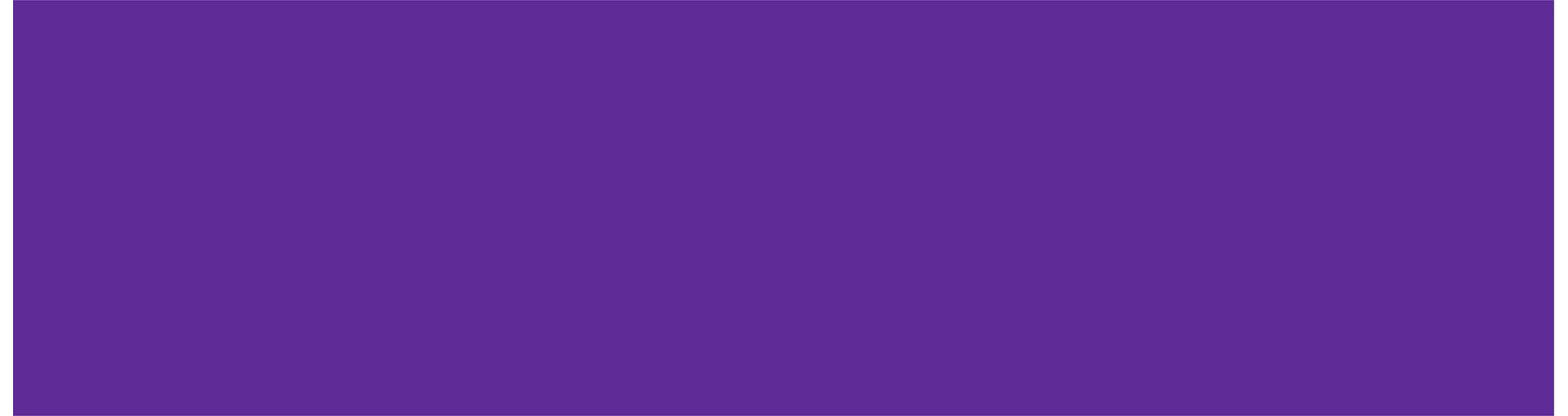


God and Politics

Part 2



*{13} When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" {14} And he said, "**No**; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" {15} And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is **holy**." And Joshua did so. [Joshua 5:13-15 ESV]*

Israel Wanted a King (1 Samuel 8)

- *“...Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”*
(v.5)
- God told Samuel that the people haven't rejected you (Samuel) they've rejected Me.
- Samuel warned them what a “worldly king” would do.

Kings Will Make Your...

Sons:

- Work chariots
- Command his armies
- Do his farming
- Be his blacksmiths

Daughters:

- Perfumers
- Cooks
- Bakers

Kings Will Also...

- Take the best of your fields, vineyards, groves
- Take tenth of your seed and vineyards
- Take your male and female servants
- Take your best livestock
- Make you his servants

The point is any form of human government is going to have you contribute to it.

The Government of Heaven

- *{18} "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET **FREE** THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, [Luke 4:18 NASB]*
- *{32} and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you **free**." ... {36} "So if the Son makes you **free**, you will be **free** indeed. [John 8:32, 36 NASB]*

- *{26} But the Jerusalem (heaven) above is **free**; she is our mother. [Galatians 4:26, parentheses mine, NASB]*
- *{1} It was for freedom that Christ set us **free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. [Galatians 5:1 NASB]*
- Adam and Eve were **FREE** in the garden to choose God or choose knowledge of good and evil (to become like God).
- The Republic of the United States and the democracy through which it operates is currently the best “world” system - just ask a missionary.

**The more a
leader/government is
in alignment with
heaven, the more
heaven can be
released.**

Government Can't Cut off the Root of Sin

- *{20} that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and **fight our battles.**" [1 Samuel 8:20 NASB]*
- As the church, we need to repent for looking to government to fight our battles of poverty/widows/orphans to name a few.
 - During Jesus' first coming, the Jews were looking for a "Davidic" king to overthrow Roman rule and save them.
 - Instead, Jesus set them free from the true oppressors: sin and the devil.

**True victory
manifests from the
inside-out.**

Why Should We Elect God-fearing Leaders?

- *{10} When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, And when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.* [Proverbs 11:10 NASB]
- *{15} The exercise of justice is joy for the righteous, But is terror to the workers of iniquity.* [Proverbs 21:15 NASB]
- *{12} When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, But when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.* [Proverbs 28:12 NASB]

- *{2} When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, But when a wicked man rules, people groan. ... {7} The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, The wicked does not understand [such] concern. [Proverbs 29:2, 7 NASB]*
- What does it mean to fear God?
 - You recognize that you are accountable to God
 - You recognize that you are weak
 - Cyrus, king of Persia (2 Chron. 36:22-23)
 - Cornelius, Roman military (Acts 10)

The Purpose of Government

- Government administers justice.
- Should “Christian” nations go to war?
 - Would Jesus go to war?
 - The question is only part of the equation
- Christ set the pattern not for governments, but for His disciples.
- As His disciple, I follow Him in the way of mercy and redemption.

The Purpose of Government

- God's command to governments, however, is different from His word to disciples.
- Part of the role of government is to administer justice and to exercise punishment.
- Think about what Paul wrote in Romans 13 while under the oppressive Roman government:

{1} Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. {2} Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. {3} For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, {4} for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. [Romans 13:1-4 ESV]

Pray for Our Leaders

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NASB), “1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

We moan, groan and complain that our politicians are not doing their job, but when we fail to pray for them, neither are we doing our job.

Why Are People So Angry?

- One may argue, "Our society is decaying. We should be mad." Yes, but we can be angry yet still not sin (Eph. 4:26).
- We could be angry because we feel that the underpinnings of our culture are being dismantled by unprincipled men and women.
- Our souls should be vexed at the darkening cloud of demonic infestation in our culture, especially when children are caused to stumble or the weak are exploited.

Why Are People So Angry?

- If we don't take a stand, the advance of evil ultimately means more people will die without Christ. So, if we are angry, it does not necessarily mean we have sinned. It can simply mean we care.
- The concern is that, unless this anger regenerates into something more redemptive, more Christlike, we will not see our cities renewed.
- Indeed, anger that does not awaken in us redemptive action ultimately degrades into bitterness and unbelief.

Revival or Sonship?

- God is waiting for our spiritual maturity. Our Father desires to bring many sons and daughters to glory, and this world, even with all its evil, is the perfect setting for God to accomplish His eternal purpose.
- To see our nation transformed, we must be transformed. We cannot become those whose hearts are given over to anger. Otherwise, we will risk becoming Christian hypocrites: angry that the world is not Christian but untroubled that we are not Christlike.

Revival or Sonship?

- Is the earth longing for revival or the revealing of the sons of God?
- *{19} For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. {20} For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope {21} that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [Romans 8:19-21 ESV]*
- The two are not mutually exclusive.

Lies We Are Believing about Politics/Elections

1. **"It is hopeless because of how bad things are in America"** – Our hopelessness about a problem is a bigger problem than the problem. A lack of hope means we are believing a lie. Ask God what the lie is, and then ask Him for the truth so you can be free and bring freedom.
2. **"The future of America is dependent on one particular person being elected"** – Yes, we need to stand up for what is right (and vote for who we believe is best), but our hope is not meant to be in our government, but in God.

3. **"I need to believe everything the media tells me"** – Most in the media have their own biases or agendas that they report through.
4. **"My descendants and I will not thrive in the future"** – One of the greatest declarations we can say is this: I will thrive no matter what happens. We can do all things through Christ. We are more than conquerors. If we believe we will thrive, we will.
5. **"Every emotion I am feeling is my own"** – There are "spirits" of fear, anger, and hopelessness that want to influence our emotions. Much of what people are feeling originates around them and not in them.

6. **"My prayers are not working"** – Philippians 4:6-7 gives us the key to peace, and that is this: believing our past prayers are working. As we include thanksgiving in our prayers, we move from fear and begging mentalities to faith.
7. **"The devil is winning"** – Jesus said in Matthew 16 that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church. God is doing much behind the scenes that we don't know about. As we believe that, we will see it more and more.

8. **"I must negatively label people I disagree with"** – "But the greatest of these is love." When we label people as evil, we lose our ability to influence them. Jesus forgave on the cross and Stephen forgave as he was being martyred, creating an open heaven for future encounters over those they were forgiving.
9. **"My words are not powerful"** – This is a season to speak life, not death.
10. **"One person can't make a difference"** – God's answer is always a person. Just as Gideon rose out of victimhood, fear, and self-protection, so will we and others do so in this hour.