

Sunday, November 1, 2020—Scripture, the Kings of Old & An American Election

Introduction

- Just in case you have been living under a rock for the past 10 months our nation is having a national election on Tuesday.
- As you know, my policy is generally to stay away from directly references to partisan politics because all it does is divide the body of Christ.
 - Colossians 3:1-4
- That said, this morning I feel led to give you my thoughts on Tuesday's election. Not from the standpoint to telling you who to vote for but in explaining to the saints my view of what is at stake.
- This morning I want you to try to disconnect from the names of the candidates and the parties that they represent and just think about scripture.

Should Believers Vote?

- First, the Bible says nothing about voting specifically. For most of world history men have been ruled by kings.
- That said, voting is a part of our system of governance here in the United States. We can have a say in who governs us and how we are governed.
- Our Apostle Paul was a Roman Citizen who knew his rights and used them to advantage.
 - Acts 16:37-38
 - Acts 22:25-28
 - Acts 25:10-11
- If Paul had lived in a system such as ours, I believe that he would have exercised his right to vote. I believe that we should as well.

Access to Scripture & Religious Freedom is the Core Issue

- II Timothy 4:2—our ability to continue preaching the word in an unimpeded manner is foremost in my mind as I think about the election.
- I Timothy 2:1-2—my desire is to “lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” This has been my prayer from this pulpit since we reopened the church in June.

- I Thessalonians 4:11-12
- II Corinthians 5:19-20—my desire is to continue my ambassadorship for Christ without interference and disruption from the civic authorities.
- In my estimation the central question of this election is the following, where does the greatest probability reside that the word God and its testimony will be granted free course in an unimpeded manner?

The Kings of Old

- Proverbs 14:34—scripture and history furnish us with examples of how a ruler’s attitude toward scripture impacts a nation.
- I Kings 16:28-34
 - I Kings 18:3-4
 - I Kings 18:17-18—Ahab’s leadership mad it extremely difficult for those in Israel who sought to keep the law and follow God’s word.
 - I Kings 19:18
- II Kings 22 & 23; II Chronicles 34 & 35—Josiah rediscovered the law i.e., God’s word to Israel. Judah was reformed thereby equipping them spiritually make it through the Babylonian captivity.
- We see in Ahab and Josiah examples of how the attitude towards God’s word impacts the fortunes of believing Israel.
 - Read from page 240 in David Daniell’s *The Bible in English: Its History and Influence*
- Rulers who are adversarial towards scripture impact a believer’s ability to “lead a quite and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” Like Ahab they have the ability to not only impede the preaching of the word through their policies but also threaten the lives of believers who desire to do so.
- The same could be said for the relationship between the English Bible and English kings.

Henry VIII

- Henry VIII opposed the English Bible by burning William Tyndale and countless others for daring to translate and possess English Bibles. Even after he authorized the publication of the Great Bible in 1539, Henry VIII supported legislation that kept the Bible from the common and punished those publicly preaching it who were not properly licensed to do by the crown.

- Read the 1st paragraph on page 245 of David Daniell's *The Bible in English: Its History and Influence*.

Edward VI

- Henry VIII was succeeded by his son Edward VI. Much like the comparison between Ahab and Josiah, Edward had a much different attitude and approach to the English Bible.
 - Read the 2nd paragraph on page 245 and the 2nd paragraph on page 246 of *The Bible in English: Its History and Influence*.

Mary I (Bloody Mary)

- Edward was succeeded by his staunchly Catholic half sister Mary who hated the English and sought to wipe out the Protestant movement in England.
 - Read from the bottom of 263 in *The Bible in English: Its History and Influence*.

An American Election

- Acts 13:22—no leader is perfect. Even King David who the scriptures describe as a man after God's own heart committed both murder and adultery, but he never moved to obstruct God's word in Israel.
- As I have thought about the election I keep coming back to same central question, where does the greatest probability reside that the word God and its testimony will be granted free course in an unimpeded manner?
- It is the responsibility for every believer to answer this question independently for his or herself.
- In terms of human viewpoint, voting is a civic duty, but it is also a solemn responsibility for a believer. It is private moment where I believer declares before their God which platform or set ideas, he or she believes most accords with scripture.
- If the word of God is impeded in society the problems that face will be solved without the light of divine truth based on human viewpoint and wisdom of men.
- You should vote your conscience according to the word of God. Be a Berean about who and what you are voting for.