



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

What's different? Look closely: my **Point of View** is now easier to read. Some time ago, we put that "click here" button over there on the right, to take you to a larger-type-size version of the real thing. But this week, I'm making a foundational change: the "main version" goes up in size, and down in word count (bigger letters mean less content). I'll have to get to the point - in the **Point of View** - more quickly.

First, thanks to the friends who "clicked to give" in response to my appeals for sponsors for our Golf Challenge event which happened last Monday. I had asked God (and, you) for \$100,000 in commitments; my final tally of support was \$95,015. Yea, *God*... and, yea, *friends*. Those funds underwrite the ministry of The Master's Program, nationwide. Leaders unleashed for Kingdom leadership. **Thanks!**

Glad the golf event used electric golf carts. With oil at \$125/barrel, we would have used most of that funding for fuel if they had been gas guzzlers. Driving vacations for some families this summer may mean a stop at the mini golf park between home and the grocery store; the new guy or gal in the White House will step into huge expectations to "fix" things that are, for the most part, under the influence of forces that don't salute the Commander in Chief.



This is not the way things were supposed to have been. Oil has become the most valuable - and politically leveraged - commodity in the modern world. Problem is, the folks who control the supply are not clamoring to move up on the list of "nations that are friends of the United States." When the most critical fuel source is under the authority of people whose underlying philosophies of life run counter to yours, you wake to tension every single day. Who was supposed to have title to all of that sand, and the sweet crude that is inventoried underneath? *"On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt (the Nile) to the great river, the Euphrates - the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.'*" (Genesis 15:18-21) Here's an interesting Bible - and geography - trivia question: What do these countries - Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Oman,

United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey - have in common?

Answer: they lie between the Nile and the Euphrates. They are today's political entities found within the sweep of territory that God promised to Abraham and his descendants, the Jews. All of those "ites" are now the countries with petro power. What would our world be like today if America's most loyal ally, Israel, controlled all of that real estate... and the oil beneath? What if the Jews had originally claimed all of the territory that God promised to them?

For us - as citizens of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ - we were sent out to claim people, not property. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8). There remain, today, over 500,000 people who are not yet in reach of our gospel. *What would be different, today, if we had completed the expansion plan given to us by the same God who talked to Abraham?*

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).*

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