

THY KINGDOM COME #29
Developing A Biblical Worldview

I. Introduction

We are learning how to develop a biblical worldview that sees all things through the lens of scripture. And I confess that I am still seeking God about the results of the last election and the prophetic implications of what it says about the spiritual condition of our country.

I'm still trying to understand how millions of Americans, (including many professing Christians), voted against their own self-interest in favor of politicians and policies that are destroying our country.

Millions of Americans still have their heads in the sand, not seeming to notice our nation is has fallen into the hands of Tyrants.

The Road to Totalitarianism

The COVID lockdowns of 2020 sent us into warp speed toward totalitarianism. The government is still drumming members of the military out of the service for refusing to take the Vaccine

Unvaccinated children are not allowed to enroll in public schools

Vaccine passports are on the table

The Federal government is suing a chiropractor for \$500 billion for recommending Vitamin D and Zinc as alternative choices for the Vaccine

They shut down our pipelines.

80,000 new IRS agents will soon have access to our bank accts. financial records

They want to force you and me to pay the student debt of strangers

And last week, the worst yet...

The Senate just passed legislation that redefines marriage in the "Respect for Marriage Act" with language that will open the door for attacks on churches that will force us to recognize same-sex marriage or suffer IRS penalties

A month ago, Americans had a chance to change all this in the mid-term elections.

Instead, we voted for more of the same! The election makes no sense.

I'm asking God, "How can we be so stupid in choosing such leaders?"

Then I was reminded of another election, in Jerusalem, 2000 years ago...

John 19:14-15

Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he (Pilate) said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!"

John 19:15-16

Then Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Think about what really happened here.

Pilate presented the people with the power to elect their political leader: Christ or Caesar? The people chose poorly. They elected Caesar over Christ! God's people voted to continue in slavery to Rome instead of serving the Messiah

Then I was reminded of another election 1000 years before this one.
The people of Israel were unhappy with the benevolent rule of God.

Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have. (1 Samuel 8:5)

God warned them they would be oppressed by the policies of a king but they voted to have one anyway...and they ended up with Saul. They rejected God and elected a tyrant.

1 Samuel 8:7

And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

In the same way Israel elected Saul over God and later elected Caesar over Christ, so it was that many Americans chose tyranny over freedom in the mid-term election last month. The question for Christians is not Republican or Democrat. The question is how can a formerly free nation forfeit its freedom in favor of service to tyrannical political powers that will enslave them?

Then I remembered a little book written over 500 years ago by a young Frenchman named Etienne de La Boetie. De La Boetie was Roman Catholic gifted as a lawyer, philosopher and poet. His essay was entitled...

"The Politics of Obedience: A Discourse on Voluntary Servanthood"

This amazing little book, unpublished until after the author's death, is being rediscovered today because it provides us with the cause and cure for today's top questions:

Why do people vote against their own self-interest?

What makes men being brought under bondage vote for more bondage?

How does a formerly free nation voluntarily forfeit its freedom in favor of service to tyrants?

I want to tackle those questions teaching tonight under the title...

"A Discourse on Voluntary Servanthood"

The Mystery of Civil Submission to Tyranny

The essence of the book is contained in this quote:

Etienne de La Boetie, "Voluntary Servitude"

People are not free ultimately because they voluntarily submit to their own servitude.

The excellent 38-page introduction to this edition of the book was written by the late economist Murray Rothbard, who sums it up with this:

Murray Rothbard, Introduction to "The Politics of Obedience"

De La Boetie investigates the nature of the state and its strange status as a tiny minority of the population that adheres to different rules from everyone else and claims the authority to rule everyone else, maintaining a monopoly on law.

Murray Rothbard, Introduction to "The Politics of Obedience"

He cuts to the heart of the central problem of political philosophy: the mystery of civil obedience. Why do people, in all times and places, obey the commands of the government, which always constitutes a small minority of the society? To

La Boetie, the spectacle of general consent to despotism is puzzling and appalling.

This is a perfect picture of where many of us are today; beholding the disintegration of our nation but misplacing the blame on the politicians when we ourselves are bringing the roof down around our own ears by voluntarily submitting ourselves to tyrants.

Murray Rothbard, Introduction to "The Politics of Obedience"

It strikes him as obviously implausible that such an institution has any staying power. It can be overthrown in an instant if people withdraw their consent.

Etienne de La Boetie

It is the citizens themselves who permit, or rather, bring about their own subjection, since by ceasing to submit they would put an end to their servitude.

Etienne de La Boetie

A people enslaves itself, cuts its own throat, when having a choice between being vassals and being free men, deserts its liberties and takes on the yoke, gives consent to its own misery, and apparently welcomes it.

Some who hear this will object this on the basis of Romans 13; where God commands us to submit to governmental authority. But Romans 13 does not require us to obey ungodly law passed by tyrants. Our obedience to tyrants keeps them in power!

Murray Rothbard

Tyranny must necessarily be grounded upon general public acceptance. In short, the bulk of the people themselves, for whatever reason, acquiesce in their own subjection. If this were not the case, no tyranny, indeed, no governmental rule could long endure.

Murray Rothbard

General public support is in the very nature of governments that endure, including the most oppressive tyrannies. The tyrant alone could scarcely command the obedience of another person, much less of an entire country, if most of the subjects did not grant the obedience by their own consent.

De La Boetie wrote his book in 1552. 200 years later, the great Scottish historian and political philosopher made the same observations...

David Hume (1711-1776)

Nothing appears more surprising to those who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few, and the implicit submission with which men resign their own sentiments and passions to those of their rulers.

David Hume

When we inquire by what means this wonder is effected, we shall find that as force is always on the side of the governed, the governors have nothing to support them but opinion. Therefore, *on opinion only government is founded*: and this applies to the most despotic governments as well as the most democratic.

David Hume

No matter its form, the only way any government has power over the people is that the people consent to it.

Jim Fedako MisesInstitute.com

The essence of his argument is that the tyrant rules by the will of the people, as no other means exists for a small group of men to control the fates of millions.

The Academy of Ideas

The responsibility for totalitarian rule lies mainly with those who support it.

De La Boetie called this...

II. The Politics of Obedience: All Government Requires the Consent of the Governed

A. How Do Tyrants Come To Power?

1. Some Americans think tyrants and despots only exist in totalitarian nations like Russia, Cuba, or Communist China, through violent revolution. But...

Etienne de La Boétie

Tyranny does not depend on illicit means of acquiring power; the tyrant need not be a usurper.

Etienne de La Boétie

There are 3 kinds of tyrants: some receive their proud positions through elections by the people, others by force of arms, others by inheritance. As for the elected, they would *seem* to be 'more bearable', but they are always intriguing to convert the election into a hereditary despotism...

Etienne de La Boetie

...and thus they surpass other tyrants in cruelty because they impose their tyranny by tightening control and removing their subjects so far from any notion of liberty that even if the memory of it is fresh it will soon be eradicated.

2. Notice: The cruelty of elected tyrants can surpass the cruelty of military dictators because they seize control gradually.

Jason Hoyt, "Consent of the Governed", quotes an anonymous author:

The best way to take control over a people and control them utterly is to take a little freedom at a time, to erode rights by a thousand tiny and almost imperceptible reductions. In this way, the people will not see these rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed.

a. Tyrants infiltrate the institutions and the agencies of government, public education and the health care system, using legislation and regulation to systematically restrain our freedoms until an entire generation takes their control for granted.

3. Today we have many Americans making the mistake of thinking what's happened in Cuba, Russia and China can't happen here because our political leaders didn't rise to power by military force. But a tyrant is a tyrant.

Etienne de La Boétie

Although the methods of rising to power may differ the method of ruling is practically the same.

B. How Do Tyrants Maintain Their Power?

Murray Rothbard

Generally, given free choice, people will vote to be free rather than to be slaves; so the elected tyrant can only come to power (and maintain power) by deception, which often occurs in cases of emergency, select certain persons as dictators, which provides occasion for these persons to fasten their power permanently upon the public.

1. One of the main marks of tyrannical government is how it increase its power over the people by deception; creating a crisis (that may or may not be real), then presenting itself to the people as the only entity that can solve it.

a. They used the COVID crisis to extend their power over 'we the people' in ways never seen before.

b. They create a crisis of 'climate meltdown' so they can shut down our oil pipelines and fossil fuel refineries.

c. They have created a deception about a crisis of systemic racism in America so they can bring Critical Race Theory into our schools.

2. I could go on; but the point is that all of these crises, real or created, are designed to put the people into the habit of perpetual submission to government.

Murray Rothbard

Once begun, the maintenance of tyranny is permitted and bolstered by the insidious throes of habit, which quickly accustoms the people to enslavement.

David Hume

Habit soon accommodates what other principles of human nature had imperfectly founded; and men, once accustomed to obedience, never think of departing from that path.

3. The mid-term elections offer evidence that millions of Americans have become habituated to submission to tyrants into 'group think' which we used to call a...

"Herd Mentality"

The tendency of the people in a group to think and behave in ways that conform with others in the group rather than as individuals

4. Tyrants try to train the minds of the people into conformity with their own created narratives.

a. It began a few years ago with 'political correctness'; today it has evolved into something called 'WOKENESS', which is just 'Political Correctness' on steroids.

b. But none of these evil ideas have any power on their own; they derive their power by the consent of the people; citizens who volunteer to become slaves to the state. Even good people who can no longer discern truth from error.

c. I admire the work of Hannah Arendt, a German holocaust survivor and political theorist who actually lived under the tyrannical power of the Nazis. In her book, "The Origins of Totalitarianism", she warned Americans about what could happen when a country becomes a culture of lies...

Hannah Arendt, "The Origins of Totalitarianism"

The ideal candidate for totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the dedicated Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false, no longer exists.

d. We've warned you. Look at this headline from CBN New 2 years ago:

CBN News 6/5/20

New Survey Reveals Most Americans and Many Who Identify as Christians, No Longer Believe in Absolute Moral Truth

5. Whenever a culture abandons its belief in absolute moral truth its citizens set themselves up for enslavement to the lies generated by tyrants through state-controlled media. Historically, this is true of every totalitarian state

Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)

The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. If everybody always lies to you, nobody believes anything any longer. With such a people you can do as you please.

6. Here is where we are today; Americans being manipulated by mass media and lying leaders who convince themselves they alone can define the facts.

Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)

Before mass leaders seize the power to fit reality to their lies, their propaganda is marked by its extreme contempt for facts as such; for in their opinion, fact depends entirely on the power of the men who fabricate it.

- The masks will protect us
- The vaccines will save us
- “We are not in a recession”
- “The border is secure”

7. The only thing more disturbing about this litany of lies is the lack of an outcry against them. They cannot continue to lie without the consent of the people to put up with them. But let me move to a close.

Review

We have looked at how tyrants come to power and how they retain their power

III. Close: What Do We Do Now?

A. We Need To Rethink Civil Government From a Biblical Worldview

1. Where does government get its power?

a. Government creates nothing

- b. Government produces nothing**
- c. Government owns nothing**
- d. Government has no money of its own**

2. Politicians pat themselves on the back for providing us with social security, Medicare, tax rebates, and student loan forgiveness programs. They ask for our votes because they promise us more handouts, as if the money is coming out of their own pockets. And people fall for it.

Etienne de La Boetie

The fools do not realize that they are merely recovering a portion of their own property, and that their ruler could not give them what they were receiving without having first taken it from them.

Jason W. Hoyt, "Consent of the Governed"

It is important to remember this key point: Everything the government does to you is by your consent. You either explicitly gave them consent, or by your silence, they assumed your consent.

3. I don't like the election results. There may have been some cheating. But I think de La Boetie's bottom line is true...

Etienne de La Boétie

We get exactly the rulers that the majority of the people think legitimate. And if you want to change the world, you have to change most people's ideas about what is legitimate.

4. That is what I'm doing. It's what we all must be doing. But what will we do in the meantime?

5. We have to wake up to the fact that things will get worse until we wake up and realize that we are in a spiritual battle for the soul of America and there can be no neutrality.

Glenn Beck

Do not dismiss what we're dealing with. We are not in a battle of politics. Politics and our whole culture has become evil. You have to come to a place where you will have to choose a side. No one will be left on the benches. None of this is normal. It's methodical.

Glenn Beck

We're no longer talking about issues of tax policies or how big the government; we are talking about the fundamental right to choose between good and evil. You're being coerced right now to accept one side—who will take away your freedom of choice.

Glenn Beck

Start reading the news with spiritual eyes. Get yourself back into the fold of God—where your eyes and ears are attuned to the Holy Spirit because you will not make it through this storm without it.

6. Here is the bottom line: Human government, in whatever form, can only govern by consent of the people. So the battle begins when we withdraw our consent! Or, as de La Boetie put it...

Etienne de La Boétie

Resolve to serve no more and you are at once freed.

Closing Prayer

Title

