

Just Because, Now What? 2 Chronicles 7:14

In a continuation of my last article, ["Just Because"](#), my question to that article is "Now What?" As I stated in that previous article from 12/08; as an African American Christian, I chose not to vote in the recent presidential election because I felt that I would be voting for the lesser of two evils due to each candidate's moral stance and past track record on moral and ethical issues that are contrary to God's Word. However there were many other diverse constituencies who did vote "Just Because" based either candidate's race, political, economic, environmental, civil and/or human rights agenda that agreed with them while overlooking the bigger Spiritual picture.

With that being said, we are now in the midst of a historic transition of power with Barack Obama becoming the first African American President of the United States of America. With several surveys showing 70% of black children being born out of wedlock and a 50% divorce rate, Barack and Michelle Obama are not only good models of family values for African Americans to follow but other cultures and religions as well. A recent ABC News poll even confirms the optimism for change with the election of President-Elect Obama showing that 58% believe his election will improve race relations; an increase of 16% from the previous poll. While the Obama election broke the ultimate glass ceiling for African Americans; I then presented the following "Just Because" questions to myself as to what other areas will his election have on the Blacks:

Because He's Black.....

- Will the 70% out of wedlock birthrate of Black children go down?
- Will more Blacks be inspired to not drop out and stay in school stressing education over entertainment, fashion and materialism?
- Will Black on Black crime i.e. cultural genocide decrease or go away?
- Will more Blacks support Black only businesses ?

Because He's Black and a Christian.....

- Will more Blacks get married?
- Will more Blacks go to church?
- Will Godly family values be stressed?
- Will more Blacks stop playing and depending on the lottery and depend on Him?

I prayerfully hope so but only time will tell because his election may bring optimism for African American cultural success but internally the Spiritual soul of this country is deeply fractured along moral and ethical lines. Now, some of those same diverse constituents who voted Obama into office "Just Because" aren't pleased with his cabinet selections, his silence on some campaign promises or even the person doing the inaugural prayer. Backed and voted into office by these assorted special interest groups on the campaign slogan of "Together We Can", the power of their committed vote and view of diversity are now being seriously challenged in the belief that their special interest would be met immediately. If diversity is politically correct then why can't everyone respectfully agree?

Anyway, the economy that Mr. Obama inherits is touching every American in some capacity. Economic forecasts in the majority of all service and manufacturing sectors are negative and he even readily admits that it will get worse before it gets better. This was confirmed in a recent interview about the economy on ABC's "This Week" program in which he said, "I want to be realistic here, not everything that we talked about during the campaign are we going to be able to do on the pace we hoped; everybody's going to have to give." If money is the answer to heal our economy then wasn't the economic stimulus payment that was given to

the people last summer supposed to jumpstart our economy? Now our government now giving large sums of taxpayer money to the auto industry who can't get loans from the banks who received large sums of taxpayer money for the very purpose to help businesses and people in need. Obviously throwing money down the rabbit hole doesn't seem to be working. It is the love of money, as witnessed with deception on Wall Street and the high value placed on entertainment and athletics that has greatly contributed to the moral decline of this country over the years which was built on the foundation of Biblical principles. Now what?

Here is one of Mr. Obama's inspirational quotes that I would like to discuss, "I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington.....I'm asking you to believe in yours." It is the last part of the quote that I want to focus on. President-Elect Obama is calling for a new spirit of service, sacrifice, patriotism, personal responsibility and accountability reminiscent of JFK's, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what can you do for your country?" More importantly, in these last days God is now putting out a similar higher call to Christians and Non-Christians who are called by His name to humble ourselves, turn from wicked ways to pray and seek His face. In doing that He will hear from us in heaven, forgive us and heal our land. And in the case of the United States of America; only a Spiritual healing will effectively address what's taking place naturally and emotionally across this country.

As Christians who serve in God's Kingdom, we know that if we want real hope, change and healing that it can't come from self but from the unlimited power of Holy Spirit. He that has an ear let him hear. Promotion comes from the Lord and as my former pastor used to say, "If you want to know what's going on Spiritually, just take a look at what's happening in the natural because there is a real Spiritual significance for the election of President-Elect Obama.

First, let's look @ President Elect Barack's first name in the natural.

- The word "Barack" is shared among several languages. First, it is a word in the (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semitic_languages) Semitic family of languages. As such it has a root in Hebrew (but written baruch), a version in Aramaic (berek), a version in Arabic (baraka). (See Strong's Hebrew Bible Dictionary, entries 1288-1294.) It also occurs as a loan word in non-Semitic languages that have been influenced by these Semitic languages, such as Kiswahili (the most widely spoken African language). As often happens, associated words are similar in pronunciation. What appears in a later-appearing language may sound like something else in the earlier language. And in English we sometimes see words that are pronounced the same and even spelled the same, but that have very different meanings.

Now let's look @ President Elect Barack's name from a Biblical Spiritual perspective

- The name Barak is also mentioned in the Bible in the book of Judges 4:1-16. Barak was part of the story of the prophetess Deborah by both demonstrating faith to courageously follow God by and allowing their weakness to become an asset in overcoming a formidable enemy. Their weakness became strength as God worked on their behalf to achieve victory. President-Elect Obama definitely persevered through overwhelming odds of his skin color, childhood and campaign tactics to achieve success as preparation met opportunity.

With that, here are at least 3 reasons why Christians should be encouraged President-Elect Barack Obama's God ordained appointment:

1. **New Beginning:** as the 44th President elect, if you add 4 and 4 you get 8. The Biblical meaning of the number 8 is new beginning and his election signal not only a new face

of governmental leadership and inspirational hope for many but also an opportunity for God's Spirit to do a new thing in the hearts and minds of those who receive Him.

2. **Praise: President elect Barack's first name** is homonymous with barak, a form of praise; a homonym is a word with the same pronunciation as another word but with a different meaning, origin and usually spelling. In Strong's Concordance, 1288, the Hebrew meaning on barak/baw-rak' is a primitive root to kneel and implies an act of adoration and a benefit for man to bless God. In the book Praise & Worship – by Miles Monroe on pages. 118-119, barak is the 6th portrait of praise meaning to bless by kneeling and carries with it s sense of hushed expectancy and often comes when the Holy Spirit begins to minister filling the praise that has been offered i.e. God's response to worship.
3. **Blessing:** President Elect Obama's first name, Barack, is the anglicized version of Baraka which means 'blessing' in Kiswahili A.K.A. Swahili that comes from the Arabic spoken by the Omani Arabs that lived and traded along the coast of East Africa. This language is spoken by Obama Kenyan father. Though it came to Kiswahili from Arabic it no longer has any sectarian connotations and is in common use amongst East Africans of all faiths. It is a common name for boys in Kenya and Tanzania.

Regardless of how his name is spelled, it's therefore possible to draw the conclusion President-Elect Barack Obama is a blessing from God during these troubling times who wants other to benefit from his improbable appointment by passing onto others a believe in themselves to overcome any obstacle and change:

As Christians we all then need to be watchful and prayerful in support of President Barack Obama just because.....

- He needs our prayers for Godly strength, courage and wisdom that he doesn't succumb to the hope and multitude of unreasonable expectations being placed on him from campaign promises. There are many looking at him and government to bail them out from the real root of their problems; a lack of faith in God and/or a lack of a relationship with God thru Jesus Christ.
- He needs our prayers for Godly strength, courage and wisdom in not only dealing with the economy and healthcare but issues overseas with the war in Iraq and in Israel.
- Romans 13 commands us to do so.

May you be faithful and obedient to the marching orders of His Word to be salt and light in this world when political, cultural and social issues conflict with Biblical ethics, morality and principles. I pray that your Spiritual point of view will change with the election of President Barak Obama and the current state of this country but also that your faith will go beyond your natural eyesight to the One who saves, provides and makes all things possible for those who believe according to Psalm 146:3-10.

Peace & God Bless - Pastor Patrick Brandon

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