

MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 312

THE GREAT POLITICAL REPLACEMENT

By Andrew Brown

Is there anyone who would argue that today politics and deceit are directly correlated? Webster's dictionary defines "politics" as, "political activities characterized by artful and often dishonest practices." In contrast to our experience, there was no exclusion of God in Israel's political system. God established the nation and its rule which began on a strong note with Moses, the lawgiver and judge. God powerfully backed Moses, yet there was still much opposition to His righteous rule and corruption soon set in.

Throughout the years and reigns of kings of Israel wickedness and trouble multiplied. Through a hole in the sacred temple wall, Ezekiel was forced to face the reality of the idolatrous leaders' abominations (Ezek. 8; *New American Standard Bible* used throughout). What a dreadful and shocking experience for the righteous prophet! Yet we can relate to the tragedy as we look through the "holes" at our own governments.

The Lord Jesus lamented over Israel's government, **Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her** (Matt. 23:37). Even in Israel, the righteous ones who spoke for God were not welcome, so He also prepared the disciples, **If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before** (John 15:18). This trend has continued as active believers face persecution and the wicked multiply. Governments put laws in place that seem to squelch the freedom to live righteously.

Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness (Eccl. 3:16). This has never been more evident, even in the courtrooms which are supposed to support the laws. Wickedness has seeped into powerful political seats and is flooding the very laws, their interpreters, and their enforcers. Barring a few noble leaders who are able to accomplish little, goodness and righteousness are not

understood. **Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey** (Isa. 59:15).

The corruption of power adds considerably to the problems. King Saul was changed into a new man by God, but quickly morphed into a gruesome persecutor of righteousness so that David and Samuel had to avoid him.

These days no level of wickedness is unfathomable. **If you see oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight; for one official watches over another official, and there are higher officials over them** (Eccl. 5:8). Contrary to God's desire, officials step on people and scheme to reach the top where no one can hold them accountable. Many politicians make a show of having a small place for "God" **holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power** (2 Tim. 3:5); however, this "God" suits their own design and barely changes their actions. The Lord gave a different template for leaders including many warnings. **Woe shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?** (Ezek. 34:2). The hypocrisy and selfishness commonly associated with political leaders should not be the norm.

Throughout history, Satan has been working to malign the truth of Jesus Christ. During the temptations of Christ, Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. **All these (governments) I will give you, if you fall down and worship me** (Matt. 4:9). Satan claimed they were his to give and the Lord did not dispute it, so we cannot dispute that the enemy is influencing governments. One need not look far to demonstrate abounding corruption within the political systems. The Roman Empire *agreed to the crucifixion of the LORD Jesus even after an innocent verdict*, and Israel's leaders were hungry for this atrocity. The failure of our government, as well as all governments of the past, is inevitable, rooted in the very disease of sin passed through Adam. **Justice is far from us... we hope for light but behold darkness, for brightness but we walk in gloom** (Isa. 59:9). Man's best efforts to clean up the mess or create a safe-haven are limited. But the Lord is not limited! He has already secured the future victory, **There will be no end to the increase of His government** (Isa. 9:7). He will *marshal in the greatest political replacement ever known*.

The LORD taught openly regarding the replacement of Israel's political leaders. Matthew 21 is an account of Jesus warning of this and providing them the opportunity to change. He tells of a vineyard owner renting out His vineyard to men who persecute and murder the owner's workers and His Son. The corrupt leaders Jesus spoke this to understood the teaching correctly, and concluded, **He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons** (Matt. 21:41). These men knew they would be replaced but instead of submitting, they schemed to kill the Son. Of course their wickedness could not overcome God's plan; the Son would be resurrected. **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes** (Matt. 21:42). Israel's worthless politicians were later cut down (Luke 13:6-9). God's plan is to remove ALL self-seeking godless leaders.

The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matt. 21:43). The "nation" He refers to is called the "Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16). Formed of "true Israelites," loyal to the Lord and walking in His ways, the Israel of God will enjoy and properly fulfill the privileged position of God's chosen nation out-flowing to all other nations. **Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem** (Isa. 2:3). No longer waging battle within their own hearts, and with pure motives, they will succeed (Ezek. 11:19).

The disciples looked forward to this time and their belief shaped their lives. **Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom** (Luke 12:32). **Jesus said to them... in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel** (Matt. 19:28). When His Kingdom is set up on earth, Israel will be gathered (Jer. 31, Isa. 11:12) and the twelve, including Matthias, will be among the most powerful men. Indeed, they with numerous others will be resurrected into life without aging or ailment and filled with youthful energy.

The gospels record missions where the disciples preached and showed forth examples of Kingdom life. In the Acts Period, which consisted of the Kingdom of God in part, they experienced the great power they will have. Acts showed the replacement of leaders with God's chosen apostles and prophets and the Lord building His cabinet, the out-positioned ones (Gk. - *ekklesia*). These governing apostles were ministers of God rewarding righteousness and these verses provide

a taste of what to expect when God sets up His Kingdom; **Everyone must submit to the governing authorities** (Rom. 13:1). The leaders God set up during Acts fairly punished wickedness and diminished desire to do evil. **Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good** (Rom. 13:3). **But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil** (Rom. 13:4). This type of government should be the believer's dream today, and the entire world will be subject to this perfect rule in the future day. **When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan** (Prov. 29:2). In that day we will surely rejoice! That day will be filled with shouts of joy as the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth. Celebrating will commence as men like Moses and David are raised from the dead to resume their righteous rule in even better fashion since they are made completely new. Unlike the imperfect leaders we have known, the Lord says, **I will care for My sheep** (Ezek. 34:12).

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). This is what we long and hope for. The pieces are in place for the Lord to bring in this marvelous political overhaul when He deems right. The Kingdom, which was suspended after Acts, will then commence, blazing forth (Gk. - *epiphaneia*) with a blinding light that will make the folly of all these political men and systems evident to all (Psa. 64, 2 Tim. 3:9). God's government will replace all others. As Jesus informed Pilate: His Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). God is going to transform all the powers and authorities of this world and make them congruous to the LORD Jesus Christ. Falsely-defined "tolerance" will no longer compromise God's standard, and though there will be no more "freedom of speech" or "freedom of religion," we will experience liberty and safety like we have not had before. **Of the greatness of His government and of peace there will be no end...establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness** (Isa. 9:7). The peace of that time will not be a precarious avoidance of war. Rather it will be true unity flowing from union with the Lord into everything and removing fear and uncertainty.

When this political replacement occurs, there will be no advancing army, for this government takeover will be an invasion from within men (Luke 17:21). **All the ends of the earth will remember**, meaning that understanding will be imprinted

on every mind, **and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him** (Psa. 22:27). This government will begin with an absolute alignment to God's standard.

Psalm 15 presents the question of what type of people will be allowed in this government and sets forth their outstanding characteristics. **He who walks uprightly and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart** (Psa. 15:2). No hypocrisy will be allowed. **He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me** (Psa. 101:7), with Christ overseeing all positions (Eph. 1:20), and the weight of responsibility resting on His shoulders (Isa. 9:6). In complete contrast to our day, the word "politician" will be equated with "honesty, justice, and integrity." Oh what a day is coming! The blessings of the Lord's government are too numerous to count and flow into every aspect of every person's life.

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it (Matt. 13:45-46). This merchant would sell any government and give all for the pearl of God's government. Today we seem to be drowning in wickedness, but we have the Ultimate Judge's pledge that **when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him** (Isa. 59:19). The gloomy days of unrighteous politicians in a flawed system fueled by the mess of deeply rooted sin are coming to a close. The Lord's government plan is the certain remedy for every tragedy and fault of the governments that have existed throughout history. Knowing this truth brings light to our hearts even now. As sure as the sunrise the Kingdom will come!

The SEED & BREAD Bible-study leaflets are published as often as time and means permit and are sent free to all names on THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY mailing list. Send us your name. There will be no obligation, solicitation or visitation. Additional copies of any issue available on request.