

Introduction:

- God rules!
 - *"For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses— even to the lowliest of people."* (Daniel 4:17, NLT)
 - *"He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light."* (Daniel 2:21-22, NLT)
- "I don't know what to believe anymore."
 - A common response to what is happening in our nation.
 - A response of loss of trust in our nations systems.
 - a response of frustration of not being able to see the future clearly.
- Webster 1828 defines politics as: **POL'ITICS**, *noun* The science of government; that part of ethics which consists in the regulation and government of a nation or state, for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity; comprehending the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest, the augmentation of its strength and resources, and the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals.
 - Politics is "the authoritative allocation of values for the society" (David Easton)
 - It is the study of influence and the influential.

I. Give Us a King! 1 Samuel 8:1-21

- A. The Premise: It is not good when God does not rule over you. Let me clarify, God does rule over you. Whether you choose to let Him is the issue.
1. This premise only works if you:
 - a) Believe in God, implies knowing there is a God.
 - b) Believe God to be Jehovah, He is the Lord! Implies relationship with God
 - c) Believe and submit yourself to Him and to follow His ways. Implies Lordship of Jesus.
 - d) Do not believe in God or hold the values of the Kingdom of God, then you are sure to experience what a Christ-less life means now and in the future. The premise is: without God to rule over us life will not be good.
 2. IE. Ask Adam and Eve when they made the decision to become 'like God.'—everything in their world began to unravel. Though their world was unravelling they were still under God's rulership. He still remains God.
 - a) In the Garden they were ruled over by God even as they ruled over His creation.
 - b) This was actually a very good 'set up.' God is kind. God is loving. God is for us.
 - c) In the years to come after the fall, covenants were made by God between man and Himself. The covenants were for the benefit of man. God was obligating himself to man, for man's benefit. This is a very good thing given the condition of humanity.
 3. The Bible is very clear on what a God filled life will produce.
 - a) *"If you obey all the decrees and commands I am giving you today, all will be well with you and your children. I am giving you these instructions so you will enjoy a long life in*

- the land the Lord your God is giving you for all time.*” (Deuteronomy 4:40, 12:28 NLT)
We see this theme over and over in scripture.
- b) The Bible is also very clear what a God-less life will produce. This is another theme found over and over in scripture.
- B. Give us a king! An answer void of God.
1. The context of the request:
 - a) Samuel is old - they are afraid that he may die without having set in place his replacement.
 - b) Samuels sons are evil. They are not like their father. They are greedy for money, accept bribes, and pervert justice.
 - c) Both of these are similar to our concerns today as we look at our government.
 - d) Fear motivated them to ask for king like the other nations. 8:1-5 Their solution to the problem was to ask for a king like all the other nations. Notice that their solution is to bypass God. It is not good when God does not rule over you.
 - e) *“Fear is the foundation of most governments.”* John Adams, Founding Father Our founding fathers understood that fear is the power of most governments. (See sermons starting July 2020 series of 5 messages on fear.)
 2. 1 Kings 11:9-13 God tears the kingdom from Solomon (Solomon’s son) because Solomon had rejected God in his life. His decision affects an entire nation. His decision affects his family for it is actually his son who loses the kingdom.
 - a) The absence of God in his life created undue pressure upon his family and nation.
 - b) The absence of the rule of God brought about a civil war among the tribes of Israel.
- C. To have a king is to be under the rule of man...and so is a president, a dictator, a prime minister, a parliament, a congress, a chief, etc. The rule of man is only as good as the man’s heart and his ability to lead.
1. There is only one man who qualifies to do that...Jesus!
 2. We have to set our gaze upon Him to worship Him and cry out for Him to come! Ps 84 *better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere.*
 3. *“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”* John Adams, Founding Father.
 - a) It requires the people to be submitted to God
 - b) It requires the leaders to be submitted to God in order for it to work. If you do not have that, John Adams says the constitution will not work.

II. Can We Have A Different One?

- A. *“The day will come when you will cry in desperation because of this king you so much want for yourselves. But don’t expect God to answer.”* (1 Samuel 8:18, The Message)
1. That day has come to our nation.
 2. We need to not just cry but to cry out to God!
- B. Our nation is at a cross road. We need God! We have selected a president according to many. And according to many this will be reversed. Let’s look at this.

1. If Biden is president - pressure will be created on the church like we have never experienced before in America. If you think things radically changed from 2008 to 2016. You wait and watch what will happen in the next four years. Promise to 'gut' faith based initiatives for it is where hate mongering hides out.
 2. If Trump pulls off a turn around of this election - this will release incredible hostility and violence in our culture. More violence than we have seen on the streets of America in a long long time.
- C. Our nation has always been divided over party and what they represent.
1. Dream: I don't want to be president. April of 2006.
 2. But there are five things that I believe all of us want: 1. Lower taxes 2. A house to live in. 3. A job to provide our basic needs. 4. To live safely 5. To give our children a good education.

III. Living Under The Rule Of Men

- A. Our first call is to be submitted to God and His ways. That means...
1. We die to ourselves in order to live for Him.
 2. That death to ourselves leads to a lifestyle of fruit of the Spirit *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"* (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT)
 - a) This is why the church needs revival! That this (fruit of Spirit) would become important once again to the church.
 - b) This is also why our nation needs awakening. We need more good people with strong morals and solid Biblical foundation to lead us. According to Matthew 13:30 (let both grow together), both violence in the street and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit could happen at the same time. IE. The Church in China.
 - c) Our first call is to be submitted to God.
 3. We need love, and kindness to grow in our hearts in big ways. Kindness does not cut or shut people out.
 4. THE KEY IS TO BE IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD! This is what God is after.
- B. Secondly, We have a call to pray for those in authority.
1. *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior,"* (1 Timothy 2:1-3, NLT)
 2. Ask God to help them. The purpose is that we can live peaceful lives marked by godliness and the ability to magnify God in peace.
 3. We need to pray for justice and mercy. "Help conform me to your image...but be gentle."
 - a) Justice and mercy must be asked for together.
 - b) Most people who pray for justice just want it applied to one certain thing.

- c) When justice come it comes 'across the board'. "Conform America to your will, but be gentle!"
 - d) God creates the environment for reviving the church. It pressure from heaven manifested through situation on earth that cause people to pray.
 - e) God will use different means in different regions to get them to pray. This year, it was fires in the west; hurricanes in gulf states; in mid-west it was drought, floods, and terrible wind that destroyed crops,; covid came to all states, lock downs, etc.; riots in the streets of major cities. These cause people to pray.
- C. John Paul Jackson gave five tips to weathering a storm (national level).
1. Don't over react to media hype and spin. They are pushing an agenda knowing that sensationalism sells. Their writers know just how to push your buttons.
 2. Simplify and streamline. Do things that will count in life.
 - a) *"They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity--"* (Acts 2:46, NLT)
 - b) The word generosity is better translated humility and simplicity.
 - c) The simplicity of love!
 3. Connect with friends and family. Relationships stabilize your health. Relationships get you through difficult times.
 4. Rethink your focus. You will either live your life from principles or from pressure. Putting your focus on the problem will distract you from the principles that God intends us to live by. Pressure causes many people to forget their principles and priorities of their faith.
 5. Be an influence for Christ where ever you are. Do that first! Before you are a Republican or Democrat.

Conclusion:

- You think 2020 was an exciting year, wait and see what happens in the next four.
- I would be making Jesus Lord of my life if I were you.
- Pray for revival in the church and awakening in America.

I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation. If I were an atheist, and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations. If I were an atheist of the other sect, who believe, or pretend to believe that all is ordered by chance, I should believe that chance had ordered the Jews to preserve and propagate to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme, intelligent, wise, almighty sovereign of the universe, which I believe to be the great essential principle of all morality, and consequently of all civilization. John Adams in a letter to F. A. Vanderkemp (16 February 1809), as quoted in *The Roots of American Order* (1974) by Russel Kirk.