

Donkeys and Elephants??

1 Samuel 8-9; 16:1-11; Joshua 5:13-15;

Deut. 16:18-20; 1 Samuel 24:8-22; Matthew 5:13-16

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A. We are in a time when the church is repeating Biblical history and leaning on civic leaders to lead our country and world (**1 Samuel 8-9; 16:1-11**). God, by His sovereign will, has focused the progressive development of His kingdom agenda through two organisms: the family and church. Through these two organisms, He creates tribes (nations), and through the church, He influences these tribes (requires the church to be led through those who manage their homes well; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) to the world.

1. Christ's commitment is to two things: family (Gen. 2:15-25; Eph. 5:32), the Church (Eph. 1:22-23).

B. The Lord does not take sides. The Lord views Himself as the only hope to save the world (Lord of Host, **Joshua 5:13-15** – God is THE warrior who fights cosmic forces and human conflicts). It was up to Joshua and the people to determine whether they would be an active part of God's righteous movement in creating a path for His people while seeking to save those who were lost (John 3:16; Luke 19:10).

C. God directs us to be responsible in deciding who leads us in civil matters (**Deut. 16:18-20**). The choice must be of those who practice justice. Who we are to Him (Jews under a spiritual leader, Moses) determines whether those who lead would be influenced by God's righteous (Justice) nature and not by bribes.

D. The Lord only works through men and women of character even if they are imperfect (**1 Samuel 24:8-22**).

1. David was a man after God's own heart, but he did not always make all the right decisions:

a) Nabal (1 Samuel 25:14-35).

b) Counting the people of Israel (1 Samuel 24:1-25).

E. The Word of God is clear on abortion (Psalm 51:5; Psalm 127:3; it is taking a defenseless person's life of a person who you are not at war with, so it is murder), and homosexuality (Jude 7; Romans 1:26-27). However, God gave people free will. Even under the conditional system of the Old Testament, God told them they had a choice (Deuteronomy 28). Now, He describes the consequences (Deut. 28). This is modeled by Christ, who did not force people to accept Him (**John 1:9-13**). This is because, by free will, a person can decide to do whatever they want but cannot control the results.

1. Free will are incidents that God did not stop:

a) Herod, in his anger, killed all the children two years and below in Bethlehem (this is based on Christ's birth).

b) Jezebel killed many prophets leading to Elijah running away in disobedience to God. She decided what she wanted to do but could not control the consequences.

c) Many in their free will, brutalized and killed Christ, but "all things work together for the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28)

2. When we create more laws, the scripture says all we become exposed to is the gravity of our depraved character (Romans 3:19-20).

F. The church is God's answer to bringing about change in our homes, communities, and the world:

1. It is the church that is the pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15), and it is only the Holy Spirit that can expose the truth of God to us (John 14:16-17; Matthew 16:13-16; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15).

a) Christ as THE Word is the Light (John 1:6-8), and it is that light that we must walk in (1 John 1:5-7) that would reduce hate (1 John 2:9-11), keep us pure (1 John 1:5-7), and provide us guidance for everything we need to do so that we live in the light and be the light (Ps. 119:105).

2. We are now the light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

3. We are the salt of the earth (**Matthew 5:13-16**), and we are the ones who preserve it.

a) We are just like the nation of Israel (Deut. 8:11-18), God blesses us and we chase the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17) as we lose our soul (Luke 9:23-27; Mark 8:34-38).

G. God has yet to have a perfect leader who made all the decisions He desired them to make, whether they were civic or spiritual leaders.