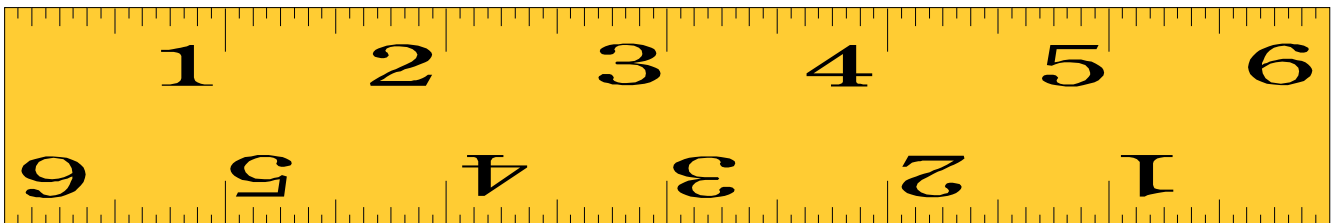
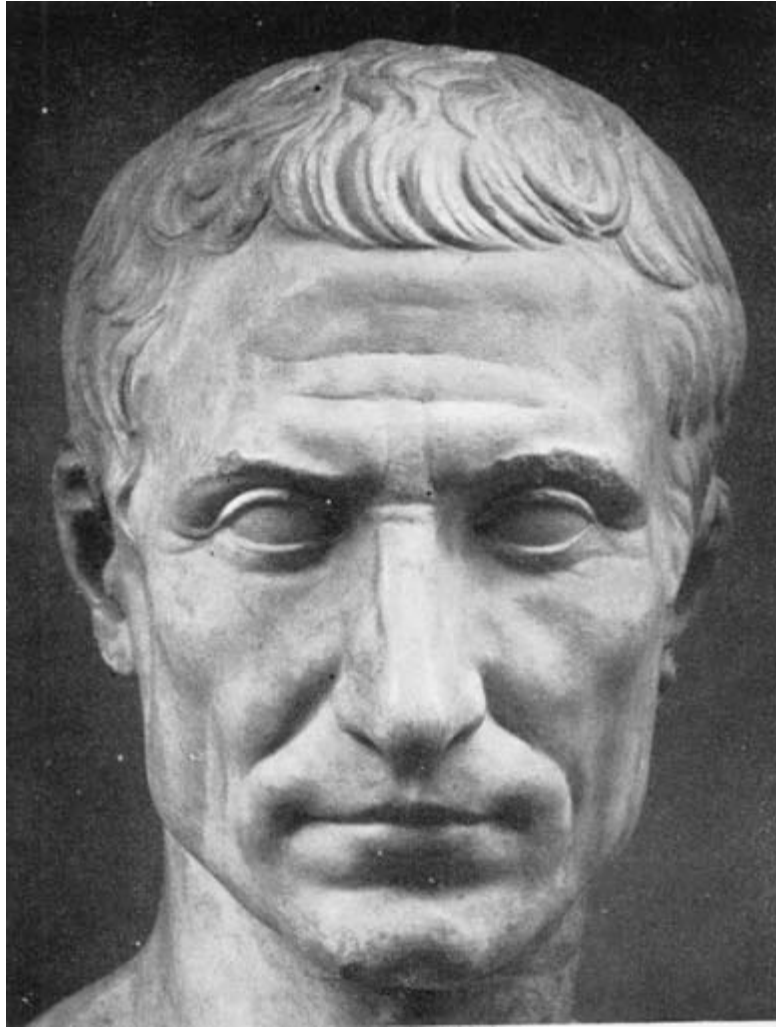


Biblical Standards for Civil Rulers



DEDICATION

Israel to Reap the Whirlwind

*Put the trumpet to your lips!
An eagle is over the house of the LORD
because the people have broken my covenant
and rebelled against my law.*

*Israel cries out to me,
'Our God, we acknowledge you!'*

**But Israel has rejected what is good;
an enemy will pursue him.**

*They set up kings without my consent;
they choose princes without my approval.*

**With their silver and gold
they make idols for themselves
to their own destruction.**

[Hosea 8:1-5, Bible, NIV]

Biblical Standards for Civil Rulers

1 Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

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DEDICATION

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual--or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country. "

[Samuel Adams, *The Writings of Samuel Adams*, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), Vol. IV, p. 256]

"The people in general ought to have regard to the moral character of those whom they invest with authority either in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches. "

[John Witherspoon, *The Works of John Witherspoon* (Edinburgh: J. Ogle, 1815), Vol. IV, p. 267]

"Nothing is more essential to the establishment of manners in a State than that all persons employed in places of power and trust be men of unexceptionable characters. The public cannot be too curious concerning the character of public men."

[Samuel Adams, *The Writings of Samuel Adams*, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), Vol. III, p. 236-237]

"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation , to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. "

[John Jay, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), Vol. IV, p. 365]

"The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live. "

[John Jay, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), Vol. I, p. 161]

"Impress upon children the truth that the exercise of the elective franchise is a social duty of as solemn a nature as man can be called to perform; that a man may not innocently trifle with his vote; that every elector is a trustee as well for others as himself and that every measure he supports has an important bearing on the interests of others as well as on his own. "

[Daniel Webster, *The Works of Daniel Webster* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1853), Vol. II, p. 108]

"When a citizen gives his suffrage to a man of known immorality he abuses his trust; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor, he betrays the interest of his country. "

[Noah Webster, *Letters to a Young Gentleman Commencing His Education to which is subjoined a Brief History of the United States* (New Haven: S. Converse, 1823), p. 19]

"Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption."

[James Garfield, "A Century of Congress" published in *Atlantic*, July 1877]

1 Truth is the basis of a jurial society

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Truth is the soil that produces the wheat of a civilized society. Fatuous leaders are the weeds grown from the soil of humanism. They are the result of God's judgment against the populace for treating government as a god (Is. 19:13). We are tangled in political weeds because Americans have forsaken the Word of God and rejected **His standards for civil rulers**. Consequently, this country is overrun with uncircumcised, pagan minds (Is. 52:1). Opponents may say that we do not want an evangelical leader in our nation because he will make decisions based on his faith. This is a red herring. Atheist make decisions based on their unfaith. Humanists make decision based on their faith in human nature. Every leader makes decisions based on his faith or the absence thereof. **The question is what kind of faith do we want a leader to possess—the faith of a Napoleon or the faith of a George Washington?**

Let us study closely the qualifications for civil rulers from God's Book in Deuteronomy 17:12-20.

Deuteronomy 17:13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

The verb *presumptuously* means to act without authority, to rebel, to boil up and act subjectively. When an individual or a ruler acts without proper written authority, he commits the sin of presumption. When a person oversteps his authority, he commits an ultra vires act. The Hebrew verb is a *hiphil* verb (causative) intensifying the instruction; that is, "the people shall cause themselves to no longer act arbitrarily or presumptuously." During the wilderness journey, Israelites followed their gut instincts and corrupted their ways. In order to have godly leaders, the people themselves must have no other standard than the Word of God for their civil rulers. Following "gut feelings" leads to political disaster!! Which is what we have in this country today.

Christians can have an impact on the political process, when they elect civil rulers that have Biblical qualification to be in office:

2 The Civil Ruler Must be a Believer

Deut. 17:14-15, KJ: When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

God anticipated a day when Israel would set up a monarchy like other nations. God set down the standards for a leader of His people. The civil ruler must be a man that God chooses. He had to be a believer in the Lord, an Israelite, a clansman. Aliens (like Barak Obama) have no respect for God's Law, the land, or the historical foundations of the country. Unbelievers were a threat to the welfare of

1 the nation. A foreigner would lead them astray by adopting laws that tolerate sin, promote an alien law
2 order, and produce a harvest of ungodliness (Ps. 94:20).

3 *Psalm 94:20, KJ: Shall the **throne** of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth
4 mischief by a law?*

5 Secular Humanism is an ethical philosophy that emphasizes a worldview based upon naturalism: the
6 belief that the physical world or nature is all that exists or is real. Are not secular humanists the ones
7 who have removed the Ten Commandments from the classroom wall, protected pornography on the
8 internet, and brought us radical sex education programs to our schools?

9 **3 The Civil Ruler Must Trust God**

10 *Deut. 17:16, KJ: But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to
11 return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath
12 said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.*

13 Kings are responsible for the defense of the nation. The only purpose of government is to protect the
14 rights of the people and to punish those that violate human rights. A strong military force and the
15 ability to act decisively would naturally be the first priority of a king. However, the most powerful
16 military in the world cannot stay the judgment of an offended God. According to God's Word, the
17 king's first priority must not be the development of his military, but the development of his
18 relationship to the living God. Building trust in God is more important than building trust in the army.
19 This is not to say, however, that a strong faith denies the need of a strong military.

20 *Psalm 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.*

21 King David, proud of his military accomplishments, decided to number the people. In so doing, David
22 acted presumptuously and offended the Lord. David learned that his powerful army could not prevent
23 the lethal pestilence sent by an offended God to destroy the people (2 Samuel 24). He lost more people
24 in the three day plague than he did in all his military campaigns combined! The last ten years of
25 David's life was not spent perfecting his army, but planning the construction of the temple. God, not
26 the government, had to be center of the nation's attention. ***He learned the hard way that an offended
27 God was more of a threat to national security than all the standing armies of the nations around
28 him.*** He built the temple in the nation's capital that the nation might be centered on the worship of
29 YHWH and not focused on the monarchy.

30
31 Likewise, all of America's long range bombers, stealth aircraft, aircraft carriers, surveillance craft,
32 cruise missiles, GPS guiding systems, strike aircraft, refueling tankers, smart weapons, cluster bombs,
33 attack helicopters, talented military personnel, and bunker bursting bombs cannot prevent a Hurricane
34 Katrina or the devastation of an earthquake ordered by an offended God. As we have learned in Iraq,
35 the best military in the world cannot change hearts filled with anger and murder (See Amos 3:3; Is.
36 45:7). Tell me, which American presidents have concentrated on a trust-relationship with the Biblical
37 God? You will be hard pressed to find many . . . and certainly will have difficulty in the modern
38 political climate.

4 The Civil Ruler Must be a Moral Person

Deut. 17:17, KJ: Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

This text addresses the abuses of power, “the conversion of might into right.” When humanistic political lawyer-leaders define “right” or “good” or “lawful” the nation is in decline. God, not man, has the right to define “good.”

The first abuse of power is sexual promiscuity. Many wives and many lovers are a distraction to civil service. These relationships steal part of the king’s heart and render him incompetent in judging moral issues and matters of State. It is difficult to condemn what one condones. Clinton said after his sexual escapades,

*"I just want to get back to the work of the American people."*¹

The second abuse of power is using one’s office for personal wealth creation at the expense of the people. A king motivated by lust for riches will not do what is best and fair for the people. He is going to use his political power to increase his own opportunities and wealth. Have you ever heard of General “Spoons” Butler (Benjamin F. Butler)? He also had the nickname “Beast Butler” because of his savage cruelty toward the people of New Orleans during the civil war period. Butler hanged William Mumford merely for lowering the Union flag that flew over the New Orleans branch of the United States Mint. He obtained the nickname, “Spoons”, because he stole the silverware from the southern homes he raided. ² To him, stealing private property was justified in war. Likewise, many politicians feel like theft is acceptable under color of law.

Do politicians like President Bill Clinton, Senator John Edward, Mayor Rudy Giuliani or Governor Mark Sanford ring a bell? Headlines like “FBI Investigating Foley Email to Teens”³ and the “Clinton Lewinski Scandal” tell the story about how America has failed to elect godly candidates to office. We are in trouble when unbelieving, humanistic rulers occupy positions of authority. Even those candidates, who profess to be Christian, are often shallow and uncommitted to Biblical values. ***What lies behind us and what lies before us is not as important as the principles and virtues that lies within us.***

5 The Civil Ruler Must Know God’s Law

Deut. 17:18-19, KJ: And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life . .

God ordered the king to make a personal, accurate copy of the Torah, and to read it every day of his life; that is, the king had to be a man of the Book, a man of Law, a man of ethical principles. He had to know his law-source and to reject alien law!!!!!! Only by heeding God’s Word could he avoid the great errors of kings. *The Law would never cause him to wander, but it would cause him to wonder.* Strangely, Israel’s kings had little interest in God’s law. As heads of state, they had more important matters to deal with—or, so it seemed. Remember, Israel collapsed not because they disobeyed their

1 leaders but because they obey the alien laws provided to them by their unfaithful kings (2 Kings 17:1-
2 10 et seq.)

3 Any proper framework for Christian politics is shaped by a biblical worldview. A biblical worldview
4 takes as its guiding light the biblical story of creation, the fall, and the history of redemption. **The**
5 **great themes of Scripture provide the window through which all political issues must be viewed.**
6 God is at work calling people to justice from the earliest chapters of Genesis throughout Revelation
7 (See Mic. 6:8). God condemns those who do not cry for justice (Is. 59:1-3). Living under the reign of
8 God's righteousness as expressed in kingdom theology as revealed in Christ is not only a future hope,
9 but also a present requisite for every believer. Not only must our rulers be Christian, our government is
10 required to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Mt. 6:33). Christ is even now restoring men and their
11 institutions. His present risen life at the right hand of the Father touches all of human life. His rule
12 grows every day like a small, hearty mustard seed through the work of Christ's faithful disciples. When
13 Christians administer justice through governmental service or undertake other responsibilities in
14 obedience to God, they share in the task of caring for and restoring God's redemptive order to politics.
15 The purpose of government is to administrate justice toward criminals and to protect the innocent. It is
16 an error for believers to be content to turn over God's institution of government to be governed by
17 pagans—an apostasy of modern Christianity.

18 **6 The Civil Ruler Must Fear the Lord**

19 *Deut. 17:19, KJ: And . . . he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn*
20 *to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do*
21 *them:*

22 What is going to keep a king from following his feelings or fears or anger or lust or pride? What is
23 going to keep him from being deceived by "lying lips" from crafty advisors (Ps. 120:2)? What is going
24 to keep him doing what is right when the pagan international community sanctions his policies or
25 pressures him to join unbiblical wars?

26 *Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to*
27 *depart from evil is understanding.*

28 *Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise*
29 *wisdom and instruction.*

30 Fear is a part of leadership—fear of man, fear of consequences, fear of rejection, fear of being
31 misunderstood, fear of criticism, fear of political fights, fear of war, fear of international disapproval
32 seduce presidents and kings every day of their administration. "Fear makes the wolf bigger than he
33 is."⁴ "Fear is a tyrant and a despot, more terrible than the rack, more potent than the snake."⁵ What is
34 going to keep a political leader on the straight and narrow path? Only the fear of the Lord! Only when
35 a man fears God more than he fears man, will he make the righteous, moral, good-for-America
36 decisions facing his tenure in office.

37 *Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the*
38 *LORD shall be safe.*

1 God ordered Zerubbabel, the leader of the return, and Joshua, the high priest, to build the second
2 temple (Ezra 1-4). In the middle of the difficult project, the nation’s political enemies obtained an
3 order from King Artaxerxes to terminate the construction: “*The work on the house of God in*
4 *Jerusalem came to a stand-still*” in 530 B.C. (Ezra 4:34). Because their fear of the king was greater
5 than their fear of God, they ceased work on the temple. In obeying the king, Zerubbabel and Joshua
6 disobeyed their God. Ten years later in 520 B.C. Haggai the Prophet and Zechariah the Prophet began
7 to preach. During that time, King Darius came to power in Persia. How would they overcome the fear
8 of this civil ruler? If they obeyed their prophets and disobeyed the king’s order, they could be in
9 political trouble. They could be arrested, fined, fired, property confiscated, put in prison, or executed
10 for treason. It is not easy to resist an executive order of a government.—but, it is sometimes necessary.
11 Though God understood their stress, Haggai and Zechariah motivated them to disobey the executive
12 order and to obey the call of God. Notice how the temple work was revitalized: “*The people feared the*
13 *Lord . . . they came and began to work on the house of the Lord [despite the command of the king]*”
14 (^{NIV}Hag. 1:12, 14; addition mine). Only when the fear of the Lord is greater than the fear of man, will
15 civil rulers do what is right.

16 **7 Civil Rulers Must be Humble Men**

17 *Deut. 17:20, KJ: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren . . .*

18 Nothing intoxicates a politician like a sip of authority. There is no room for pride in civil rulers. Be
19 humble or stumble. Leadership is a public service one performs for the good of the public as a public
20 servant. When a civil ruler is filled with self-esteem instead of esteem for Christ and His Holy Word,
21 his pride will be his downfall (Prov. 11:2). When a politician rides his high horse, he will hit the
22 ground with a thud. Humility strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, quenches anger, subdues
23 pride, and bridles the tongue.

24 It was said of Robert E. Lee that he “was never known to lash out in anger when reminded of the bitter
25 defeat he suffered as Commander of the Confederate Army—this exchange portrays Lee’s humility
26 and refusal to let even the most callous reminders provoke him.” On one occasion an arrogant student
27 rebutted General Lee saying, “But General, you failed!” Lee’s simply responded, “I hope that you may
28 be more successful than I” (The Maxims of Robert E. Lee, p. 23).

29 **8 Civil Rulers Must be Men of Integrity**

30 *Deut. 17:20, KJ: . . . and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right*
31 *hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his*
32 *children, in the midst of Israel.*

33 Being in a position of power is a sacred trust. Political leaders have a duty to obey God and His Law as
34 well as the laws of a nation. God said of Joshua that he was a “servant of the Lord.” (Josh 24:29).
35 ***There is no greater complement that can be given a man than he is a servant of the Lord.*** Joshua
36 was not the servant of men. He was not the servant of his lusts. He was not the servant of his greed. He
37 did not take an opinion poll to determine political policy. His goal was not to get the will of man done
38 in the nation, but to get the will of God done among the people he served. How can a man avoid being
39 like a reed shaken in the wind? Only by being a man of integrity that fulfills his sacred trust.

40 Again, we must look at General Lee.

1 *He was the only West Point graduate never to suffer a demerit.*

2 *Walter Taylor wrote of him, the general “seemed to address himself to the*
3 *accomplishment of every task that devolved upon him in a conscientious and deliberate*
4 *way, as if he himself was directly accountable to some higher power for the manner in*
5 *which he performed his duty.”*

6 *To Lee the Christian gentlemen “was not about self-fulfillment, but about*
7 *subordinating oneself to help others . . .’*

8 *His supreme fear was that one of his students at his college might not become a*
9 *Christian.⁶*

10 When General Lee suffered his bitter defeat at Gettysburg and was forced to retreat, a wounded Union
11 soldier lying under a tree shouted, “Hurrah for the Union.” Lee dismounted his horse, went over to the
12 terror-stricken soldier who thought the General was going to kill him. “My son, your wounds are not
13 that serious” Lee said, “I hope you will soon be well.” Lee then proceeded to mount his horse and
14 continued his retreat. The man never forgot about the grace and integrity of General Lee (Maxims, p.
15 24).

16
17 Benjamin Hill described the integrity of General Lee:

18 *“a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a soldier without cruelty, and a victim*
19 *without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices, a private citizen without*
20 *wrong, a neighbor without reproach, a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without*
21 *guile. He was a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was Caesar*
22 *without his ambition, Frederick without his tyranny, and Napoleon without his*
23 *selfishness, and Washington without his reward. He was as obedient to authority as a*
24 *servant and royal in authority as a king. He was as gentle as a woman in life, pure and*
25 *modest as a virgin in thought, watchful as a Roman vestal, submissive to law as*
26 *Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles” (The Maxims of Robert E. Lee” p. XX).*

27 **9 Biblical thinking of the Founders**

28 For this reason, John Jay said,

29 *“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well*
30 *as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for*
31 *their rulers” (October 12, 1816)*

32 The majority of problems we face in America are the result of electing ungodly humanistic leaders to
33 office—politicians who have an agenda contrary to the kingdom of God. Because we lack a Biblical
34 world view, we tolerate ungodly politicians to rule over us. Consequently, we are now subject to
35 immoral sex education in the schools, gay “rights”, abortion on demand, and oppression at ever level
36 of society. What America needs is not more democrats or republicans in power, but men of deep
37 integrity elected to office—men like General Robert E. Lee—if you can find them. We need
38 knowledgeable, talented, God-fearing Christians in office. Washington D.C. needs a powerful

1 intestinal cleanse. Only when we have Christ- honoring leaders in the D.C. will it cease to be the
2 District of Criminals.

3 The story of the Bible is the story of redemption. God is at work redeeming men, families, and nations
4 to Himself. We pray, “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The ultimate
5 vision of the universe is a world under God’s rule and authority (Rev 5; Ps. 2, Is. 2:1-6; 9:6). His law is
6 not only for individual men, but for families, the church, and all of man’s institutions.

7 The Bible teaches,

8 *Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the*
9 *wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

10 When the civil rulers are righteous men, the people are safe and secure. When pagans rule, people
11 grieve because of their tyrannical actions. Ungodly rulers covet power and oppress the people through
12 heavy taxation and demoralizing legislation. When the wicked rule a righteous man goes into hiding
13 (Prov. 28:12); that is, he must hide himself, his family, his assets, and his possessions from predatory
14 civil rulers.

15 The founders of this nation understood that if we are going to advance as a nation, we must be led by
16 Christian men—men whose conscience is trained by the Law of God.

17 During the Revolutionary Period of American history, the movers and shakers of colonial history
18 understood the importance of having only Christian men in office. Consider the exerpts found in the
19 Appendix from the colonial States.

20 Think of some of these statements. You could not be a representative unless you believed in the
21 Christian religion and acknowledge the Old Testament and New Testament as the revelation of God.

22 Because we no longer have Biblical thinking, America is in danger because its pagan rulers do not
23 share our Biblical values. Many are mule-stubborn to overthrow Christianity and to establish
24 secularism as the religion of the west. Let us not forget that it was secular atheist who killed and
25 murdered more than 130 million people in the last century. Mao killed about 72 million. Stalin killed
26 40 million. Hitler killed 15 million. Add to this the other killings of totalitarian regimes and we have
27 about 130 million deaths. And, this is not counting loss of life from the wars of the last century which
28 would add another 40 million deaths.⁷

29 When Samuel realized the kind of man that Saul had become in his disobedience to the divine charge
30 to execute the Amalekites. He grieved and cried out all night to the Lord (1 Samuel 15). The word
31 “grieve” can be translated angry. Samuel was “ticked” over Saul’s disobedience. Saul endangered the
32 nation. Samuel was a man of faith and he is mentioned as a hero of the faith in Hebrews eleven. His
33 anger was not childish or fleshly, but deeply rooted in the anger of God against ungodly rulers (See
34 Hosea 5:10, 11; 7:2, Micah 3:3:1-4; 6:16).

35 Rather than being angry and irate at what is happening in this country because we have elected non-
36 Christian men to office, we have become tolerant and cultured Christians. Because we lack Biblical
37 thinking, we have made peace with secular government and are content to have atheistic men rule over
38 us.

1 When professing Christian, Jimmy Carter, was interviewed by *Playboy Magazine* in the mid seventies,
2 he said he would not let his Christianity affect his presidential decisions. Unfortunately, this may be
3 the only promise he kept while in office. In an interview with Jonathan Serrie, Fox News
4 Correspondent, said the following on a question about abortion:

5 *When I took my oath of office as president, I swore to uphold the laws and Constitution*
6 *of the United States as interpreted by the Supreme Court. So I enforced Roe versus*
7 *Wade, and I did it without embarrassment or anguish.*

8 What? “Enforce Roe versus Wade” without “*embarrassment or anguish*”! How could any true
9 Christian permit the murder of a million innocent babies a year? Further, if Mr. Carter had read the
10 Constitution he would have seen that it was established to “secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves
11 **and OUR PROSTERITY**” (Emphasis added.). He should have denounced *Roe versus Wade* as
12 unbiblical, wretched, and unconstitutional.

13 The Biblical Christian seeks to adopt the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5; I Pet. 4:1; Rom. 12:2). Because we
14 do not have Biblical thinking when it comes to our world view as those Christians Statesmen during
15 the formation of the Declaration of Independence, we have tolerated ungodly politicians to lead our
16 country and to enact all kinds of legislation to expunge Christianity and its moral values from
17 courtroom to the classroom. We can only recover, when Christian pastors come to their senses and
18 Christians demand true Christians be elected to political offices.

19 **10 Resources for further study and rebuttal**

20 The following resources on our website furnish additional information on the subject of this pamphlet:

- 21 1. *God and Our State Constitutions*
22 <http://famguardian.org/Subjects/ChristianHeritage/Articles/GodAndOurStateConst.htm>
- 23 2. *What Pastors and Clergy Need to Know About Government and Taxation*, Form #12.006
24 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 25 3. *Bible Law Course*, Form #12.015
26 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 27 4. *Laws of the Bible*, Form #13.001
28 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 29 5. *Christian Citizenship Training Course, Volume 1*, Form #12.007
30 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 31 6. *Christian Citizenship Training Course, Volume 2*, Form #12.008
32 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 33 7. *Christian Citizenship Course, Slides and Handouts*, Form #12.009
34 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 35 8. *Family Constitution, Chapter 7: Relationship to Governments and the World*, Form #13.003
36 <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- 37 9. *Christian Heritage Topic Page*, Family Guardian Website
38 <http://famguardian.org/Subjects/ChristianHeritage/ChristianHeritage.htm>
- 39 10. *Spirituality Topic Page*, Family Guardian Website
40 <http://famguardian.org/Subjects/Spirituality/spirituality.htm>

11 APPENDIX: Recognition of God in Our State Founding Documents

11.1 Delaware Constitution, 1701

AND that all Persons who also profess to believe in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World, shall be capable (notwithstanding their other Persuasions and Practices in Point of Conscience and Religion) to serve this Government in any Capacity, both legislatively and executively, he or they solemnly promising, when lawfully required, Allegiance to the King as Sovereign, and Fidelity to the Proprietary and Governpr, and taking the Attests as now established by the Law made at Newcastle, in the Year One Thousand and Seven Hundred, entituled, An Act directing the Attests of several Officers and Ministers, as now amended and confirmed this present Assembly.

11.2 Delaware Constitution, 1776

ART. 22. Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his seat, or entering upon the execution of his office, shall take the following oath, or affirmation, if conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, to wit:

" I, A B. will bear true allegiance to the Delaware State, submit to its constitution and laws, and do no act wittingly whereby the freedom thereof may be prejudiced."

And also make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit:

" I, A B. do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

11.3 Georgia Constitution, 1777

ART. VI. The representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county, who shall have resided at least twelve months in this State, and three months in the county where they shall be elected; except the freeholders of the counties of Glynn and Camden, who are in a State of alarm, and who shall have the liberty of choosing one member each, as specified in the articles of this constitution, in any other county, until they have residents sufficient to qualify them for more; and they shall be of the Protestant religion, and of the age of twenty-one years, and shall be possessed in their own right of two hundred and fifty acres of land, or some property to the amount of two hundred and fifty pounds.

1 **11.4 Maryland Constitution, 1776**

2 *XXXIII. That, as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks*
3 *most acceptable to him; all persons, professing the Christian religion, are equally*
4 *entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought by any law to*
5 *be molested in his person or State on account of his religious persuasion or profession,*
6 *or for his religious practice; unless, under colour of religion, any man shall disturb the*
7 *good order, peace or safety of the state, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure*
8 *others, in their natural, civil, or religious rights;*

9 _____
10 *"That every person, appointed to any office of profit or trust, shall, before he enters on*
11 *the execution thereof, take the following oath; to wit :-" I, A. B., do swear, that I do not*
12 *hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and that I will be faithful,*
13 *and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland; " and shall also subscribe a*
14 *declaration of his belief in the Christian religion."*

15 **11.5 Massachusetts Constitution, 1780**

16 *"Article I. Any person chosen governor, lieutenant-governor, councillor, senator, or*
17 *representative, and accepting the trust, shall, before he proceed to execute the duties of*
18 *his place or office, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz: I, A.B., do*
19 *declare that I believe the Christian religion, and have a firm persuasion of its truth; and*
20 *that I am seized and possessed, in my own right, of the property required by the*
21 *constitution, as one qualification for the office or place to which I am elected."*

22 **11.6 New Hampshire Constitution, 1784**

23 *"no person shall be capable of being elected a senator (representative or president),*
24 *who is not of the Protestant religion"*

1 **11.7 New Jersey: Fundamental Constitutions for the Province of East New Jersey in**
2 **America, Anno Domini 1683**

3 *XVI. All persons living in the Province who confess and acknowledge the one Almighty*
4 *and Eternal God, and holds themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and*
5 *quietly in a civil society, shall in no way be molested or prejudged for their religious*
6 *perswasions and exercise in matters of faith and worship; nor shall they be compelled*
7 *to frequent and maintain any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever: Yet it is*
8 *also hereby provided, that no man shall be admitted a member of the great or common*
9 *Council, or any other place of publick trust, who shall not profaith in Christ Jesus, and*
10 *solemnly declare that he doth no ways hold himself obliged in conscience to endeavour*
11 *alteration in the government, or seeks the turning out of any in it or their ruin or*
12 *prejudice, either in person or eState, because they are in his opinion hereticks, or differ*
13 *in their judgment from him: Nor by this article is it intended, that any under the notion*
14 *of this liberty shall allow themselves to avow atheism, irreligiousness, or to practice*
15 *cursing, swearing, drunkenness, prophaness, whoring, adultery, murdering or any kind*
16 *of violence, or indulging themselves in stage plays, masks, revells or such like abuses;*
17 *for restraining such and preserving of the people in deligence and in good order, the*
18 *great Council is to make more particular laws, which are punctually to be put in*
19 *execution.*

20 [[Address of the People called Quakers](#), American Archives Series 4, Volume 3, Page 1777; Given
21 Before the Pennsylvania Assembly, 10/26/1776;

22 SOURCE: <http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/cgi-bin/amarch/getdoc.pl?/var/lib/philologic/databases/amarch/9124>]

23 **11.8 New Jersey Constitution, 1776**

24 *"That there shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this Province, in*
25 *preference to another; and that no Protestant inhabitant of this Colony shall be denied*
26 *the enjoyment of any civil right, merely on account of his religious principles; but that*
27 *all persons, professing a belief in the faith of any Protestant sect, who shall demean*
28 *themselves peaceably under the government, as hereby established, shall be capable of*
29 *being elected into any office of profit or trust, or being a member of either branch of the*
30 *Legislature, and shall fully and freely enjoy every privilege and immunity, enjoyed by*
31 *others their fellow subjects."*

32 **11.9 New York Constitution, 1777**

33 *"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve*
34 *the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the*
35 *powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of*
36 *nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they*
37 *should declare the causes which impel them to the separation...*

38 *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are*
39 *endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."*

1 **11.10 North Carolina Constitution, 1776**

2 *XXXII.(5) That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant*
3 *religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold*
4 *religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be*
5 *capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within*
6 *this State*

7 **11.11 Pennsylvania Constitution, 1776**

8 *We, the representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general convention met, for*
9 *the express purpose of framing such a government, confessing the goodness of the great*
10 *Governor of the universe (who alone knows to what degree of earthly happiness*
11 *mankind may attain, by perfecting the arts of government) in permitting the people of*
12 *this State, by common consent, and without violence, deliberately to form for themselves*
13 *such just rules as they shall think best, for governing their future society, and being*
14 *fully convinced, that it is our indispensable duty to establish such original principles of*
15 *government, as will best promote the general happiness of the people of this State, and*
16 *their posterity, and provide for future improvements, without partiality for, or prejudice*
17 *against any particular class, sect, or denomination of men whatever, do, by virtue of the*
18 *authority vested in use by our constituents,*

19 *SECT. 45. Laws for the encouragement of virtue, and prevention of vice and*
20 *immorality, shall be made and constantly kept in force, and provision shall be made for*
21 *their due execution: And all religious societies or bodies of men heretofore united or*
22 *incorporated for the advancement of religion or learning, or for other pious and*
23 *charitable purposes, shall be encouraged and protected in the enjoyment of the*
24 *privileges, immunities and the states which they were accustomed to enjoy, or could of*
25 *right have enjoyed, under the laws and former constitution of this State.*

26 _____
27 *"And each member, before he takes his seat (in elected office DEW), shall make and*
28 *subscribe the following declaration, viz:I do believe in one God, the creator and*
29 *governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And*
30 *I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine*
31 *inspiration. And no further or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of*
32 *any civil officer or magistrate in this State."*

33 **11.12 Vermont Constitution, July 8, 1777**

34 *Article 3rd. Freedom in religion; right and duty of religious worship (notes)*

1 *That all persons have a natural and unalienable right, to worship Almighty God,*
2 *according to the dictates of their own consciences and understandings, as in their*
3 *opinion shall be regulated by the word of God; and that no person ought to, or of right*
4 *can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect or support any place of*
5 *worship, or maintain any minister, contrary to the dictates of conscience, nor can any*
6 *person be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen, on account of*
7 *religious sentiments, or peculiar mode of religious worship; and that no authority can,*
8 *or ought to be vested in, or assumed by, any power whatever, that shall in any case*
9 *interfere with, or in any manner control the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of*
10 *religious worship. Nevertheless, every sect or denomination of Christians ought to*
11 *observe the sabbath or Lord's day, and keep up some sort of religious worship, which to*
12 *them shall seem most agreeable to the revealed will of God.*

13

14 *House of Representatives: And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and*
15 *subscribe the following declaration, viz.*

16 *" I ____ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Diverse, the rewarder*
17 *of the good and punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the scriptures of the old*
18 *and new testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the protestant*
19 *religion."*

20 **11.13 Connecticut: Fundamental Orders of 1639 and Connecticut Charter of 1662**

21 (Connecticut chose to retain its colonial government - excepting any allegiance to the British crown -
22 after declaring independence. A state constitution was not drafted until 1818).

23 *"For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of his divine*
24 *providence so to order and dispose of things that we the Inhabitants and Residents of*
25 *Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield are now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the*
26 *River of Connectecotte and the lands thereunto adjoining; and well knowing where a*
27 *people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and*
28 *union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent Government established*
29 *according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as*
30 *occasion shall require; do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public*
31 *State or Commonwealth; and do for ourselves and our successors and such as shall be*
32 *adjoined to us at any time hereafter, enter into Combination and Confederation*
33 *together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord*
34 *Jesus which we now profess, as also, the discipline of the Churches, which according to*
35 *the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced amongst us; as also in our civil affairs to*
36 *be guided and governed according to such Laws, Rules, Orders and Decrees as shall be*
37 *made, ordered, and decreed as followeth..."*

38 **11.14 Rhode Island Charter of 1663**

39 (Rhode Island chose to retain its colonial government - excepting any allegiance to the British crown -
40 after declaring independence. A state constitution was not drafted until 1843).

1 *"ffree inhabitants of our island, called Rhode-Island, and the rest of the colonie of*
2 *Providence Plantations, in the Narragansett Bay, in New-England, in America, that*
3 *they, pursueing, with peaceable and loyall minces, their sober, serious and religious*
4 *intentions, of goalie edifieing themselves, and one another, in the holie Christian ffaith*
5 *and worshipp as they were perswaded; together with the gaineing over and conversione*
6 *of the poore ignorant Indian natives, in those partes of America, to the sincere*
7 *professione and obedienc of the same ffaith and worship..."*

8 **11.15 South Carolina 1778 Constitution**

9 *"No person shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate unless he be of the Protestant*
10 *religion." - and - "The Christian Protestant religion shall be deemed, and is hereby*
11 *constituted and declared to be, the established religion of this State."*

12 **11.16 Tennessee 1796 Constitution**

13 *"No person who denies the being of God or a future state of rewards and punishments,*
14 *shall hold any office in the civil department of this state."*

15 **11.17 Vermont 1777 Constitution**

16 *"And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following*
17 *declaration, viz. " I ____ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the*
18 *Diverse, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge*
19 *the scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own*
20 *and profess the protestant religion." And no further or other religious test shall ever,*
21 *hereafter, be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State."*

22 **11.18 Virginia 1775 Declaration of Rights**

23 *"That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging*
24 *it, can be directed by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore, all*
25 *men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of*
26 *conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love,*
27 *and charity towards each other. "*

28 Although Tennessee and Vermont were not among the original thirteen states, I've thrown in excerpts
29 from their original state constitutions for good measure.

¹ Bill Clinton, quoted by David Limbaugh, "Distractions and Hypocrisy," (Internet Source, Townhall.com.).

² Cabildo on the "Civil War," (Internet Resource: <http://lsm.crt.State.la.us/cabildo/cab10.htm>).

³ (Internet Resource: PalmBeachPost.com, Sunday, October 01, 2006).

⁴ German proverb.

⁵ Edgar Wallace, The Clue of the Twisted Candle, (Online Resource: Classic Reader.com.,_1916).

⁶ The Maxims of Robert E. Lee for Young Gentlemen compiled by Richard G. Williams, 2002.

⁷ James Kennedy, What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?, Nelson Publishers, 1994, p. 235.