

Believer in the ἐκκλησία age

Bride of Christ

- ✓ One of the most beautiful images of the church—of love, oneness, and intimacy.
- ✓ God's incomprehensible love considering our status, Rom. 5:8-10
- ✓ Christ as the Bridegroom nourishes and cherishes the bride.
- ✓ The response He looks for in the bride—**ὑποτάσσω**, Eph. 5:24.
- ✓ The bride is to reflect the majesty of her Bridegroom.
- ✓ Bride is to be a pure virgin (2 Cor. 11:2) with single-hearted devotion—not in bed with world, cf. James 4:4; 1 John 2:15.

Three stages of marriage

1. CA: the betrothal—initiation of the marriage. Preparation . . .
2. Rapture: the bride is taken and presented to the Bridegroom.
3. After the presentation, the marriage feast begins, Rev. 19:7-9. This could last for days until *finally* consummated with the bridal pair being led to the bridal chamber = intimacy with the Lord.

Preparation for Bible Class – the 3 Grand Issues

1- Salvation – the command to believe in Jesus Christ

Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, (πίστευσον ἐπὶ τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ σωθήσῃ) . . ."

2 – The Spiritual life – the command to keep walking in/by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk (περιπατεῖτε) by/in the Spirit, and you will not (οὐ μὴ) carry out the desire of the flesh.

3- Maturity – the command to keep growing in grace.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow (αὐξάνετε) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

LIFE OF DAVID (89) – Government, part 2: Ancient Israel, Modern America, and the Nature of Evil

Government—part 2

1. Israel's national reversionism was manifested in her rejection of the God-given Hebrew Republic, 1 Sam. 8.
 - a. 1 Samuel is the oldest textbook in political freedom. It is the first known handbook on republican/representative political theory.
 - b. Israel originally had twelve tribes, much as the United States is divided into fifty states. Each tribe had its own territory. There *was* a national government but there was no king; hence, no powerful central government.
 - c. No legislature to create new laws, only judges to settle disputes in accord with established laws.

- d. Education was not a function of the government, but of parents, and later synagogues and schools.
- e. Charity was handled privately. Forced charity is no charity.
- f. Taxes were low.
- g. Money—gold and silver—was provided by private merchants.
- h. This Hebrew Republic was unique in the ANE, cf. 1 Sam. 8:5.
- i. Big government is both the result of, and the punishment for, evil
- j. 1 Samuel 8 makes it clear that human kings, powerful governments, are *ersatz* gods; they are idols of a reversionistic people; they are signs of rejection of God Himself, 1 Sam. 8:7.
- k. Big government will take your children, your money, your property, your lives, and your freedom, 1 Sam. 8:14-17. None of these things were true under the Hebrew Republic. Big government redistributes money—legalized theft—and nationalizes the means of production.

- l. Big government is basically a pagan form of government in which the government rules the people rather than becoming the servants of the people, cf. Luke 22:24-26. Public *servants* today?

- m. Note how America has moved away from the biblical model and the laws of divine establishment. Our taxes are higher than ten percent; they are closer to forty percent. We have an enormous federal bureaucracy. Scores of millions of people work for the local, state, and federal governments. The federal government owns factories, power plants, banks, and one-third of the land in the United States. More than half of the federal budget consists of transfer programs by which the government takes property from taxpayers and gives it to tax consumers.

- n. In sum, our present government is exactly about which God warned the ancient Israelites. Because the Bible is divinely inspired, it furnishes us with establishment principles for capitalism and a free society.
- o. Note the policies that are condemned in 1 Samuel 8. This passage is central to any discussion of the biblical view of civil government.
 - ✓ The draft (11, 12, 16).
 - ✓ Exorbitant taxes—ten percent or more (15, 17).
 - ✓ Eminent domain—the taking of private property (14, 16).
 - ✓ Forced labor—national service (12, 13).
 - ✓ Redistribution of property (14).
 - ✓ Slavery (17).

- p. God's/biblical viewpoint regarding the military, 1 Sam. 8; Deut. 20:5-11; 2 Tim. 3:16. Two options: DV or pagan viewpoint.
- ✓ God's warnings against big government include conscription, 1 Sam. 8. Conscription is supported by liberals who want to *force* young people into two or more years of their lives into some national public service; and by conservatives who believe government should force people to serve in the armed forces.
 - ✓ Serving in the military is one of the noblest things a person can do. There is no greater love or honor than to serve and be willing to die for one's countrymen, Jn. 15:13. Every citizen should honor and respect men and women in the military for the freedoms he enjoys. Politicians need to stop using them as pawns. They deserve far more respect and honor than they get.

- ✓ Deut. 20 sets up the rules for the military. There was no draft.
- ✓ Deut. 20 provides specific information about military service.
- ✓ Note the four classes of people who could not serve, 5-11.
 - Those who have a new house
 - Those who have a new vineyard
 - Those who have a fiancé
 - Those who are afraid
- ✓ Consider the fact that the Hebrew nation was a chosen nation of God, were commanded to fight “ holy war,” and take the promised land. This should remove any notion of men and women obligated to pay public debt by serving in military.
- ✓ In the case of the one who was afraid, there was no provision for a conscientious objector status. Also, he alone was the one who determined if he was timid. Furthermore, he was not to be forced into some alternative service.

- q. There are only two legitimate purposes of civil government, Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:14-15.
- 1) To punish the wrongdoer and 2) to praise the good.
 - The purpose of government is not to punish or “enslave” the innocent, redistribute property, or get involved in “social justice.”
 - If the legitimate functions of government had changed from the time of Samuel, either Paul or Peter would have mentioned it.
- r. God never directed Israel to “establish peace” in other lands—and she was truly God’s nation with an eternal purpose.
- Political messianism (e.g. holy war is not far from “righteous cause” in establishing democracies in other countries) is unbiblical and continues to cost us dearly—in blood, money, and true freedom and power.

- Political messianism hit a fever pitch in the Civil War. Consider Unitarian Julia Ward Howe, who was so inspired by the sight of the Union army camp that she penned the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. It was to become the battle hymn of the crusade against the South.
- All of the elements of Biblical imagery that are applied to the work of Christ and the Gospel in the Bible are applied to the Union armies in the hymn: the crushing of the serpent's head; the judgment of men; the battles as executions of God's wrath against the South.
- We have the same of "biblical language" wherein the Gospel of Jesus Christ is replaced with a "crusader democratic gospel" in every war since.

- s. Big government also creates a type of “Compassionate Fascism”
- Holy war on poverty.
 - Faith-Based foolishness (Mormons, Muslims, Methodists).
 - Increases the constituency of the Welfare State
 - Foments entitlement attitudes and victimology.
 - It is an exercise in political delusion
 - It will only increase manipulation of evil.
 - Government needs to end the student loans (money is stolen, it has driven up the cost of education, and it puts young people deeply in debt at the start of their lives), end the child care vouchers, end subsidies for medical care, end the subsidies to Catholic Charities and Word Vision, et al.
 - Government charity is a contradiction in terms, for government has no money except what it collects by force from others. Charity is not compelling someone else to give his money to the poor.

- t. The Entitlement Nightmare of our age—all because of the evil of human evil/good—the new rights that require intervention by government into all aspects of society and economy: right to immigrate, right to food, right to clothing, right to rest, right to medical care, right to a just wage, right to a safe environment, right to personal security of workers, right to common use of all goods, right to work, right to a pension, right to insurance for old age, right to social services, right to education, right to employment, right to a good reputation, right to respect, right to appropriate information, right to professional training, right to adequate health care, et al.
- ✓ Dictators and National Health Care. Every dictator of modern history was an advocate of national health care: Bismarck and Wilhelm of Germany, Lenin and Stalin of the USSR., Salazar of Portugal, Mussolini of Italy, Franco of Spain, Yoshihito and Hirohito of Japan, Peron of Argentina, Hitler of Germany, Tito of Yugoslavia, Castro of Cuba, Mao Tse-Tung of China.

- ✓ Hitler established compulsory health care—“The State must see to raising the standard of health in the nation.”
- ✓ Vladimir Lenin—“the nationalization of drug stores, of large private medical institutions . . . Free trained medical assistance and medical supplies accessible to all.
- ✓ Joseph Stalin—“Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to maintenance in old age and also in cases of sickness and disability.”
- ✓ Fidel Castro—“Health is an essential right of all men and a responsibility of society as a whole.”
- ✓ Government control means: you will be forbidden from receiving treatment that the government considers unnecessary, a government monopoly (aka health alliance) will take over, doctors will be compelled, heavy new taxes to fund the plan—all of this under the guise of universal access and guarantee of equality of care. You can be sure it will be called something nice.

2. National reversionism is the state of degeneration of a nation that is saturated with evil/"good"—as evidenced by the ongoing rejection of God which leads to the destruction of the six laws of DE. The nation is ripe for destruction when evil is called good and good is called evil, cf. Rom. 1:18-32.
 - a. Volition, Gen. 2:16-17; Acts 17:26.
 - b. Marriage, Gen. 2:23; Matt. 19:6.
 - c. Family, Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6.
 - d. Government, Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:13-14.
 - e. Nationalism, Gen. 10:8; Acts 17:27.
 - f. Capitalism, Gen. 23; Matt. 20:7-15; 25:27. There has always been an assault on capitalism by Roman Catholicism and leftists, but now we see it by mainstream media, unions, movies, and doctrineless evangelicals.

3. It was the biblical reformation (BR) of the 16th century that created Western Civilization—and the reestablishment of capitalism and the laws of DE—that has brought mankind so much wealth, freedom, and blessedness.
 - a. Before the BR, the Middle Ages—a period of feudalism, ignorance, superstition, and church tyranny—stretched for a thousand years.
 - b. The BR broke the *spell* of superstition (mongrel faith-works).
 - c. It was because of the BR that a new age of religious, political, and economic freedom first dawned.
 - d. The BR brought to light the priesthood of all believers, which resulted in the gradual dismantling of hierarchies in both the church & state. The US constitution, influenced by the Reformation, prohibits monarchy and aristocracy in the U.S.
 - e. The BR brought forth the idea of a binding constitution—the rule of Law—because of belief in the power of the written Word.

4. When a nation reaches a saturation point of evil, God brings in various cycles of divine discipline to warn the nation of impending destruction, Lev. 26.
5. When God disciplines a nation, He does so through other evil nations, cf. Assyria, Babylon, and Rome—Islam today?
6. Divine discipline on a nation begins with the disciplining/purging of God's own churches for their own evil within that nation, 1 Pet. 4:17, Matt. 5:13. Just as He does with national entities, God allows evil enemies of Christianity to attack/discipline her (cf. the media, college professors, liberals, atheists and cults).

7. The evil in the church is well-documented. However, most of the Christian media turns a blind eye to the scams (cf. Baker, Tilton, Hagin, Roberts, Hinn, Osteen). The extent of evil in the church is to the point where hardly anyone believes it is even right to point out these evils in the church. Therefore, Christianity continues to be distorted in the public's eye.

8. When a nation is saturated with evil, God has no choice but to administer cycles of discipline on that nation in order to protect the upcoming generation, Rom. 1:32; Isa. 5:20; Jon. 4:11.

9. As a reversionistic nation rejects the six laws of divine establishment, it actually trusts (נִטְוָה) in evil, cf. Isa 47:10—e.g. it *trusts* in big government, Social Security, enemy nations, Muslims, socialists, communists, liberals, United Nations, psychology, self-help, criminals, legislation to control inflation and guns, government control over free enterprise/capitalism, sociology, evolutionary environmentalism, “compassionate” fascism, and a million other things whereby man trust in himself and his solutions as he rejects God and His laws of divine establishment. Nations which are not influenced by BD will not be able to maintain laws of divine establishment. Therefore, they will be heavily influenced by all kinds of forms of evil/good where man becomes like God—no longer need for God or His grace. Consider the PC spin of the media today or the average liberal Christian. The only hope for any nation is the pivot of maturing believers, Matt. 5:13; Hos. 4:1-6.

10. Evil is the grand policy of Satan as the ruler of this world. Evil includes human good; sweetness and light; a chicken in every pot; social and economic panaceas; the attempt to solve the problems of life apart from God or the laws of DE; social gospel; social action (cf. America's messianic complex); socialism; religion; legalism; "Christian" victorious life panaceas; prosperity gospel; "its good because it is helping some people" mentality, et al. Only BD can free you from all this evil thinking.

11. Sin comes from man's OSHGEN whereas evil pervades man's heart/thinking and therefore is much more difficult to get rid of. Evil gets into the thoughts, the frame of reference, the memory center, the vocabulary, the norms and standards, and then on the launching pad, Mtt. 15:19.

12. Sin was solved at salvation, but evil can only be resolved through spiritual growth resulting in maturity—supergrace!
13. The sins of humanity were judged on the Cross, but problem of evil was not solved at the Cross or in salvation.
14. Evil continues as the policy of Satan until the millennium. He continues to attempt to improve the world by human good and evil. Evil distorts legitimate things (i.e. charity, prayer).
15. Satan attempts to improve apostate Christianity with religion and ministers of “righteousness,” 2 Cor. 11:15. Satan is not opposed to quoting Scripture, Matt. 4. He loves all of the distortions on Christian TV from tithing to bribing God. He loves to focus on buildings, programs, and productions—monsters which have to be fed—just as long as BD is not taught. He is a genius at parlaying good/legitimate things into evil.

16. The believer's sin is handled by rebound relating it to the Cross, but evil can only be avoided by establishing a command post of the soul—constructed of Bible doctrine.
17. When a believer is in extended carnality or reversionism, he lives a life of trusting in evil. Only the daily intake and use of the WOG under FHS can remove this evil thinking and protect him.
18. The greatest enemy of mankind and the believer is evil, which always produces arrogance. It is not simply an isolated sin—it is a way of thinking that dominates the life.
19. Evil is the single hardest thing to overcome in the CWL. It takes years and years of consistent and persistent BD under the FHS. The problem is that in evil/arrogance doctrine—this message, BD—is rejected—out of hand!

20. Evil originates from the arrogance and evil genius of Satan. It is the epitome of arrogance to assume that man, by man's efforts, can really solve man's deep spiritual and psychological problems.

21. Evil has no capacity to understand grace or what a relationship with God really is or means. Evil has no capacity for freedom for self or for others. Evil makes self into a god—even a savior of sorts.

22. A look at Lucifer, the Evil One, and origin of evil, Isa.14:12-17.
- a. Satan wants to be like God—not unlike God.
 - b. He wants to be possessor of heaven and earth.
 - c. Satan brought in “evil” for the first time with independence.
 - d. Satan will try to establish a kingdom, but will fail, cf. 17.
 - e. Consider how Satan used His position and God-given gifts against God. Ultimate failure of the prosperity test.
 - f. Consider how Satan rejected intimate fellowship with God.
 - g. Consider how Satan used power from God to fight against and oppose God to the very end. The gifts of God are irrevocable.
 - h. Satan will fail to clean up the world or improve nature of man.
 - i. Since Satan deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9), it is not hard to see why he will permit about anything but the teaching of Bible doctrine. He totally rejected Bible doctrine, Jn. 8:44.
 - j. Satan loves to get people to reject God and the laws of DE so they will move into idolatry and eventually worship him. He is always pushing success without God—the epitome of evil.