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Introduction, The 2020 American Presidential Campaign, Be Persuaded In Your Own Mind And Live According To Your Own Faith, My Personal Political Leanings, A Citizen Of God's Kingdom First And Foremost, Obey The Powers That Be As A Positive Testimony Of Your Faith, We Are Not Of This World, Predestinated And Chosen By God To Be His Children, Corrupt Political Systems Of Men, Christ's Kingdom Crushes Kingdoms Of The World, All Great Powers Of The World Are Founded Upon Blood Guts And War, Bloody Warmongering History Of The USA, Founding Fathers And American Revolutionary War, Nothing Holy Or Righteous About Warfare, Wars Against The Native Americans

With the 2020 American presidential campaign heating up more and more as the months pass; with increasingly more hostile comments appearing on the social networks and in the daily news; and with an outrageous number of politicians currently announcing their candidacy for the highly-coveted position of the American presidency on the Democratic side of the isle; even though I actually began writing this series in January of this current year, I think I am completing it and releasing it at a very opportune time. Why? Because I think a lot of my American Christian friends really need to read -- and hopefully believe -- what I am about to share in the following paragraphs.

Let me begin this series by stating a sure, simple and obvious fact. Even before writing a single sentence here, I already know that some undetermined number of my online Christian friends and readers are not going to be able to accept what I am about to say. They will not agree with me. They may even conclude that I am wrong and misguided in my thoughts. No matter how many Scriptures I present to them in this series, they will still remain staunchly entrenched in their current position. They will do whatever they want to do, regardless of what the Scriptures have to say about it.

Of course, that is their right, whether I agree with them or not. After all, we must each live our lives according to our personal faith, our own understanding of the Scriptures, and how we believe we are being led of the Lord. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

". . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind . . . Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth . . . for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Romans 14:5, 22-23, KJV

Please note that I have only quoted parts of the previous three verses for the sake of emphasis. While the Apostle Paul was discussing an ongoing debate amongst the brethren regarding dietary customs and holy days in that particular chapter, I believe that we can apply this same principle to other areas of our lives as well. As I said a minute ago, in everything we do as Christians, we must be led by our own faith and convictions, as dictated by our understanding of the Scriptures.

The issue at hand -- voting -- is no different. Your faith may be different from mine when it comes to voting and the political process. So be it. Let me emphasize again that it is your right to live your faith as you choose. However, if you do happen to disagree with any of the positions I take in this series, please be aware of the fact that for many years now, it has been my personal policy to not engage in doctrinal or political debates. As I explain in the article "Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?", I view such discussions as an exercise in futility.

While I have discussed the topic of voting before in a few other articles, shared my opinion concerning it in all of the social networks where I currently participate, and have even written a few poems and made a number of graphics about it as well, I felt that it would be a good idea to bring all of those different pieces of information together into one central place. Thus, the purpose of this current series is to consolidate everything I have stated to date regarding the topic of voting, and then some.

And trust me, my friends, when I say that the "then some" is a lot more than even I realized I would be writing a few hours ago. I was actually standing in the kitchen making my breakfast. While doing so, I was pondering a few verses that

I wanted to include in this series. And then, whammy! A lot of different thoughts began to enter my mind as that Still Small Voice began to juxtapose those verses with some actual events from America's past. These were things which I had never even thought of or considered before. Just like that, I began to see certain past events in a very different way. If it was surprising to me, it may be shocking to you. I'll be discussing them later on in this series.

To continue, as I have mentioned a number of times before, I am neither a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or anything else. Because of my understanding of the Word of God, I in fact strive to remain outside of politics. It may surprise you to know that I have never voted a single time in my entire life. As I point out in articles such as "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?" and "One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews", I have for almost fifty years now viewed myself first and foremost as a citizen of God's Kingdom. My sole allegiance is to that Kingdom, and I will only promote that Kingdom. Of course, as per the Scriptures, I obviously obey the laws of the land in which I happen to reside, but I do so with the understanding that it is not my true home. It is simply my temporary home while I am in this body of human flesh. My true home is actually in Heaven, as is yours, I hope. Consider the following verses which explain what kind of a relationship we Christians are supposed to have with secular governments:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

Romans 13:1-5, KJV

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be

no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."
Titus 2:15-3:2, KJV

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

1 Peter 2:11-17, KJV

"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing."

Matthew 5:25-26, KJV

"They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:21, KJV

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him."

Mark 12:17, KJV

"And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

Luke 20:25, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

To continue, ever since I was young boy, I have always felt

different. I have never fit in anywhere or with anyone. I am sure that many of you who are reading this series have felt -- and continue to feel -- the very same way. You just know that this place is not your home. You are in it, but you are not truly a part of it. And, perhaps just like me, you strive to remain separate from it to some degree. Maybe you are a loner with few real friends, just like me. But you see, that is actually because not only were we chosen by God before the foundation of the world, but also because the truth of God's Word separates us from the world, whether we like it or not. Furthermore, the more we stand up for the truth of God's Word, the more it will separate us from this world. It just can't be helped. This becomes more evident with each passing year, as the world -- including the United States -- turns ever darker in a spiritual sense, and rebels more and more against God's Laws, as laid down in the Bible.

As some of you may already be aware, there is a very strong Scriptural basis for remaining separate from this present world. Sadly, the truth that is revealed in the following set of verses is something which many modern Christians do not want to hear or accept. Why not? Because they are so in love with this world, and with the things which it offers them. They have been caught up in the thorns, "and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word", as Jesus pointed out in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew chapter thirteen. Consider the following group of Scriptures:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:14-15, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,

saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:6-14, KJV

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13, KJV

So as is quite evident from the previous verses, we are not a part of this present world. We are spiritual pilgrims who are simply passing through it on our way to a much better place. Not only that, but as I mentioned earlier, the Bible informs us that God chose us for this mission before the world even began. He sanctified us -- or separated us -- and reserved us for a special purpose in this world. Again, consider the following set of sample verses. You will find additional similar verses if you take the time to study my KJV Bible Verse List called "Predestinated and Chosen":

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love . . . Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according

to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

James 2:5, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:16, KJV

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14, KJV

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:48, KJV

So, it is in large part due to my awareness of the profound

truths which are found in all of the previous verses, that for many years now, I have strived to remain apart from the world, inasmuch as lies within me. It is for this very same reason that I will not participate in any of the political systems which have been devised by man. I refuse to support them, promote them, or vote in any of them. But that is not all. It is my personal belief that every single one of said systems is corrupt, imperfect, inefficient, and ultimately doomed to failure, because they are the constructs of weak, sinful and imperfect men. In fact, as some of you will know, the Scriptures plainly inform us that all of the governments of the world are doomed to fall. Only a literal Kingdom of God on Earth, ruled by none other than Jesus Christ himself -- who is the Rock from Heaven -- is destined to remain; as is made evident by the following sample verses:

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces . . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure"

Daniel 2:34, 44-45, KJV

"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Psalms 2:7-9, KJV

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father." Revelation 2:26-27, KJV

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto

God, and to his throne."

Revelation 12:5, KJV

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:11-16, KJV

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10, KJV

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15, KJV

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? . . . And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them."

Matthew 21:42, 44-45, KJV

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock [referring to Himself] I will build my church;

and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

Acts 4:11, KJV

"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

1 Peter 2:6-7, KJV

Taking into consideration all of the previous verses, perhaps you can better understand why I personally have chosen to not participate in the political process, and in the governments of men. As we have seen, they are all destined for eventual destruction anyway. We need to be honest about this. None of them are ever going to change. They'll never cease from their corruption. They will never cease from their oppression. They will never cease from their deception. They will never cease from their never-ending wars. And I seriously doubt that any of them will ever surrender their power, and submit to Jesus Christ willingly. What do you think? If you honestly believe that the so-called great "Christian" nation of the United States of America is going to willingly bow before the Lord, you really deceive yourself and are in for a great surprise.

The truth of the matter is that all of the so-called "great powers" of the world are founded upon blood, guts and war; and that certainly includes the United States of America. If you doubt that this is so, consider the following shocking list. This list demonstrates the price of engaging in carnal, earthly warfare. Tragically, it is only a very small picture of what has happened the world over. It is nothing short of outrageous what man has done, and is willing to do, to his fellow man for a variety of reasons.

Please note that the totals listed below include the number of deaths which occurred in actual combat, as well as by

other causes such as accidents, disease, suicide, and murder. These totals also include those individuals who were wounded. Obviously, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these numbers. This short list only comprises the major conflicts in which a lot of American citizens died or were wounded:

American Revolutionary War	50,000
War of 1812	20,000
Mexican-American War	17,435
Civil War	1,031,881
Spanish-American War	4,068
Philippine-American War	7,126
World War I	320,518
World War II	30,314
Korean War	128,650
Vietnam War	211,454
War in Afghanistan	22,266
Iraq War	36,710
Total	1,880,422

As I said, the previous list only consists of the major conflicts in which a lot of American citizens have died or were wounded. It does not include a lot of other conflicts and wars in which smaller numbers of deaths occurred. This is not meant to minimalize, demean or de-emphasize those other conflicts and deaths. It is simply meant to keep this list short. If you want to see a fuller list, then please proceed to the following Wikipedia web page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_military_casualties_of_war

In addition to the previous list, you may also want to refer to my fourteen-part series entitled "Fulfilled Prophecy: The Beginning of Sorrows" for more information regarding the casualties of war, along with a lot of other very interesting topics.

As some of you are already aware, it is an established fact that some of the Founding Fathers of the United States appear to have embraced certain Christian values. This seems to be indicated by a number of historical documents. However, while they may have mentioned God in some of said documents, and in their personal writings as well, it is a deception for anyone to believe that when it comes to the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) -- which was also known as the American War of Independence -- they were actually fighting for some holy,

just cause, or for the Kingdom of God. Let's be clear about this issue. They most certainly were not. They weren't any different from the misguided Christian Crusaders who many years earlier claimed to be fighting for the Kingdom of God, or from the Roman armies of Constantine who painted crosses on their shields, as if to suggest that God supported their cause.

In reality, the Thirteen Colonies were fighting against both the Native Americans and the British to establish a physical kingdom right here on the Earth, which would eventually be known as the United States of America. Their stated goal was freedom from King George III, King of Great Britain and King of Ireland. It was a bloody, violent war, just like many wars which came before it, and many other wars which have occurred since that time. There's absolutely nothing holy or righteous about modern warfare, so please don't buy into that deceptive nonsense. Believe God's Word instead.

While we often hear stories regarding the Pilgrims, the Puritans and the Native Americans around Thanksgiving time, which make us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, as we have now seen, the simple truth of the matter is that since the very beginning, the United States was founded upon blood, guts and war. Furthermore, Miss America has continued to engage in slaughter after slaughter, and one war after another ever since that time. In fact, as some of you will already know, once the Colonists had won their independence from Great Britain, they next turned to waging war against the Native American populations as the European white man expanded his domain ever westward. It has been all about America hanging on to her piece of the Earth, and spreading her sphere of influence throughout the world, by whatever means necessary. That, my friends, is the ugly truth. There's really nothing Christian about it whatsoever. The truth is not the sanitized versions which our children read in school history books.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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TO VOTE, OR NOT TO VOTE : PART 2

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There Is Nothing Holy Righteous Or Christian About Modern Warfare, Violence Shall Be Repaid With Violence, Live In Peace With All Men And Love Your Neighbors, Jesus' Reaction To Violence, Not Of This World, No Scriptural Justification For Christians To Commit Violence Or Engage In War Against Anyone, Pressure On Donald Trump To Start A War With Iran, George W. Bush Iraq And The Messiah Complex, Will Mr. Trump Commit Same Error?, Our Spiritual Warfare For Souls Of Men, Strangers And Pilgrims On The Earth, Let Your Light So Shine, Our Mission And Heavenly Duty: Preach The Kingdom Of God, No Involvement In Secular Politics, No Entanglement In Affairs Of This Life, Where Do Your Loyalties Lie?, Must Choose Your Master, Blameless And Without Rebuke, Separate From The World

As I concluded in part one, there is absolutely nothing holy or righteous about modern warfare. There's nothing Christian about it. In fact, if you are familiar with the Scriptures, then you will already know that all of this warmongering is quite contrary to Jesus' teachings and the New Testament plan for the Early Church. Consider the following verses which clearly reveal the evils of violence and warfare, and how God declares that evil and violence will be met with reciprocal evil and violence:

"And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus [meaning the Apostle Peter] stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: FOR ALL THEY THAT TAKE THE SWORD SHALL PERISH WITH THE SWORD. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Matthew 26:51-53, KJV

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: HE THAT KILLETH WITH THE SWORD MUST BE KILLED WITH THE SWORD.

Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Revelation 13:10, KJV

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:1-3, KJV

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest DESTROY THEM WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH."

Revelation 11:18, KJV

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Psalms 20:7, KJV

"My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war."

Psalms 120:6-7, KJV

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah 2:4, KJV

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Micah 4:3, KJV

In contrast, as we discussed in part one, we Christians are supposed to obey the law -- at least as much as secular laws conform to God's Laws -- and we are supposed to strive to live peaceably with all men. Furthermore, as difficult as it may be at times, we are supposed to love our neighbors, and even our enemies, as becomes rather evident by the following set of verses:

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

"But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Psalms 37:11, KJV

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth . . .
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Matthew 5:5, 9, KJV

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Matthew 5:44-45, KJV

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:36-40, KJV

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 13:34-35, KJV

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you . . . These things I command you, that ye love one another."

John 15:12, 17, KJV

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

Romans 12:10, KJV

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt

not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Romans 13:8-9, KJV

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32, KJV

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Galatians 5:14, KJV

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

James 2:8, KJV

Let me bring to your attention the fact that in the Gospels, on the few occasions where the Disciples did want to resort to violence of some form -- either to protect Jesus, or to punish a certain village -- consider how Jesus responded to each situation:

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him."

Luke 22:49-51, KJV

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high

priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

John 18:10-11, KJV

Jesus summed up well how we Christians should not engage in physical violence upon this Earth during His brief exchange with Pontius Pilate in John chapter eighteen. As I mentioned in part one, in that chapter, Jesus stated the following:

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

So if His Kingdom is not of this world, then that likewise means that our Kingdom is not of this world either. As such, we have no real business supporting, and even less, fighting in, this world's awful, bloody, violent wars. There is simply no way to Biblically justify a Christian people, a Christian nation, or even a supposedly Christian-influenced president, engaging in war of any kind. You just won't find it anywhere in the Books of the New Testament.

Yet, sadly, as I have been warning for a few years now, that is exactly where the United States is headed once again with its heated exchanges with the Islamic government of Iran. It is very clearly the Iraq playbook all over again. Demonize the leadership in the eyes of the American public, and then declare war. While the nasty war hawks have been pressuring President Donald Trump to take on Iran, in the latest news I have been reading, Trump has been resisting their efforts thus far. But I must ask how much longer this will really go on. Just as Trump is currently surrounded by Vice President Mike Pence and other Christians in his cabinet, George W. Bush was too; and we all know that it led to an eight-year long war in Iraq. That ugly war results in thousands upon thousands of dead or wounded; particularly on the Iraqi side. Mr. Bush seemed to have some kind of a messiah complex. Does Trump too? Will he make the same mistake as his predecessor?

While we Christians are not supposed to involve ourselves in the secular wars of this Earth, as I have explained on many previous occasions, we are indeed involved in a type of spiritual warfare. This point is made evident by verses

such as the following. What needs to be pointed out here is that this spiritual warfare concerns the souls of men, and is not a war to gain power, wealth, territory, political influence, economic advantage, or anything else upon this Earth:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
Ephesians 6:10-18, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."
1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus

Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."
Hebrews 12:4, KJV

The previous verses tie in directly with what we discussed earlier. As we learned in part one, while we Christians are indeed in this present world in a physical sense, we are not truly a part of it. We are strangers and pilgrims on the Earth, just like our spiritual forefathers of ages past. You may likewise recall from part one, that in John chapter 17, in regards to His followers, Jesus said "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

Why would the Lord pray in this fashion? Why would He want to keep His followers here? Quite simply, because while the Apostles were not truly a part of the evil world of their day, they were here to fulfill a mission. As their spiritual descendants, we are here to fulfill the very same mission. That mission -- as you probably already know -- is to be emissaries of God's holy Kingdom, and to let our light shine before men, as we can determine by the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

Our mission, and our battle, as clearly outlined in the New Testament, is not to attempt to change the wicked, corrupt systems of man. Rather, it is to preach the Kingdom of God.

That is our primary job as Christians. That is our Heavenly Duty. Let the wicked children of the world worry about their system. Our job is to preach and promote the Kingdom of God, and to invite people to join it, as is made so perfectly clear by verses such as the following:

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:7-8, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Matthew 28:19, KJV

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

John 6:29, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Acts 5:42, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Acts 20:20, 31, KJV

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:14-15, 17, KJV

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

Galatians 6:6, KJV

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"

Colossians 1:4-6, KJV

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

Can our earthly mission be any clearer than that? Is there anything in the previous verses which talks about becoming involved in secular politics? Tragically, I have heard some misguided Christians make the claim that it's our civic duty to vote, and that voting is also a sign of our patriotism. Excuse me? Since when are the Children of Light supposed to be concerned with pledging loyalty to any corrupt system of the Earth? Those brethren who make such claims clearly lack a good understanding regarding what the Bible teaches about our separation from the world. If we are to be patriots, if we are to pledge our loyalty, it is only to the Kingdom of Heaven, according to God's Word.

Such people are quick to condemn those of us who choose not to vote. They say that if we do not vote, then neither do we have the right to complain about anything, because we are not politically involved. Actually, from my perspective, we are voting by choosing not to vote. By not voting, we are in fact registering our complete disapproval with the corrupt political systems of men. Furthermore, in my view, the way these politically-involved Christians think is a direct contradiction to all of the Scriptures I have shared with you in this series. Let me remind you again of a verse I shared with you earlier:

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

Do you truly understand what that verse is saying? If not, it means that you cannot fight in God's war to win souls to His Kingdom, while at the same time you are involved in the affairs of this current life. Stated another way, insofar as our current discussion regarding voting is concerned, you cannot simultaneously fight for, campaign for, promote and vote in the corrupt political systems of this present world, while likewise fighting for, serving in and promoting the Kingdom of Heaven. You have to make a choice regarding where your loyalties lie. It is either one or the other. You are either involved with the world's affairs, or else you are involved with the affairs of the Kingdom. You are either a soldier who pleases the Lord -- as Paul write above -- or else you are a soldier who fights for worldly causes and promotes political candidates.

In reading the Bible, we discover that the people of God have had to make this very same decision down through the ages. From Abraham, to Moses, to Joshua and Caleb, to the Prophets, to John the Baptist, to Jesus, to the Apostles, to all of the Disciples who came after them, every single one of them had to be willing to forsake the world they knew, and step out by faith, in order to follow God's lead. So which is it for you? Where do your priorities lie? Consider these sample verses:

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:"

Deuteronomy 30:19, KJV

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:15, KJV

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

1 Kings 18:21, KJV

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

1 Corinthians 10:21, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? . . . Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:14, 17-18, KJV

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

James 1:8, KJV

As I have already made clear, God's Word calls us to remain separate from the world. We must remain blameless, without spot and without rebuke. It is beyond me how any Christian can possibly even claim to do that when they are so deeply involved in one of the dirtiest, most corrupt institutions of man; that being the world of politics. You are deceiving yourself, my friend. Consider the following verses:

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:4-8, KJV

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Philippians 2:12-16, KJV

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23, KJV

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:13-14, KJV

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new

heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

2 Peter 3:13-14, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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TO VOTE, OR NOT TO VOTE : PART 3

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Friendship With The World Equals Spiritual Adultery, Married To Jesus, Unfaithful Spouse, Give God Your Whole Heart Mind Soul And Life, Jealous God, Backslidden Israel, Love Not The World, Don't Become Entangled In Secular Politics, Satan: God Of This World And King Of Earthly Empires, False Doctrine Of Dominion Theology, Dangers Of Becoming Politically Involved, Persecuted For Our Faith: Then And Now, Online Discrimination

Continuing our discussion, in part one of this series, we learned that insofar as His spiritual, adopted children are concerned, God views friendship with the world as an act of spiritual adultery. Let me share that verse with you again to refresh your memory:

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

So why does God view friendship with the world as an act of spiritual adultery? Quite simply, because as the spiritual Bride of Christ, we are loving the world, instead of loving Christ, our husband; and we are being loyal and faithful to the world, instead of being loyal and faithful to the Kingdom of God. That we Christians are in fact the spiritual Bride of Christ is made evident in such verses as the following ones:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

"And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast."

Matthew 9:15, KJV

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Matthew 25:1-12, KJV

In short, we have a divided heart, and divided loyalties. It is like a married spouse secretly taking interest in another person and engaging in extramarital sex on the side. We know that no spouse who truly loves his or her mate will tolerate their husband or wife being unfaithful like that. Will they? Of course not! Unless there is true repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation, there is a very good chance that the

relationship will end in divorce. Well, believe it or not, God is the very same way. When we are married to the Lord, He wants everything: our whole heart, mind, soul and life. Is this not in fact what Jesus Himself said in the Gospels? Consider the following two verses:

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38, KJV

So when it comes to our relationship with the Lord, nothing less will do or will ever satisfy Him. We are either in the relationship all the way, or else we are not. We cannot be looking for greener pastures on the side. In fact, the Bible plainly inform us that He is a jealous God, and He will not tolerate our infidelity, as we can easily determine by the following group of verses:

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

Exodus 20:5, KJV

"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

Exodus 34:14, KJV

"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 4:24, KJV

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,"

Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV

"(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth."

Deuteronomy 6:15, KJV

As I explain in articles such as "Revelation's Babylon the Great", "The Fruits of Disobedience" and "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?" that was ancient Israel's problem in both the

Old and the New Testaments. She repeatedly strayed from her spiritual husband and loved and worshipped the pagan, false gods of the world. Furthermore she prostituted herself with the government of Rome in the New Testament. That is why God, through His Prophets, repeatedly referred to Israel as an unfaithful, backslidden whore in the pages of the Old Testament. Remember again what the Apostle John wrote in his first Epistle. As we saw in part one, he said "Love not the world":

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

Love not the world; because when we are loving the world, we are not loving God. You just can't be in bed with two lovers at the same time, folks. To do that is to be unfaithful to the Lord. We are committing spiritual adultery; and as James writes, it makes us the enemy of God. I hope that this point really sinks into your heart.

So in light of all of the Scriptural truth I have presented here, it is difficult to not conclude that we are likewise guilty of the very same thing when we choose to engage in political campaigns, promote certain candidates, vote for said candidates, or perhaps even run for political office ourselves. We have in fact made ourselves a friend of the world and denied Christ His due. We have become entangled "with the affairs of this life", which is exactly what the Apostle Paul admonished us not to do. Why? Because not only is it not pleasing to the Lord, but because it entraps us, and causes us to be sidetracked from wholeheartedly serving the Lord, which is our primary duty to God. Here is that verse one more time. Maybe if I keep repeating it, some of you will get the point:

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

This very same principle can be applied to what Jesus stated in John chapter eighteen regarding His Kingdom -- and thus, our Kingdom -- not being of this world. That being the case,

no matter how much you try to twist the Scriptures so that they seem to support your wayward beliefs, the fact of the matter still remains that when you engage in all of these political activities, and hobnob with high society, you are most certainly not doing it for God's Kingdom, because His Kingdom is not of this Earth. You are in fact supporting, promoting, campaigning for and voting for a wicked, corrupt, violent political system of man. You are no different from the ancient, stubborn Israelites who insisted that God give them Saul as their king. And by the way, we all know who is behind all of this wickedness and these earthly kingdoms. Just in case you have forgotten, allow me to share a few verses with you:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

Luke 4:5-6, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

Isaiah 14:12-14, KJV

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Luke 10:18, KJV

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . . And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

Revelation 12:3-4, 7-10, KJV

In light of all of the strong Scriptural evidence which I've shared with you in this series, we must wonder why there are certain Christians who are so adamant about being involved in the political process. As I said earlier, I have met some of them online, and they are absolutely convinced that they are doing the right thing. Not only that, but these same Christians frown upon their brethren who choose not to vote, and in fact consider it being derelict of duty. According to these politically-minded Christians, we aren't good citizens, because we have failed to perform our civic duty. As I have already explained, I am convinced that it is they who have things twisted, and not those of us who are trying to adhere to the Scriptures by remaining separate from the world.

As I thought about this, it occurred to me that it is quite probable that some of these politically-active Christians have actually become deceived by a false doctrine known as Dominionism, or Dominion Theology. Based on an erroneous interpretation of Genesis 1:28, this doctrine teaches that we Christians are supposed to dominate this world, including in a social, economic and political sense, and thus prepare it for Christ's eventual Return, at which time we will hand things over to Jesus. Of course, this doctrine is based on the Futurist theological perspective, which I personally have come to seriously doubt, as I explain in the series

entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?".

My friends, there is absolutely nothing in the Scriptures which says this. Quite to the contrary, as we learned in part one, the Bible teaches that all earthly kingdoms are crushed. Why are they crushed? Because as we discussed only moments ago, Satan is the god of this world, and all governments and political power belongs to him by God's design. Remember what he said to Jesus in Luke chapter four:

". . . All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

Luke 4:6, KJV

Who gives people political power? Satan! So what does that tell us about all of these Christians who are involved in secular politics? It tells me that whether they realize it or not, they are actually working for the wrong master. They have been hoodwinked into believing that they are serving God, but are they really?

So the idea that we Christians are supposed to take over the governments of the world through political means is absolute nonsense. Not only that, but as we have already discussed, there is an inherent danger when Christians become involved in secular politics. What is that? It is that they will become trapped in them; so much so, that they begin to make their political interests and goals the priority in their lives, instead of God's Kingdom and preaching the Gospel to the lost. They will lose their first love, because they are in love with the world, and committing spiritual adultery.

But that is not all. If there is one thing that Jesus and the first Apostles clearly taught, it is that if we truly embrace and live our Christian faith, we will suffer for it. We will be persecuted for it. We will most certainly not be loved and admired by the world. If you doubt that this is so, ask some of our Christian brethren who are currently being persecuted in such places as India, Pakistan, China, the Arab nations of the Middle East, and other countries around the world where Islam is the dominant religion. Consider the following group of verses as additional proof:

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one

another, and shall hate one another."

Matthew 24:9-10, KJV

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 15:18-21, KJV

"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

John 16:2, KJV

"Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison."

Acts 5:17-18, KJV

"When they [the Jews] heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him [Stephen] with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and

stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

Acts 7:54-8:1-3, KJV

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

Acts 12:1-4, KJV

"And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks."

Acts 16:19-24, KJV

"For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:"

Acts 24:5, KJV

"I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many

things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities." Acts 26:9-11, KJV

"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day." 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, KJV

"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;" 2 Corinthians 6:4-5, KJV

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, KJV

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:" 2 Timothy 2:12, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall

suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11:32-40, KJV

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

Revelation 2:13, KJV

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Revelation 6:9-11, KJV

"And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

Revelation 18:24, KJV

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Revelation 20:4, KJV

As you can see, the pages of the New Testament do not in any way promise us a rosy life as we live out our faith. They in fact plainly say that if we are going to truly live our faith in both word and deed, we had better be prepared to take the heat. If we boldly live and share our faith, a lot of people are not going to like it, because by so doing, we will at the same time expose the sins in their own lives, and they will fight back with a certain viciousness, as I described to you in the previous paragraphs. As Jesus Himself said in the Gospel of John:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

Of course, as some of you will know, for many Christians who engage in online witnessing on the social networks, for quite some time now, we have been experiencing a low-key type of persecution in the form of blatant discrimination, and rather obvious censorship of our views by the liberal-minded owners of such networks. In fact, I was just reading recently that liberal-owned search engines -- such as Google -- have begun to filter out conservative and Christian viewpoints on their SERPS, or Search Engine Results Pages. But honestly speaking, in my view, all of this hardly deserves to be classified as persecution, because it is nothing like what other brethren in other countries are experiencing. Most Western Christians have no idea what real persecution is.

While persecution of any type may be annoying, or even very dangerous depending on its severity, at the same time, we need to realize that it is also a strong indication that we are getting the job done. After all, the bear never fights back until you encroach on his territory or enter his cave. Similarly, it is when we back off, cool down in our faith, and no longer seem to pose a serious threat, that the enemy

no longer bothers us.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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TO VOTE, OR NOT TO VOTE : PART 4

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Emperor Constantine's Supposed Conversion To The Christian Faith, 4th Century Bishops Compromise With Rome, Theodosius And Birth Of Roman Catholicism, Roman Catholic Inquisitions, Modern Political Christianity, The Gullible Christian Voting Bloc, Election Of Donald Trump, God's Ways Are Not Our Ways, Manipulation By The Jews, Mr. Trump Recognizes Jerusalem And Moves US Embassy There, The Flare-Up With Iran, God Raises Up Leaders, The Devil Operates In The Political World By God's Permission, Ungodly Leaders Fulfilling God's Will, The Litmus Test For Trump And Associates, The Ineffectiveness Of Voting, Christian Voting Bloc Hasn't Changed Anything Of Importance In Many Decades, Voting Simply Perpetuates The Evil Political System, An Illusion Of Freedom And Democracy, Federal Reserve Board And Power Of Jewish Money, SCOTUS: Nine Powerful People Not Voted Into Office By The American Public, Most Powerful Individuals And Institutions Are Immune To American Voting System, Watching America's Sad Spiritual Decline, America Is In Free Fall, No National Repentance On The Horizon, We Did Our Best, Younger Liberal Generation Now Coming Into Power, Dark Wicked Forces At Work, A Troublesome Future, Find The Proper Balance, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part three, this leads us to a very important point I wish to share with you. It involves

both a lesson, as well as a serious warning regarding the current administration which resides in the White House. Do you understand why the persecution against Early Christians eventually stopped? If not, let me tell you. It was due to compromise with the world, plain and simple. In other words, after suffering horrendous persecution under Roman emperors such as Nero and Diocletian for a period of several hundred years, during the early Fourth Century, Christians went from being persecuted and killed in the coliseums of Rome, to becoming an accepted religion under Emperor Constantine the Great, a.k.a. Constantine I.

In case you are not aware of it, there is considerable debate regarding how and why this occurred. The general story states that following a number of military victories, and an alleged miraculous vision in the sky, Constantine I converted to the Christian faith. Other sources state that he did not convert to the faith until he lay dying on his death bed. Personally, I strongly suspect that his conversion -- if it really even happened at all -- was due more to political convenience than to anything else. Whatever the case may be, during the last quarter of the same century, Christianity -- or better said, Catholicism -- became the state religion of the Roman Empire under Theodosius I, and all pagan religions were banned. I discuss this topic in the article entitled "Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope".

The point is, the bishops of that era -- who were in fact the progenitors of the Roman Catholic Church -- became very worldly. They enjoyed all the power, prestige, wealth and material comforts which came with living secular lives, all the while still pretending to be true Disciples of Jesus Christ. Just as both the political and religious leaders in Israel had ridden the Roman beast during the First Century, these worldly bishops were now doing the very same thing. It was spiritual adultery with the world once again.

Worse yet, once those misguided bishops did acquire all of that power, and became the state religion of Rome, they in fact began to persecute anyone who did not embrace the new Catholic faith. If you read the aforementioned article, you will see that the threat of persecution is mentioned in the edict which was signed by Theodosius I. Centuries later, it would result in the various Inquisitions. Various sources state that as many as fifty million people lost their lives as the so-called "Holy Mother Church" forcefully spread her influence across Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

So in case you haven't realized it by now, there is a very big difference between true Christianity which is described for us in the Scriptures, and the worldly Christianity which is practiced by so many people today. In fact, I would dare say that there is even a third kind of Christianity as well, which we might refer to as political Christianity. This kind of Christianity is very popular in the United States. It is a matter of public record that quite a few politicians have successfully climbed the political ladder -- including some American presidents -- as a result of embracing this kind of Christianity.

So how do we recognize it? Well, it seems that all that is required is that a candidate frequently mention words such as God, faith, blessing, prayer, etc., in some of their campaign speeches, and the gullible Christian voting bloc will rather enthusiastically embrace them as their own, no matter what kind of life that candidate may have lived previously or in private. If you don't believe it, just look at who is sitting in the White House right now: a very materialistic, worldly, vain, narcissistic man, who has openly committed adultery a number of times, and who has publicly debased women. Yet so many American Christians are totally infatuated by this man.

Now, please don't misunderstand me. I do believe that God raised up Donald Trump to lead the country at this current time, in order to fulfill His Divine Purposes. I mean, if God could use a pagan king such as Nebuchadnezzar -- whom He referred to as "my servant" in the Book of Jeremiah -- to punish the ancient Israelites, He can likewise use a proud, boastful man like Donald Trump to fulfill His Divine Will. It is not for us to question God's methods. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

However, as I have mentioned previously, I am by no means convinced of Trump's sincerity as a Christian. I would like to be wrong, but as far as I can tell, Donald Trump is just playing to the crowds, and appeasing the Christian voting bloc, just like presidents before him. But if there is one thing which really bothers me, it is the way that some of my

Christian brethren have become so mesmerized and blinded by this man, as if he is some kind of savior. In fact, I have come across online comments where some people refer to Trump as the "new Cyrus".

Well, one thing is for certain. Donald Trump and his family are certainly being manipulated by the Jews. Before some of my pro-Israel friends take offense, consider the facts. Not only did Trump recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel on December 6, 2017, but he also ordered the U.S. Embassy to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as well. Most countries recognize Tel Aviv as Israel's capital, and likewise have their embassies there, due to Jerusalem's disputed status. The U.S. Embassy officially opened in Jerusalem on May 14, 2018. It is worth noting that three previous presidents -- Clinton, Bush, and Obama -- had all deferred moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

But there is more. Don't think for a minute that the current flare-up with the Islamic Republic of Iran is a coincidence. The Jews obviously realize that they're in a very comfortable position with the Trump administration. So I don't doubt for a minute that they are going to manipulate the situation in the Middle East to their favor, by using the U.S. government as their patsy and stooge, as they have always done. But as far as God raising up leaders, consider the following group of verses:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

Romans 13:1-2, KJV

"Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."

Psalms 75:5-7, KJV

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"

Daniel 2:20-21, KJV

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

Daniel 4:17, KJV

"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me."

Jeremiah 27:5, KJV

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."

1 Samuel 15:23-26, KJV

"And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost."

Acts 12:21-23, KJV

It has occurred to me that some of my readers may now be a little confused. After all, in part three of this series, I explained by way of the Scriptures how Satan is the god of this world, and all political power is in his hands. But now the previous verses state that God raises up leaders. Isn't this an obvious contradiction? Not really, if you understand how God operates. Please recall exactly what Satan said to Jesus in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke: "for that is delivered unto me."

You see, while Satan is the god of this present world, and while he controls all of the world's governments, it is in reality because God has given him the power to do so. So in essence, God has given the Devil permission to do certain things. We see the same thing happening in the Book of Job. Satan could not touch Job until God allowed him to do so. In similar fashion, Satan raises up these leaders with God's permission, because even the Devil is fulfilling God's Will. And to add one more twist to this explanation, consider that while God is ultimately the power behind the rise of these leaders, it does not necessarily mean that they will be good or even godly leaders, because they are still operating in Satan's realm.

If that is not enough, consider this as well. A leader does not even have to be a Christian in order for God to use him to fulfill His Divine Will. There are plenty of examples of this to be found in the Scriptures. For example, Pharaoh of Egypt was as evil as could be. One of them had all of the Hebrew children killed, and the other one, God hardened his heart in order to test the Hebrews, and to magnify Himself. Or look at Nebuchadnezzar. He was certainly a proud, pagan king, but God used him as His vessel of wrath to punish the Jews. Then there is Xerxes and Cyrus; both pagan kings who God used to liberate the Jews. Likewise King Herod who slew the children. Even General Titus fulfilled God's Will when he destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. In short, God can use whoever He wants, whenever He wants, however He wants and wherever He wants.

Returning to our previous discussion concerning Trump, the question we need to ask ourselves is whether or not Donald Trump, Mike Pence and their associates are Christians in the truest and Biblical sense of the word. Do they really live by the Scriptures? Do their fruits bear witness to their faith? I suspect that we may not have long to find out. In previous paragraphs, I explained to you by way of the Scriptures why I am convinced that Christians are not to engage in any type of violence or war. I likewise briefly discussed Donald Trump's current dilemma regarding Iran. So for me personally, here is the litmus test insofar as Mr. Trump and his associates are concerned:

If the Trump administration declares war on Iran or North Korea, then in my opinion, I think that such a declaration will be a rather clear indication that they do not really

live according to Christian principles. Such a declaration will expose them as being false Christians, warmongers, and no better than any of the leaders who have come before them, who also hoodwinked the voting Christian public. Seriously, my friends. How many more times will you allow yourselves to be deceived by these fast-talking tricksters who know how to push all the right buttons? You are so easy to read. They know exactly what to do and say, in order to win your vote.

My friends, it is really time for you to wake up and to stop drinking the Kool-Aid. It is time for you to face the truth. The fact of the matter is that you cannot change a single thing of real importance through your vote. I suspect that the older you get, like myself, the more you will come to realize this sad, inevitable truth. You will come to see what little good your many years of dutifully voting have actually accomplished. Let's face it. Christians have been voting for many decades; centuries in fact. Did Christians stop abortion from becoming the law of the land on January 22, 1973? Did the many years of Christians performing their "civic duty" stop same-sex "marriage" from becoming the law of the land on June 26, 2015?

Has the Christian vote stopped America from engaging in war after war, decade after decade? Regardless of which party is in office, it just never ends, does it? One war ends in some part of the world, and sooner or later, America finds herself engaged in a new one somewhere else. What about the plight of the common man? Has the fact that millions of Christians have gone to the polls year after year really changed the lives of the common working man so that his daily struggles are less? Or does he barely manage to make it financially from month to month? I could provide you with more examples to demonstrate how ineffective your vote really is, but I think I have made my point. Are you starting to wake up yet?

So you see, in reality, by voting, all you are actually doing is perpetuating a very evil, corrupt, incorrigible political system. This system is intentionally rigged so that it will always benefit the rich and the elite, while the majority of Americans are left to financially struggle and suffer on the lower rungs of the social ladder. As I explained to you just a moment ago, your vote is going to do absolutely nothing to change that.

As I point out in the controversial series entitled "Welcome to Greater Israel, USA", regular Americans are no longer in

control of the nation, and haven't been for a long time now. It is my opinion that everything is a show and a circus, that is meant to generate the illusion of freedom and democracy. People are made to believe that their votes count, when in reality, the results of the most important elections are not determined by the people, but rather by those individuals who possess the most money. You see, one of the biggest reasons why your vote is so meaningless, is because some of the most powerful people in the nation -- such as the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank -- are not even voted into office by the people. They are appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Senate, who themselves bow to the pressure of Jewish money and the AIPAC. Let me remind you of what Mayer Amschel Rothschild said so long ago:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Give me control of a nation's money, and I care not who makes her laws."

----- End Quote -----

For those of you who may not be aware of it, the decisions of the Federal Reserve Board affect every single person in the United States. Their decisions affect the cost of living, the minimum wage, and so much more. And yet, as a Christian voting in America, you have absolutely no say when it comes to these matters. If you find that fact alarming, then you should also consider that according to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, "its monetary policy decisions do not have to be approved by the President, or anyone else in the executive or the legislative branches of government." This startling fact was confirmed in a 2007 interview that Jim Lehrer held with Alan Greenspan. As you may know, Greenspan was the thirteenth head of the Federal Reserve. During the interview that aired on PBS -- Public Broadcasting System -- Lehrer asked Greenspan what he thought should be the proper relationship between a chairman of the Federal Reserve, and the U.S. president. Following is how Greenspan responded:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Well, first of all, the Federal Reserve is an independent agency, and that means, basically, that there is no other agency of government which can overrule actions that we take. So long as that is in place and there is no evidence that the administration or the Congress or anybody else is requesting

that we do things other than what we think is the appropriate thing, then what the relationships are don't, frankly, matter."

----- End Quote -----

Stated another way, the Federal Reserve Bank really amounts to a privately-run financial dictatorship. They are the ones to make the rules, and no one ever bothers to question them. We can say then that the Board of Governors is really just for show. In other words, it is to provide a false appearance of a democratic process. There is a reason why the head of the Federal Reserve Bank is referred to as the "money czar". His word basically amounts to financial law, and he in fact holds more power, and also more directly affects our lives, than the actual American president. Yet, we the people don't vote him or her into office.

The head of the Federal Reserve Bank is not the only person who exerts so much control over our lives. Earlier, I asked you how it is that despite so many Christians going to the polls every voting season, abortion and same-sex "marriage" became the law of the land. Those were actually rhetorical questions, because I already know the answer, and maybe you do too. The reason why these abominations became the law of the land despite strong protest from many Christians in the United States, is because once again, the decisions were not affected in any way by people going to the polls. Both rules were handed down by the nine people who sit on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. These nine justices are not voted into office by we, the people. As you may know, they are nominated by the president, and then confirmed by the Senate, as per Article II Section II Clause II of the U.S. Constitution. Thus again, your vote is powerless.

These are just two powerful examples where individuals who are not even placed in office by the American voting public, have such a strong, direct affect on our personal lives, and there is nothing that we can do about it. American banking institutions are the exact same way. Corporate America is also operates in the same fashion. Whether or not you can get a loan, or whether or not you can obtain a particular job at some big fancy firm, are both decided by individuals who are way above you on the social ladder. Your vote certainly did not put them there. There are many other institutions which have power over, and which directly affect our lives, even though we did not give them such power by casting our votes.

A few examples include the mass media, the public education system, the insurance industry, the entertainment industry, the social networks, and many more.

The point of the previous paragraphs is to demonstrate that the individuals and institutions who most affect our lives as American citizens are totally immune to, and are not affected in the least by, the American voting system. You do not put them into office. Yet every decision they make, and every action that they take, can and will eventually affect your life to one degree or another. In reality, if you stop and think about it, the only place where your vote has any power at all, is in small, local elections, and even that is probably by design. As I said, it is to give the illusion of freedom and democracy. But as far as the major decisions are concerned, forget it. You have no control over them at all.

My friends, believe me; I know that it can be difficult to watch what is happening in the U.S.A.; particularly if you are an older American like I am. Like myself, you remember what things were like fifty years ago. They were far from being perfect back then as well; but in some ways, they were a whole lot better than they are now. Tragically, by her own choice, America has selected her current path, and it's not a good one. This tide of liberalism and rebellion against the Laws of God will surely be her doom, unless there is a great national repentance. Personally, I do not see it coming. It seems to me that America has already gone over the edge and is now in a state of free fall, just waiting to hit the bottom. As we read in the Second Book of Chronicles:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

The truth is that we older Americans have had our chance to shape the future. Some of us did our best to raise our own children in the knowledge and fear of the Lord. We gave them God's Word. But there is an undeniable truth which we cannot change. The future belongs to the younger generation, and the decisions which they make. Despite everything we have done as Christian parents, this younger generation which is now coming into power is a lot more liberal than you and I. They believe things and embrace things which we find utterly shocking, revolting and disgusting. There are very powerful,

wicked spiritual forces at work which have grabbed hold of their hearts and minds. As I shared with you in part two of this series:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

We cannot fight our children's battles for them. As the new generation of voters, they will make whatever decisions they will make, and there is very little that you and I can do about it. Given what we see happening now across the nation, I wouldn't be the least surprised if in another twenty years -- or maybe sooner -- America will become a nation which you and I will hardly recognize. It is already on its way there, and that is a very troubling thought. God help us all!

In conclusion, as I stated at the beginning of this series, it is important that we each find a proper balance between our participation in worldly affairs, and our faithfulness to the Kingdom of God. Whether or not you choose to vote is a personal decision which must be based on your own faith, your own personal understanding of the Scriptures, and what you believe is God's Will for your life. You obviously cannot decide for me, and I cannot decide for you. Even if you don't fully agree with my position as stated in this series, I hope that the plethora of Scriptures I have provided here will at least give you pause, and cause you to re-examine and reflect upon your own place in this present world, and how you relate to it.

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. It is my hope that you have found it to be both informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the appropriate link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server.

America: Land of the Free . . . and Hypocrisy!
Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution
Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy
Going Down the Highway of Life
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?
Killing and the Phinehas Priesthood
Killing, Murder and Military Duty
Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen
Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Owning Guns: What Saith the Scriptures?
Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope
Revelation's Babylon the Great
Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War
Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires
School Shootings: The Second Amendment Controversy
Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future
Welcome to Greater Israel, USA
What About the Poor?
What About the Wall?
Who Is The Real Terrorist?
You've Got It Wrong: Submit and Live!

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