

Choose Your King Today

- I. Three Sources of Ultimate Authority
 - a. Definitions:
 - i. King: “one who rules a kingdom of subjects”
 - ii. Subject: “one under the power or sovereignty of another or others”
 - iii. Sovereign: “supreme lawmaking authority”
 - iv. Choosing your king means deciding who or what you will subject yourself to as having supreme lawmaking authority over you
 - b. Identified
 - i. Personal Rule – I am king of the world!!
 - ii. Governmental Rule – The man is the servant of the state
 - iii. Divine Rule – God rules in the affairs of men
 - c. In Israelite History
 - i. A Divine King (Psa. 74:12-13; Joshua 24:15)
 1. He had demonstrated his Divine right of rule in Egypt (Psa 74:12-13)
 - a. Turning all the forces of nature against the so-called god-king Pharaoh
 - b. Forcing him to release the Israelites from slavery
 - c. Then delivering them from the Egyptian army by using the Red Sea both as an escape route for God’s people and as a weapon of mass destruction against the Egyptians
 2. Even though these events and the covenant contracted at Mount Sinai legally bound the Israelites to God, Joshua told the next generation that they had a choice (Joshua 24:15)
 - a. We have a choice
 - b. There are reasons to serve God
 - c. But we can make another choice
 - d. That’s what the Israelites did...
 - ii. A Personal King
 1. Like Israel in the days of the Judges (Judges 21:25)
 2. They rejected the rule of God
 3. God gave them up
 4. Problems
 - a. Rule of the powerful over the weak
 - b. Anarchy
 - c. Inability to deal with stronger powers without help
 - d. Slaves to their own appetites
 - e. Their god is their belly (Phil 3:19)
 - iii. A Governmental King
 1. Like Israel in the days of Saul
 - a. Warned (1 Sam. 12)
 - b. But they would not listen

2. The result
 - a. The government lorded it over the people
 - b. Led them into sin
 - c. Led them into destruction (Hosea)

II. Our Nation

- a. Does the state rule or the individual?
 - i. Constant tension between the two
 1. Statist – Individual unfettered will trample all over each other and the strong will abuse the weak, injustice will be rampant
 2. Individualists – Concentrating power in the hands of the government corrupt those in power and results in injustice to all. And no group of men is more competent to rule a man than the man himself.
 3. Irreconcilable – they can't both be right
 - a. Both are WRONG
 - b. AND Both are right that the other is wrong
 - c. Both ignore the third way the right way
 - i. Like three men standing around a board with a screw sticking out about an inch
 - ii. First man says, "Let me get my hammer..."
 - iii. Second man says, "If you use a hammer..., I'll get my hunting knife..."
 - iv. First man says, "If you use a hunting knife..."
 - v. Argument ensues about whether a hammer or a hunting knife is better to drive the screw in
 - vi. Third man says, "I have a screwdriver that was just made for this problem..."
 - vii. The first and second man turn and yell at him, "You're such a screwdriver zealot, always talking about your screwdriver and what it can do. Be quiet so we can have a serious conversation about what to do about this screw sticking out of the board."
 - d. Today, those that propose the obvious solution of God as supreme authority in the affairs of individuals and states are considered ridiculous and not worth listening to.
 4. Today, those that propose the obvious solution of God as supreme authority in the affairs of individuals and states are considered ridiculous and not worth listening to.
 - ii. As a society, we have lost the recognition of past generations that both the individual and the state are subject to God
 1. Have willfully put that knowledge from us
 - a. Outlawing prayer in public school
 - b. At many public assemblies

- c. And a recent ruling by a judge a national day of prayer is unconstitutional
2. All this in spite of the fact that this tradition was started by those who wrote the constitution

- a. Jimmy Fields wrote an article, entitled “Have We Now Forgotten?” that is/will be posted on the website that quotes Benjamin Franklin... *“How has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbling applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection.*

“Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor... And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”

“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”

“We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages ...

“I therefore beg leave to move -- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business...”

- b. Jimmy Fields went on to say, “When the first Constitutional Congress convened in 1789, Franklin’s recommendation was put into operation, a practice which continues today”

3. We not only willfully forgotten the that both the individual and the state are subject to God, we have hidden it from our children
 - iii. No wonder we as a nation and a society are confused!!!
 - b. The solution
 - i. Individuals subjecting themselves to God
 - ii. Exercising the influence of the truth of God in their relationships
 - iii. To turn themselves, their families, their communities and their country back to God
 - iv. Choose your king today!
 1. Not the kingship of self
 - a. a selfish and impossible overreach
 - b. Leading to anarchy
 - c. And tyranny of the strongest or most violent
 2. Not the kingship of the state or society
 - a. Leading to the corruption of those with state power
 - b. And tyranny over individuals made in the image of God
 3. But the only king in history that truly rules by Divine right, because He IS DIVINE – Jesus Christ, the king of kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16)
- III. How should we behave before a king?
- a. Our culture is so far removed from the idea of a king that we may need a refresher course on the proper protocol for interacting with a sovereign king
 - b. Honor Him – Eccl 10:20
 - c. Obey Him, value His presence, do not rebuke Him – Eccl. 8:2-4
 - d. Seek His favor - Prov. 16:15; 19:5
 - e. Do not provoke Him - Prov. 20:2
 - f. Be humble before him - Prov. 25:6-7
- IV. Conclusion (Luke 9:18-27)
- a. Deny yourself –
 - i. We must choose between obeying ourselves and obeying Christ
 - ii. Reject the king of self and self will
 - iii. We must choose Christ
 - b. Take up your cross daily –
 - i. Cross was method of execution for criminal
 - ii. We may have to choose between obeying the government and obeying Christ.
 - iii. Reject the king of human government
 - iv. We must choose Christ
 - v. Even if it results in our execution
 - vi. That is taking up our cross
 - c. Follow me
 - i. Christ is our king
 - ii. We follow Him as humble and faithful servants

Ecclesiastes 10:20 NKJV 20 Do not curse the king, even in your thought; Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 8:2-4 NKJV 2 I say, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God. 3 Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him." 4 Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, "What are you doing?"

Proverbs 16:15 NKJV In the light of the king's face is life, And his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.

Proverbs 19:12 NKJV The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favor is like dew on the grass.

Proverbs 20:2 NKJV The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.

Proverbs 25:6-7 NKJV Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; 7 For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.