I was right. I told you so.

In these pages, seven months ago, I wrote:

Barring any massive attack on the U.S. home front, or an utterly devastating defeat in Iraq, on a par with, say, a Shi’ite and Sunni uprising that slaughters thousands of American troops, [President Bush’s] approval rating will most likely remain stable. ... [H]istory shows that, in times of war, few Presidents are turned out of office, since the electorate rarely changes horses in mid- apocalypse. ... Other things being equal, voters are not going to choose Kerry, when they’ve already got in Bush a Republican dedicated to all the conventional Democratic planks: an expanding welfare state, budget deficits, and a war abroad. A long and potentially nasty campaign beckons. ... But, as of this moment, I still think Bush wins. (Free Radical, June-July 2004)

That prediction was followed by a sequel article, “Caught Up In The Rapture” (Free Radical, August-September 2004), in which I explored the cultural dynamics underlying a potentially successful Bush re-election strategy. I argued that the continued growth of Christian fundamentalism would energize the race for Bush. I lamented that Bush had “virtually dropped [Ronald] Reagan’s libertarian rhetoric, while embracing a far more pronounced pietistic ideology.” This had led him to support “faith-based initiatives” and a Constitutional amendment defining “marriage” in strictly heterosexual terms, while opposing stem-cell research and abortion rights.

Even before the GOP Convention in NYC, it was clear to me that this had to result in a Bush victory. It’s not that I believed the election was decided before the votes were cast and squeaks out an Electoral College victory. The President, with a Republican House, and a firmly established Republican majority in the Senate, is on his way. He’s won a 51% majority of the votes cast and squeaks out an Electoral College victory. As a social and religious conservative, he is already strengthening support yet again for a federal constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Worse: Having disowned fiscal responsibility, he is a free-wheeling big spender, who has yet to veto a single bill, and who will extend the welfare state domestically and abroad, as he continues to forge a neo-Wilsonian nation-building crusade to bring “democracy” to that other fundamentalist region of the world: The Middle East. All of this comes at the expense of American taxpayers and American lives, in the name of a “War on Terror” that, in my view, has been damaged seriously by Bush’s Iraq misadventure.

In other words: God Help Us.