreement and criticism. It was undeserved and unprecedented. We who oppose many of Barack Obama’s policies will, I believe, act in accordance with conservative values of decency, while respectfully continuing to oppose him when we disagree”. As Dennis Prager said on election night: “I did not vote for him. I did not want him to be President. But as of January 20, 2009, he will be my President.” I agree, and I’m also solidly part of the “loyal opposition”, and will act accordingly.

I extend thanks, as always, to the many writers, commentators, researchers, and others, from both political extremes, whose hard work helps me greatly. They gather details and individually present so much information. About all I do is gather, organize, summarize, and then attempt to fill in with additional comments – commonly referred to as my frequent “RANTS”. Someone recently commented to me that it’s no wonder I have these ideas – I obviously don’t pay attention to both sides of the arguments. I assure you that I approach issues from multiple angles. While I have become a conservative, I still read and evaluate more liberal columns, books, commentary, and web sites than Al Franken, Al Gore, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, and Harry Reid COMBINED! Maybe I could even throw in a couple more names for good measure.