

R. Tourniaiaire

What you need to know before the "Mark of the Beast" law.



THE ORIGIN OF SIN, THE NATURE OF SIN,
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, THE ABUSE OF POWER,
RELIGIOUS LAWS AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST LAW



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Is religion the cause of the world's conflicts?

Throughout time, religion has been the cause of many conflicts. And the irreligious often point to that as a fact. A lot of blood has been shed.

Does the Judeo-Christian belief create a hostile environment for humanity and progress?

Humans cannot seem to create peace, no matter what era they lived in, the beliefs or traditions they held, or the nation they are from. No matter how much we have progressed, the increased knowledge has not brought more peace in the world. Rather, the most developed countries are involved in just as many, if not more, conflicts than the least developed. With or without university degrees, humans fight.

The real problem causing conflicts lies in a timeless human dilemma: How can true peace be achieved when people cannot even agree on what peace means? The source of all conflicts is the belief that you can create a utopia by forcing someone else's conscience to be aligned with your own. The desperate need for unity and control has led humans to do great harm in the name of what they believe to be the common good. Sometimes, a minority is sacrificed to save a majority, and in some cases, even the other way around. It was even the excuse the religious leaders used when they were about to arrest Jesus to have Him executed. The high priest said: «*Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not*» (Joh. 11:50).

The idea that sacrificing the ones who are different to prevent chaos and for a common good is not a trait, especially of religious people, but of

atheists alike. In countries that viewed religion as the problem and then attempted to remove or subdue religion as a solution towards peace and harmony, you see the same behavior and conduct. During the French Revolution, Bibles were burnt, faith was made illegal, and

Christians were killed or subdued. It was seen during the Soviet Union that Christians, Jews, and Muslims were targeted and suppressed. Or in modern-day China, where human rights often do not apply to the religious, who are persecuted simply for having a different worldview. And the same goes for North Korea or any other country where this idea of an irreligious Utopia has been played with.

The same conduct is used. It is deeply flawed to think that people can be changed through force, suppression, or bullying. Even if you can get everyone to obey you, there is still no inner peace or love inside their hearts for you.

And as time has shown us, whatever society we visit in history, if it's Hinduism, Buddhism, tribal people, Christianity, Muslims, Jews, or agnostics and atheists, the idea of force does not work without causing suffering. However, the more alike people are in their thinking, the more peacefully they coexist, which inspires the continuation of these methods of pressuring similarity.

The scary part? In spite of the many attempts throughout the centuries to force people into a uniformity of thought, which have failed every time, we continue the circle anyway. It won't stop, and the idea continues into modern concepts of Utopia.

The division in the USA is a good example of how it goes. The country has long been a Christian nation. The fast-growing irreligious communities feel that religion has taken from them the freedoms they want, but as they grow in power and number, they now want to force people of faith to act and think as they do. They felt condemned by Christian moral standards, but now they condemn others themselves. Rather than being satisfied with freedom for themselves, they want to force their idea of freedom on someone else. But the moment something is forced upon someone, it is no longer freedom. And so in

our world, the concept of freedom is not tied to an ideology; freedom is more complex than that.

If you are bullied, pressured, or suppressed to go against your values, your conscience, and your beliefs, then it is not freedom, no matter who you are and what you believe.

Material gain.

Although we are here dealing with the use of force as part of the reason for conflicts, and if or how religion is causing strife and war, it should be mentioned that greed is rarely blamed, but often the reason behind conflicts. Not just greed, but also a battle for resources. Paul said, *“For the love of money is the root of all evil” (1Ti 6:10)*. A good example of this is the drug war in Mexico, which has nothing to do with religion. Neither can those behind the sex trade, drug trade, slave industry, or organized crime be called religious. They are clearly driven by the want of money and little else. Yet they are causing great pain and conflict. They are not living to protect their faith or the lack of it; they live to gain riches and status. Not to mention how hard it is to create a world of peace with the existence of incest, rape, bullying, segregation, and more.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year, one person every 40 seconds. They say for every person who commits suicide, another 20 people try but fail.

Many studies show that those who are religious are less likely to try or commit suicide, and so this can not be blamed on religion either. The cause is often related to financial struggles, but perhaps even more to a loss of hope. The Leading Cause of Death in the world is not even war, but is related to food.

We eat ourselves to death. Heart disease and stroke are at the top. Is this caused by religion? Most religions encourage against gluttony. The Biblical God even forbids the use of animal fat, which is a major cause behind the leading cause of death.

In the Bible, God repeatedly tells His people to care for the fatherless. Today, in the Western world, around half of those who get married also get divorced. Many lose contact with their fathers, creating a new wave of fatherlessness. Is there any consequence for anyone except you if you leave your wife and start a new family with someone else? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.5 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. In a US study, we see 85 % who are in prison grew up in a fatherless home. 7 out of 10 youth in state-operated correctional facilities are from fatherless homes. They are twice as likely to drop out of school. Studies show that girls in fatherless homes are 100% more likely to be obese. 44% of single-mother households live in poverty. 75% of rapists are motivated by displaced anger connected with abandonment by their father. 85% of all children with some type of behavioral disorder, 63% of youth suicides, and they are 279% more likely to deal drugs or carry firearms. Those abandoned experience 48 % pregnancy loss.
(<https://lifeisbeautiful.org/statistics-on-fatherless-homes/>)

Between 2015 and 2019, there were 73 million abortions per year. Mostly because of sex outside marriage. The unborn unique genetic human child is sacrificed because of their parents' chase after happiness, or because they are not in a stable relationship, or for economic reasons. Only 1% of abortions are linked to rape and 0,5% linked to incest.
(<https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide#>
<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/24/rape-and-incest-account-few-abortions-so-why-all-attention/1211175001/>)

So God wanted couples to stay together; was that wrong? If you worry about being entrapped in a loveless marriage, perhaps God's advice in finding the right spouse, one who loved the Lord and had good principles, was good advice. In an American study, people who follow the Judeo-Christian God have lower divorce rates than Americans of other religious backgrounds.
(Institute for Family Studies: Religion and the risk of divorce)

The pursuit of self-satisfaction suppresses more than any government ever could. When humanity is at war with itself, it is strange to blame religion. When the God of the bible told them to care for the fatherless

and staying with their spouse unless they had an affair was not to take away from people the right to be happy, it was to help society from all the pain and misery that followed if they did not.

In a world where people push each other out of the way to increase their status and riches, people's everyday lives are more about mastering life and fulfilling needs than about worshiping a deity.

Society has seen a rise in violence and broken homes after people rejected God in both the US and Europe, and so all this has to be taken into consideration. Would you have a utopia without a God? Would it change people to be good towards each other? Would it give them hope? Would it make them stop going after their lusts? Would people magically stop killing and stealing, raping, and selling drugs just because someone told them there is no God? Of course not. Most who do these things do not care about God as it is. As long as these needs exist in mankind, strife will continue, even if your neighbor went to church or a mosque or not. The more crimes, the more the world needs strong governments, and the more those governments need to find common ground for people to walk on. This is where religious persecution usually comes in, whether it's from a non-religious or a religious point of view. There is a need for common ground because people misbehave toward one another in society. People disagree on what that common ground should be. How can you get people to behave?

Most suffering in the world today is rooted in people's desires and not in their religion. But it is easier to blame an ideology than ourselves. Easier to blame God than our own behavior. Atheism is responsible for large-scale persecutions in the past, and now, the suffering and deaths of those victims of the crimes just mentioned are still far greater.

In the Bible, God claims the root of the conflict is the rejection of His moral law, sin (Isa 24:4-6). The lying, the stealing, the coveting, the sexual immorality, the killing, and the disrespect to the older generation.

Also, the moral law requires the worship of only one God.

So God claims the religious division was caused because the world refused to follow the one and only God and created thousands of others in His place, dividing people into thousands of factions with just as many different moral standards. And this causes the different fractions to collide. The first four commandments in God's moral law were for the sake of world peace, and the six others were to avoid man conflicting with each other. And so God's ten commandments, in theory, can solve the conflicts if people follow them. At the same time, they can not solve anything if forced upon unwilling participants. In this book, we will look at this dilemma.

So while humans blame God for their misery, God blames man. That is a hard pill for some to swallow. God repeatedly tells man in the Bible that the cause of strife lies within them. He also claims those who do not know God take the lead in much of the violence:

“The LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away” (Hos 4:1-3)

“Freedom is the ability to think and choose for yourself”.

When the American Constitution was drafted, the concept of religious freedom emerged as an unprecedented idea in world history.

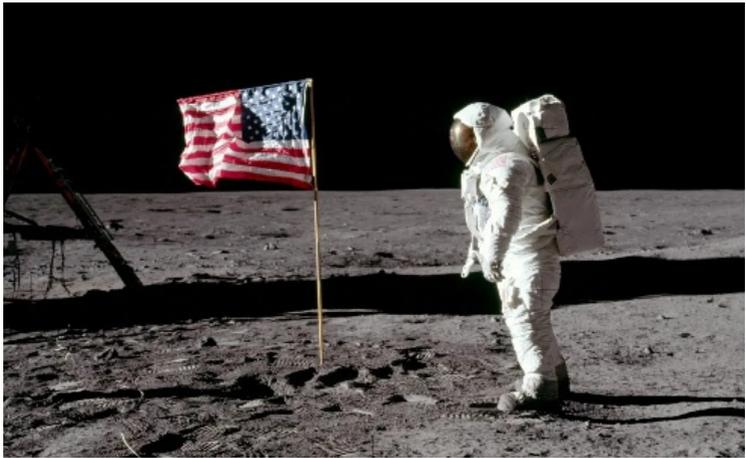
Although some empires tolerated different beliefs, they never offered true equality of rights. The state always favored one group over another. Tolerance is not absolute freedom; it is inherently condescending. People do not wish to be merely tolerated by society; they want to be regarded as equals. Without this, they will always feel like guests or strangers in their own country, dependent on how they are treated.

Although the framers of the American Constitution were mostly Christians from various denominations, they recognized that forcing people from competing churches to act according to a single interpretation would not bring harmony and peace, but rather suppression and conflict. Even if they believed their worldview was best, they understood that imposing it on others would not yield positive results. Learning from the suppression practiced by the English and Catholic churches in Europe, they chose instead to grant people the right to follow their own conscience in religious matters. The government was prohibited from favoring any one group. Citizens were given the right to free speech and to practice their faith as they saw fit. They could debate their beliefs and attempt to persuade one another using arguments, logic, and respect—but never by force. No church could be silenced for another’s sake, nor receive funding or recognition over any other. The Constitution explicitly stated that the government would not take sides in religious matters.

This concept of freedom had long been feared by both religious and non-religious groups throughout history. Governments often sided with religious or atheistic beliefs out of fear that, if those who held different beliefs grew in number, they would lose control. The prevailing idea was that the state needed to function as the people's religious conscience to prevent society from descending into chaos.

Many feared that failing to suppress the opposing side would lead to chaos. However, the United States did not descend into disorder when it chose not to act as the people's religious conscience. Instead, from the moment the Declaration of Independence embraced these values, the nation quickly became a land of opportunity and grew into a superpower. A significant blemish on this progress was the use of slaves in the South, which contradicted these principles. True growth into a superpower began after the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

People with different beliefs all felt it was equally "their country". Not just Christians and Jews sought refuge in the USA, but



also people from all over the world. Here, they could be themselves. Here, they would not just be tolerated in society; they would be equal. Here, the greatest inventions of our times were made; here were the people who first walked on the moon. Freedom of conscience and of choice did not lead to the disaster feared for so long; instead, the opposite happened.

The land prospered. Rather than building a society where everyone was forced to think alike, they used the differences of opinion as their



The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France. Here, many of the American soldiers who came to free Europe are buried. The USA did, undeniably, come to Europe's rescue, but not without loss of life.

strength to grow. The USA even came to their brothers in Europe's rescue and helped save the continent from becoming the United States of Hitler and his comrades, and ensured Europe's freedom.

The USA, at the start of its republic, realized that religion was not the cause of strife, but people's fears and a need to force others to adopt their understanding. The Soviet Union chose a different approach. They blamed religion and wanted to create an atheist socialist state where morality was state-controlled. If the state could be the people's religious conscience instead of religion, they were sure a superior society would be the result. The tragic stories of religious persecution and suppression in the Soviet Union are well known. It is said that 12 to 20 million Christians became victims of the state. 106,300

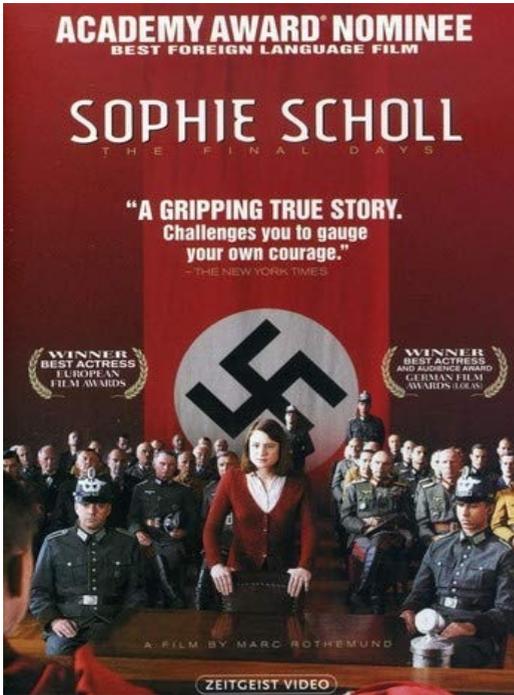
Russian clergymen were executed during the Great Purge alone. The atheist state realized, along with many other states throughout history, that if people have a higher authority they look to in addition to the state, they can never have full control over the people. A realization even the Papacy made in their day, and therefore only allowed people to have a relationship with God through the church as a way to prevent this conflict. They thought that if the State and God represented the same authority, everything would be solved. They said the Pope was Christ's representative on earth; therefore, people had to seek God's will and moral guidance from him.

The Soviet Union hoped to remove belief in God to solve the problem of people following two authorities. Later, Russia allowed religion back as religion could never be defeated in their region, but now Putin has decided not to allow the influence from any other church than the Orthodox, hoping this will get things under more control. In any society where there is suppression of others, there will



The Soviet Union believed that if only religion were removed, its society would grow and flourish like no other. But the Soviet Union never became the Utopia they had hoped for, ecumenical or morally. And the prosperity of their competitors in the West made many question whether the road to success was really tied to the abolition of religion.

be those who see a wonderful state solution, because they are not the ones afflicted.



One example is Hitler's Germany. People often forget to mention all the good that was given to the Germans who were accepted into society. They got free education, jobs, and many benefits. After the First World War, depression and economic crisis followed, and Hitler became a savior who raised their quality of life and gave them opportunities they otherwise would not get. The chosen citizen had a good life and great opportunities under Hitler.

In the movie Sophie Scholl, we can see an enactment of the real conversations at the interrogation of Sophie Scholl right before her execution.

Here, the interrogator questions her opposition by reminding her that the government had given her the chance at an education and had provided her, along with millions of other Germans, the opportunity to prosper.

Any society that discriminates against groups of people will also have people praising the same society. It is those who have received the benefits who offer praise, while those who were discriminated against or suffered see another side of their government. So

you will still see Russians with pictures of Stalin and Lenin on their walls, and others who crumble just hearing their names. If we lived during World War 2 and the holocaust was not yet known, and you interviewed two different Germans, one persecuted and one living with their free education and health care, to give an evaluation of their country's leadership, you would get two completely different answers.

The principle of the American Constitution was to avoid discrimination, and they wanted to create a society where no group was favored over another. Everyone was to have equal rights to prosper and to succeed in life.

After the Second World War, a gradual shift began. The USA was now so sure that it had found the perfect way to rule a land that it felt it was time to put pressure on other countries to implement the same principles. The US Army adopted the concept of taking responsibility for protecting the suppressed and helping those fighting for freedom

Many forget to tell why so many Germans praised Hitler, and that it came in large part because he at first saved the country from economic depression.

elsewhere. Their successes in helping to save Europe from Hitler and bringing an end to World War 2 inspired them to take on a new role in the world as a democracy “super-hero” coming to the rescue. They saw their interference in countries’ internal conflicts as their personal duty to help the world progress in the right direction for the common good of everyone. They wanted equality of rights to be the law in other countries, feeling they had created the best principle of any constitution, and that everyone should adopt it. The Soviet Union represented a conflicting idea they feared, and they needed the American way to win ground before «the Soviet way» did, which led the two nations into a cold war.

As an example, their involvement in the wars in Korea and Vietnam was to help one side wanting freedom and democracy against the growing communist party there.

Later, the USA slowly became a power capable of influencing, and even overthrowing, governments that did not act in accordance with the «freedom» they wanted them to practice. Moving up until our own day, in many places, the interference of the USA was and is unwanted. A train of suffering and a destroyed infrastructure is the result of their warfare, and many innocent people have lost their lives in the process. These lives are seen as a necessary sacrifice for the cause. The USA has



Many question the United States' motives for going to war in Islamic countries. It seems to many to be motivated to protect Israel and to ensure themselves resources and power. The US forces have left a blood bath and ruined many infrastructures in these countries, while they seem unconcerned by the great internal conflicts in their own neighboring countries. Other countries committing greater crimes against humanity, like China, are left alone because of trade deals. This causes many to question the US's motives for when and where it interferes in other countries' affairs.

participated in over 20 wars since the Second World War. They have 800 military bases in more than 70 countries, and few want to get into conflict with them. Together with allies, they also put economic sanctions on whole countries to pressure them. Hundreds of thousands of lives were lost because of the last Iraq and Afghanistan war, which was even instigated based on a lie. To many, it was justified because they believed the Islamic states suppressed the people and that the lives lost were worth it.

But to others, the USA was acting more and more like “a beast” than a rescuer. By this very act of using force, not on their own people, but on other people in other lands, they fell for the same old way of thinking. People can be forced to practice what they believe is the right thing. Would everything spin out of control without the USA's interference?



Is the American way the right to not choose the American way?

Although the USA offered freedom and would not use the government to force people's consciences, many groups preferred a dominant leadership telling them what to think, how to dress, and how to act. So they just found leaders outside the government institution to dictate to them instead. Many do not want complete freedom of thought and seek dominant leadership. Within closed communities in the USA, there are many people following the leaders who suppress their freedom of speech, thought, and life.

Examples are the closed Orthodox Jewish communities, the Amish, the Mennonite, Mormons, LDS, and even non-religious hippie cults or others such as Heaven's Gate. Within these communities, they chose a life of suppression in the "land of the free". If the state were to take from them the right to have dominant leadership, you would do to them what they do to each other; and there would be no win-win situation; they would be subdued either way. Sometimes you have to accept that people want to live in a controlled environment and do not want your version of freedom. And they are even willing to fight to keep their freedom to be suppressed.

The weakness of the American constitution

Could the principles of the American Constitution work anywhere and at all times? Before the USA became involved in wars, irreligious movements in the USA were rapidly growing. The freedom of choice would change the USA as people's morals changed. John Adams was the United States' first vice president and also the second president. He said about the constitution they had created: «Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other». Very strong words, but were they true? Was the constitution not going to work for the coming irreligious society? And was the idea behind the Constitution not really total freedom after all? Did people still have to have at least common moral ground rules for it to work?

This idea was different from both the irreligious and papal views. Atheist governments believed you can't have two authorities—one from God and one from people—without conflict. The pope saw the same problem but solved it by saying the church and God were the same. John Adams, however, said the American way was for people to have a higher spiritual authority alongside the State. He believed both were needed and even encouraged. In older governments, the rulers acted like gods to the people. In Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, leaders claimed their power came from the gods.



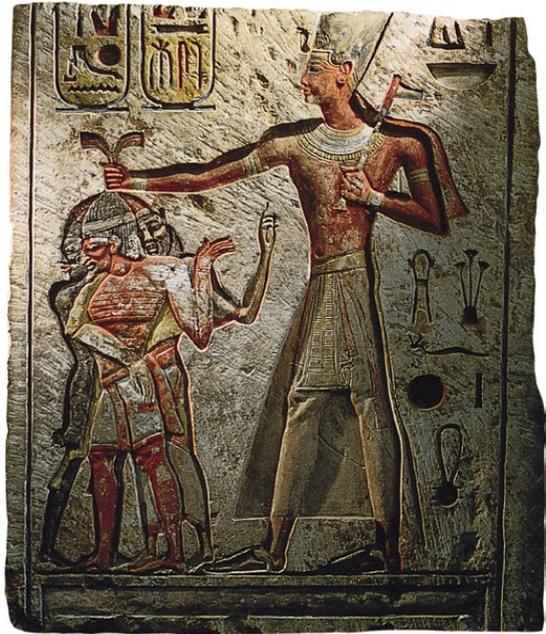
Second US president John Adams

The Egyptian pharaoh said he was a god in human form. Roman leaders called themselves sons of the gods. Greek leaders sometimes claimed to be gods themselves.

All these are ways to solve a basic problem: people struggle to have peace when they must answer to more than one authority. This could be why God, in His first commandment, said there should be only one God. Most societies seem to understand this logic, but instead of following God, leaders often try to make the state act like a god. Ancient and modern rulers alike have tried to become the ultimate authority for their people.

When atheists want to remove the idea of God, it is to stop people from having to choose

their loyalty between a God and a state in matters of conflict. In this way, they have done the same as those before, eliminating the competition so that they can be the people's god instead.



Above: Egypt solved the two-master problem by claiming the leader was the god reincarnated.

Below: The papacy chose a similar approach by saying the Pope was Christ's voice on earth directing people only to the church head to inform them of their obligations.



The US way, however, held that the State was not to be a god but the servant of the people. They placed authority and moral responsibility on the people. State leaders were to fear and honor the people's wishes and carry them out, rather than the people fearing and honoring a "god-like state". And so, in many ways, the historical American way was unique. Their state was no longer competing with "a God" because it was not seen as a god or the replacement of a god. They were just there to serve the people in organizing society and punishing crimes, and if they ever tried to be the "god" of the people, the constitution told them to get their guns ready and be prepared to fight the government.

John Adams saw that if people didn't share basic moral standards, they wouldn't be able to live together peacefully. Conflicts would grow. Eventually, the state would feel pressured to pick sides, which could cause the Bill of Rights to collapse and lead to another religious or irreligious government, like those seen elsewhere in the world.

Has any government ever created a successful society where people have different moral beliefs? Is that even possible? This is a problem people have always faced. In history, the closest example of equal rights despite differences has been the United States. But now, America's sense of unity is being torn apart from within.

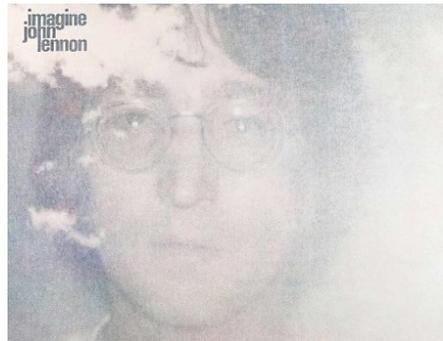
John Adams believed the Constitution could only work if people shared Judeo-Christian morals. When it was written, there weren't many people in the USA who followed other religions or were openly atheistic. Judeo-Christian values were seen as helpful, making people aware of their actions and encouraging them to do what's right. The real problem wasn't religion, but the idea of forcing others to act against their conscience out of fear of chaos. When America's population became much more diverse, with different backgrounds and morals, the country would face the same old problems as other nations. When people start to clash, how do you solve those conflicts?

John Adams' warning was tested when the number of irreligious people grew, and they began to take positions in schools, government, media, and other key parts of society. At the same time, many immigrants with

different beliefs and morals arrived in America. The country was changing fast. Would the Constitution still work?

Irreligious groups see religion as the source of many problems and want to slowly erase Christian morals from society. Their vision of a perfect world had been tried in socialist and communist countries. Now, they wanted to combine America's principles with an irreligious outlook. Europe had already tried a similar path and seemed to succeed. In northern Europe, most Christians are quiet about their faith because being open about it can lead to discrimination, harm job chances, or make people question their sanity.

In the USA, irreligious groups believe that suppressing religion is the last step needed to create a peaceful society—a goal that has always been out of reach. But was John Adams right? Can the Constitution really work for an atheistic society? John Lennon's song "Imagine" is a good example of this dream: a world with "no heaven above us, no hell below us"—no higher authority, no Judeo-Christian morals. Lennon's idea was that if people don't feel any duty to God, the world's problems will end.



John Lennon imagined an atheistic utopia and won awards. "And I'm not the only one" was the most truthful statement of the song.

The irreligious government utopia is based on the same fundamental idea, as the pagan religious states, the Papal state, and some protestant church governments.

Lennon didn't invent this belief. He was repeating ideas from irreligious movements that had been growing in the USA for decades. This idea was the opposite of what John Adams and the Constitution's creators wanted. They believed people needed to be godly for the Constitution to work. The irreligious vision needed people not to be godly.

Many atheists believe you can shape people's values through government laws. In this way, their vision for government is similar to that of old pagan states, the Catholic Church, and some Protestant governments. This approach isn't new or original.

From a Biblical point of view, does the state compete with God, act like a god, or work with God's principles? If God is guiding people's conscience, trying to replace Him with the state won't work. It's ironic—people call God unreasonable for saying there should be only one God, but then try to push the same rule on each other. In the Bible, worshipping God and following His laws are the same. So critics often hold a double standard.

Can a worldly, irreligious government succeed if the state is the only authority? Why haven't irreligious societies created a utopia without causing hell for others? Will there always be a group of people who cannot be persuaded to think differently? For the irreligious people, the problem is in people's minds; they have to coach people to think differently in order to make it work.

They do not believe in a God, and so they think the problem is found in how people are raised—by their family and by their society. Many irreligious socialists became teachers and loved any profession where they could influence children from an early age with the idea that an irreligious society is superior. In their mind, they save the children from the misery of religious morals.

Not understanding the roots of the American Constitution, which was created by people with a religious moral code, irreligious movements soon found that the Constitution's definition of freedom was incompatible with their goals. They just did not harmonize, and they could not reach their goals with it. The Constitution was, after all, made to protect religious rights and did not discourage them.

The irreligious movement in the United States resurrected the same cycle for trying to bring utopia to a society: silencing the opposition. If they could just suppress, force, or bully the religious to not think religiously, then a new utopia would be the result. Silencing the debate



'Without books, there is no knowledge, without knowledge there is no communism' (1929). In February 1918, an article in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, entitled 'The Forgotten Weapon', the author is a children's writer L. Kormchii and argued that books crystallize in children's souls, creating subsoil that nourishes and gives root to future convictions and beliefs, and went on to assert that, 'we must seize these weapons from enemy hands. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, when discussion around children's books had developed into an important area of pedagogy, texts directly advocated the use of children's literature to create socialist citizens. Today, these similar methods are used in Scandinavia. The God of the Bible requires His followers to teach them His ways from childhood, too. See Deut. 6:5-9; Deut. 4:9-10; Deut. 11:19; Pro. 22:6. Those who influence the children will also influence the future.

and controlling what can and cannot be said would, in the long run, limit what people are influenced by. If their voice is the only one heard, no matter where people turn, then surely people are more likely to follow it. Taking over teaching facilities was one way. Uplifting public figures, musicians, actors, and others who shared their ideology was a very powerful tool. Calling music that spoke of God in a positive way 'religious' and hindering its success, while music that spoke against God in the lyrics was 'popular music' that "could safely" be played on radio, TV, and films. In fact, if you sang songs of praise to the devil, it would still not be categorized as religious, as those praising God would, and the songs could get radio time as standard music. You could ridicule God in movies, and it would be played in theaters. If you spoke in His favor, it was called 'a Christian movie' and viewed as propaganda, which should preferably only be available to a minority. And so, they created a society of segregation against a positive view of God and His moral



The religious in the USA are refusing to give up their land and are fighting back. The movement calls it “the seven mountains” of influence, which they need to reclaim to save the country. However, if they succeed, they might have a follow in the path of the Catholic Church in Europe during the Middle Ages and enforce laws favoring religion to rid themselves of just as aggressive an irreligious society. Will they then just keep the negative cycle going? Both sides in the USA see that those who control the following win their country’s future: Media, government, education, economy, family, religion, and celebration (arts and entertainment). Claimed prophets say God wants His people to claim these areas back from the irreligious. But did God really send this message? They elected Trump because he promised to help them. But did God send this message?

standards. The more irreligious joined, the more influence they got. Only a negative approach to the God-question would receive funding, praise, and serve the public. That is where the money was placed. When the government began speaking on their behalf, it was not seen as the government siding in a religious conflict, and it therefore continued unnoticed as unconstitutional.

The state was now picking sides—not between churches, but between the church and the irreligious ideology.

The irreligious idea was that religion is taught and suppressed in people at an early age by their parents, and that everyone, like themselves, will be blessed to be freed from it. Part of the irreligious-socialist thinking is therefore to break up families, bring the children out of the homes as much as possible, and be in charge of their education. This had worked in the Soviet Union, where the religious observance of Jews, Christians, and Muslims had decreased drastically by these same methods and by indoctrination through the school system at an early age. However, a great remnant was left to be persecuted and to suffer for not changing their beliefs. In the USA, despite several decades of pressure, a large part of the country would not turn from their religious beliefs. Many felt silenced and discriminated against, and if they chose to be openly Christian, they would have fewer opportunities in many professions compared to non-religious individuals. This had already happened in most Northern European countries, where Christians, Jews, and Muslims had, over several decades, learned to be quiet in the public room to prevent discrimination. They did not even fight back.

The USA was perhaps the last of the Protestant nations to openly embrace religion, where politicians could gain from having a religious background, and where it was socially acceptable to believe in a higher power. Here, you could mention God and prayer without being seen as crazy, stupid, or untrustworthy. God was part of the cultural language, and for a long time, this verbal culture saved religion from being discriminated against. Now, the USA is going down the same path as Europe has gone, as irreligious thinking is taking over more and more.

Unlike Europe, the religious in the USA decided to fight back. Because their religion was so closely connected to the principles of the Constitution, they felt that fighting for their rights was fighting for the country's survival.

Northern Europe had not even noticed the change because it happened slowly over several decades, and they had been silenced before they could even notice. When they realized the stigma of speaking against the irreligious-socialist ideas was so great, few dared to do it. The religious in America were taught that their freedom of thought was

something they had to fight for, and they were not going to sit back and quietly allow the change like their European brothers and sisters.

The discrimination against Christians did not start with laws—it began as a kind of “law of the jungle.” Later, with new rules and legislation, following the morals of the Bible meant you would struggle in most professions. Can you be a therapist if you are forced to give therapy against your conscience? Can you be a teacher if you must teach against your beliefs? Can you be a doctor if you are pressured to act against your conscience? Would you even graduate if you refused to discredit the Biblical God in some of your test answers or if you did not want to dishonor Him as the creator? Even bakers were attacked for not going against their conscience. By placing the morals of irreligious society into every important profession, as well as smaller ones, they could take over the state through the back door. Only Christians and religious people who compromised their beliefs would survive; the others were, by their conscience, forced to leave their professions.

This is discrimination, but for the irreligious, it was seen as a progressive way to eliminate competition and control the direction of the country. TV shows and books helped this aggressive approach by showing how awful a society with Christian moral people would be, and why it is important to fight it. Those sacrificed were blamed for not surrendering. Although not always physical persecution, this showed how a society can pretend to be tolerant and claim to give people equal rights, while in fact, it does not. The lack of equality is said to be the result of one group’s choice, rather than discrimination.

To the right: Another Soviet propaganda showing how, if a child could choose, they would want communism over Christianity. The mean woman is trying to force the child by pulling her hair. Many felt they were saving children from being suppressed in their religious families.



The question is: Once the government favored atheism, could that be considered a violation of the First Amendment?

If only those who accept the new irreligious morals are accepted in society and have more opportunities to prosper, then the principle of the Constitution has been broken, without it being recognized as such.

The Bill of Rights reads: “The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The point of the law was to give people equal rights, regardless of their background. The changes in society that favor an atheist origin story now prevent equality of that opportunity.



Christians and other religious groups feel pressured to fight back. But what are Biblical methods and what are not?

Some conservatives think the solution is to reverse the oppression by using the same methods. They call it the seven mountains of influence: Media, Government, Education, Economy, Religion, Family, and Celebration/Arts. Only by taking them back can they prevent current suppression and future persecution. It is not paranoia; many reports show Christians as the most persecuted group in the world. (<https://adfinternational.org/news/christians-most-persecuted-religious-group-in-the-world/>)

Many Christians in the USA feel it is necessary to fight back early to protect the Bill of Rights and their own future. They do not want to wait until it is too late.

Now they face the same challenge. If the American Constitution can be used against the religious instead of protecting them as intended, must they also work against it to save themselves and their rights? Must they play dirty, too? The result is a divided country. In this way, the “land of the free” has been forced into the same dilemmas as nations before it. The country that once broke free from these cycles is now re-entering them.

The idea that both irreligious and religious people are 'helping' others by forcing them to change their views is not new. It will never work. The reason it will never work is tied to a principle created by God, which we will now examine.

Humans are created to be free.

Humans were created with the ability to reason, evaluate, and to personally approach both difficult and simple questions and solve them. God knew that the moment He created intelligent beings, they would be suppressed if they were deprived of the freedom of choice. With intellect comes the strong need to be able to make your own decisions.

If you can reason but cannot act on it, you will be mentally imprisoned or suppressed. When suppressed, you will eventually rebel, or you will end in apathy. It is a very easy concept once we understand it.

When people are not free to make their own decisions and be in charge of their own destiny, they become unhappy and lose their sense of purpose. This principle can be exploited, but it cannot be removed.

God created us that way. No human can remove it, so conflicts will persist whether people create a forced religious society or a forced irreligious society. If a Christian forces a Muslim to convert or a Muslim forces a Christian to convert, it creates the same problem. No ideology, not even the truth, can bring peace unless it is an intellectual and conscious decision by the receiving party. This is a part of human nature as designed by God and is therefore present in all humans, no matter what they believe or where they live. The reason behind religious conflicts at any time or any place is therefore always the use of force or suppression, not religion or the lack of it.

Humans who have intellect and the ability to reason and who are not given the freedom of choice can be physically suppressed or even silenced, but in time, at one point, they will either fight back or lose the meaning of life and become apathetic and repressed. Their soul will crumble. Not just in society, but in private family homes where there is

abuse, this is the result among the suppressed family members. In any closed, authoritative group where suppression is present, we see the same behavioral outcomes. Created to be free, humans cannot help but react to either mental or physical suppression.

Therefore, any attempt to create peace by these means will always fail. Even if peace appears to be achieved for a moment, it will not last. The human intellect makes us constantly evaluate and research our surroundings, and if we agree at one point, we can just as easily disagree later. The brain is never on pause; it constantly evaluates its circumstances.

So, knowing this principle, we are left with the question: Should humans refrain from controlling one another and simply allow people to act out their negative tendencies in peace?

How do we balance the need to control those who «go too far' without suppressing freedom of choice, and how does the human mind and nature function?

This is the dilemma of human development within a society throughout time.



Some Christians believe that if Muslims are forced to become Christians, they will be happier. Similarly, some atheists believe that if Christians are forced to abandon their faith, they will be happier. But can anyone truly be happy if someone else makes their choices for them, if they are forced to follow another person's conscience?

God's Dilemma

This was also God's dilemma when creating intelligent beings. He knew that once a person can think and reason, they may very well think wrong and make wrong decisions. Especially if their action is deter-

mined by lust and instinct rather than reason. Now, unlike many people today, God did not fear creating intelligent beings, even knowing they might become a threat, because there is a consequence of not creating intelligent beings as well. God loves diversity and individuality as seen in all His creation. If God had given Adam a robot as a wife, would he not still have felt lonely? Intelligent beings love contact with other intelligent beings; life without it would not be good. And so God *"created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them"* (Gen 1:27)



*Would you be less lonely if your only companions were beings you had programmed?
Would you be able to grow as a person?*

What a daring thing to do, yet after He did it, God said: *“And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good”* (Gen. 1:31).

Now, many criticize God for not only knowing there would be a rebellion, but also for creating Satan. Was the Creator responsible for the direction an intelligent being took? God could only be responsible for Satan’s actions if He had programmed him. But God created free beings with the ability to think and choose. This included God’s cherub, Lucifer (Satan). This shows that God did not fear having intelligent beings as His closest workers or giving them great responsibility and trust. In fact, God’s relationship with Satan was based on trust, and Satan’s relationship with God was built on trust as well.

God made everyone responsible for what they did with the gift of life. With the gift of intellect came the duty of responsibility, and with responsibility came accountability.

When Satan questioned God and shared his ideas with other angels, God could have removed him, but He did not. He allowed Satan to speak freely and spread his lies. The same happened in the Garden of Eden: Satan was not silenced, but God allowed him to tempt Eve. God placed the responsibility for her own decisions on Eve because she was an intelligent being free to make her own choices. God had given her knowledge to make the right decision, but He would not make the decision for her.

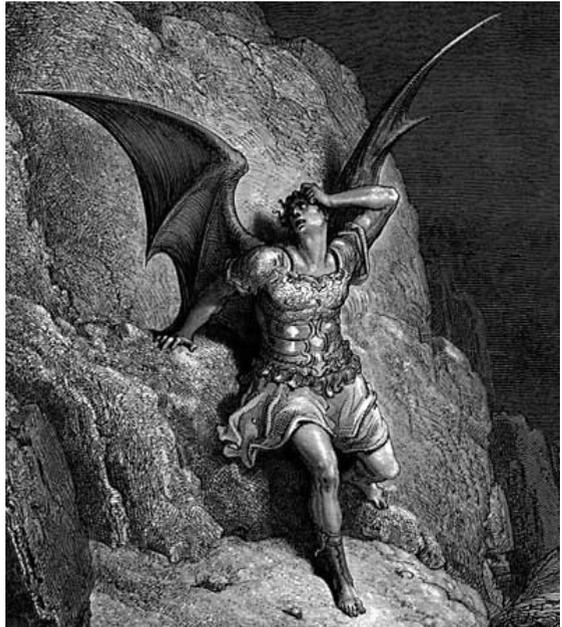
So why did God allow it? If God had instantly removed any controversy by force, God would not have created peace. He knew it was impossible to obtain peace that way. The act of immediate force would only bring more controversy and resistance. This was the consequence of creating intelligent beings; the moment He did so, God could not act as He pleased without consequence. And so God could not use immediate force; he had to allow crimes to manifest as crimes so they could be evaluated intellectually, not only by Him but also by other beings. If not, God would lose the support of the other beings, and He would either be in constant war or have to take away from them the ability to think and reason on their own. God knew from the very

beginning that He had to either be alone, have a universe of animal-like creatures or robots, or create intelligent beings, but with that, He had to deal with possible conflicts and serve as a judge among them. Nobody wants to be a judge; we want people to behave.

This was the case with God as well. As long as beings were good He was happy not having to take on the role of judge. While knowing He might have to, He still chose to create intelligent beings. And in all of God's rulings, as seen in heaven and recorded in the Bible, God never judges without many elders and witnesses participating. Because God is not alone, although all-powerful, He has chosen to have all His judgments examined by intelligent beings. Not just examined, He gives even humans trust in participating in the judgment against their own kind (Dan 7:9-10; Rev 4:4; Rev 4:4). God has the power to judge alone, but out of respect for His intelligent beings and for the sake of future peace, He asks for their participation. God knew the moment He created intelligent beings, all of His decisions and judgments would be evaluated. He invites beings into the process and even allows His judgments to be examined by all who wish to look into them.

Although this is revealed in the Bible, many do not know this about God. Lies about God have damaged His reputation among humanity.

Lucifer was a beautiful being, given the honorable task of protecting God's seat of authority. Instead of protecting, he attacked Him and caused many to doubt God and His intentions. Once doubt spread, God had no other choice but to allow things to play out, or intelligent beings could not understand His judgments and rebel too. God let Lucifer live to save others from following in his path.



The Origin Of Sin

Many believe the origin of sin was Eve eating the fruit on the forbidden tree. However, the true origin of sin and the ensuing rebellion began before Eve ever ate the fruit. It started in Eve's mind, when she was led to doubt whether God truly had her best interests at heart—and then she acted on that doubt. Satan said to her: *«Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil» (Gen 3:4-5)*. When Satan suggested God did not make decisions based on their best interest but His own, it birthed distrust in God. The thought that God could not be trusted led her to reject His leadership and go against His law. And so her action was the visible result of her choosing to distrust God. This is the origin of sin and rebellion, and what every falling away from God starts with. This is also the origin of chaos. We do not trust God; therefore, we do not trust His leadership or law, and thereby we feel the need to seek a different authority to take His place. When people don't agree on common ground, everyone ends up trying to build their own god-like governments. For some reason, people tend to trust themselves to take a god-like position, but they do not trust God to do it. The result of rejecting God's government is the constant battle for power as seen on earth. Everyone thinks they know best, but in the end, someone always gets hurt. What they did to God, others do to them. They lose trust, and new leaders want to take their place, and then they lose trust, and then another. There is no want for someone who wants to lead.

Have you ever considered why there are countries and borders in the first place? In the beginning, there were no such things, because God Himself was the ruler of all. People shared the same national holy days, the same judge, and the same standard, so there was no need for separate countries. The reason for countries and borders is that people

choose different leaders representing different ideologies, and then borders are there to protect the leadership of the group(land). Throughout history, a country may be divided into two or more factions, leading to new borders when the groups refuse to follow the government.

It is seen in modern times as well. For example, when Sudan was split into two, Christians did not want to be ruled by Muslim leaders who did not represent their culture. As a result, the territory was divided into northern and southern parts, eventually becoming two separate countries. This pattern has repeated throughout history. Those suppressed sometimes seek help from another group, which then takes over the land to help them, or countries divide after internal conflicts. This pattern was seen for thousands of years all over the world. In the beginning, people could just move and find a new piece of land to start over with their chosen leadership. But as the world grew increasingly populous, there was nowhere to go, and people were left to fight for their rights where they were. These problems were attempted to be solved by allowing people within a given border to choose among different parties and by requiring everyone to accept the majority's vote. Where there was democracy and the freedom to follow your own faith, the need to divide land stabilized, and borders remained. However, to maintain as much unity as possible, leaders know it is essential to strengthen the sense of “us” and “them” through culture, language, national pride, and ethnicity. If there is a strong feeling of group identity, the land is less likely to be divided and more difficult to conquer. Now that there are borders all over the world, you can not move freely or choose. You have to accept belonging to the land within the borders in which you were born. Many hate where they are from and want the opportunity and rules offered in other countries.

Many people desire prosperity, but not necessarily the culture that accompanies it, which often causes conflict between immigrants and natives. Immigration involving different cultures and religions is therefore seen as a threat in most countries—not just in the West.

You have Buddhists fighting Muslims, you have Hindus and Muslims fighting Christians, atheists fighting religion, all over. We have Africans

who hate immigration from other African countries. Asians who hate immigration from other Asians. Even Jews in Israel who hate immigration from Ethiopian jews. It happens in all parts of the world, from Asia to Africa, to Europe, and to the USA. Strong nationalists will always feel threatened by the growth of a different culture or way of thinking among them. The point of it all is that nothing is really solved; it is only restrained.

People are still suppressed within their countries. Peace is still far away, and the battle for resources and stability remains. And so every conflict is, in part, tied to the rejection of God's government on earth.

The origins of sin are loss of trust in God as a leader. Satan's rebellion in heaven was also caused by his thought that God's leadership was in His own interest, and Satan felt a reform in his leadership ideas was better.

The more Satan fed on his suspicion that God had alternate reasons for leading the way He did, the more true it became in his head. Once he chose to believe his train of thought before God's own explanation, Satan began to do the first acts of sin. By presenting his ideas to other angels, causing suspicion and confusion, he slowly made them distrust God until it developed into an open rebellion.

If you lose faith in your leadership, you will wish to overthrow it or have it submit to you.

God can only lead by trust. There are only two choices: either you lead by trust, or you lead by force. God chooses to lead by trust, and therefore, in order to secure the future of His kingdom, to be one of peace.

He had to regain that trust. However, God did not lose trust because He did something wrong; He lost it because Satan chose to trust his suspicion, based on his own train of thought before God, and present it as the truth to the angels.

Whenever Satan wants to make God's people fall away from God and into sin, he uses the same approach. It starts with the question of

whether God can be trusted and if He has their best interest at heart. He tempts them to become suspicious of Him. If people are to change leadership, they have to distrust their current leadership.



Satan had hoped to discourage Jesus by tempting Him to doubt God's words to Him.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he chose the same approach. God had just told Jesus that He was His son and that He was loved and accepted, yet Satan challenged God's words not long after and wanted Jesus to question if it was really true. When he led Eve to question God in her mind, her hand reached for the fruit, and she ate.

She provided her own needs in the suspicion that God was not the leader she had thought He was. Now Satan leads Jesus to question God and to try to save himself to test if what God had said was true.

But Jesus knew that if He even for a moment questioned whether He could trust God, the thought would arise in His mind, leading Him to sin.

Satan had disguised himself as a serpent that had apparently become intelligent by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, causing Eve to doubt. In this way, he could present himself as an intelligent serpent, serving as apparent evidence that what he told Eve was true. The serpent was not dead from being in the tree and eating the fruit; it had become intelligent. Thus, what Satan claimed about God's reasons for forbidding the fruit seemed true to Eve at the time. The serpent was "the evidence". Should Eve have rejected the apparent "evidence" and trusted God instead? Most people trust their senses over

God. Often, our perception and interpretation of the evidence are wrong.

When Satan tempted Jesus, He immediately knew from the devil's words who was speaking to him. For He knew that Satan had to break His trust in God first in order to make Him sin. Had Jesus turned stone into bread, it would not have served as evidence of what Satan claimed.

Jesus was able to recognize who was speaking to him and to reject anything he suggested, based on the encouragement of distrust. In this way, Jesus conquered temptations. His trust in God would not be rocked.

The Israelites in the wilderness always ended up sinning after being tempted to distrust God, and the same with anyone throughout Bible history. If we distrust God as a leader, we will reject His leadership and either take control into our own hands or give it to another we feel we can trust to lead us instead.

When an individual does not trust God, they not only prevent Him from leading but also from assisting and helping them. One example was when Jesus left the city of Nazareth, saying:

*«And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief»
(Mat13:57-58)*

Jesus could not do much for them without trust. If they did not believe what He said was true, they would not follow His lead or even come to Him, and He could do little for them. And so Jesus could not be their healer.

The base of God's kingdom is that we have to willingly choose Him, trust Him, and when we do that, a natural consequence is that we follow His lead or command as a result of this trust.

Imagine you are in a desperate situation, and there are two paths in front of you, and on both paths is someone to lead you through. Which one do you choose? The one you seem most trustworthy, right?

Many Christians only follow God to a certain point when they are at peace and prosper. The moment God asks something they do not understand, they are tempted to question if He has their best interest at heart. This insecurity leads them to take the reins into their own hands and choose a different path than the one presented. And so God can never lead perfectly even His own people with only partial trust, as the passages that demand complete faith in Him are never crossed, and by it, the reward is never achieved, or the destination never entered. If Eve had trusted God even though the serpent had spoken intelligently, God would have cleared up everything for her, and it would have strengthened her trust in God. If we feel the need to “eat of the tree” every time we are tempted to question God’s motives, we do not really trust God.

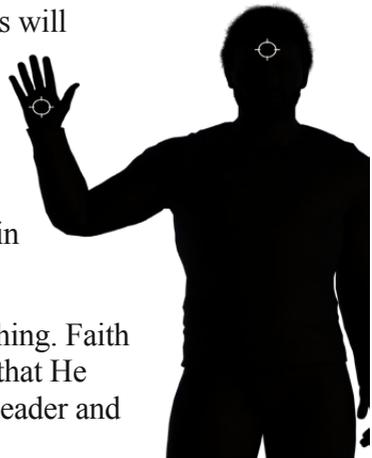
Israel failed as a nation because they did not trust Him and, as a consequence, they changed His laws to make them fit better with the time they lived and to suit their desires.

So the fall of man started with the «mind» distrusting God and the «hand, action» eating the forbidden fruit (sin).

The salvation of man, as presented in the gospel, begins the same way. The mind has to regain trust in God and in God's love for them, and the result will be surrender to His will (obedience to His leadership). We choose His government.

Because the word for trust has been abused in the modern concept of faith, many lose this important aspect of the origin of sin and our salvation.

Faith and trust in God are really the same thing. Faith is not just about believing Jesus existed or that He died for us. Faith is trusting in God as our leader and healer. Faith always comes before choice.



Either we have faith in God—resulting in following His lead—or we distrust Him and try to save ourselves by our own means, creating our

own moral laws. Everyone has rules; even criminal groups, gangs, and so-called lawless communities have their own codes. Humanity cannot coexist without some form of rules. Even those who advocate for anarchy have rules for their envisioned anarchy. The real choice is not between having laws or not, but about who gets to be the lawgiver. God wants us to choose Him.

God can not lead us if we want to take the lead ourselves. God cannot lead a nation that does not trust Him, nor can He lead a world that does not trust Him. Man's salvation is to regain trust in the only one who can save them and then give Him the reins so He can navigate us back to His kingdom. In God's kingdom, we are all part of the human race; we are all family. It is not them versus us; it is not about skin color or differences in traditions. It is about having a set of ground rules and being a family together, living in peace. One leader, one law for all. We can still be different; we can still pursue different professions and passions. God created the world diverse. Just look at the diversity in nature, in animals, and in how they live, look, and what they eat. Even humans have unique fingerprints, irises, and DNA, none of us is exactly like another.

Another one of Satan's lies is that we will all appear the same and do the same in God's kingdom. People are led to think He wants to strip us of our individuality and make us a soldier-like figure where you cannot tell one apart from the other. To make us all act and think the same. But God's creation is a witness to God's love for diversity. Every snowflake is different. And if He had not loved diversity, He would not have created man to be intelligent, able to reason and choose, and with different talents. Science has shown that no two people are the same. Our eyes, our fingerprints, our DNA. Even twins have separate minds and think for themselves, and their DNA mutates differently over time. They don't have the same spirit. No person is identical to another. He created us as different because He loves diversity and individuality. With all of that comes the potential of conflict and thereby the need for ground rules. A set of moral laws.

So our salvation is about trusting and believing in Him. Then the works will follow based upon this trust. When Jesus explained the plan of

salvation to Nicodemus, He said: «For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life» (Joh 3:16). In this famous verse lies the secret to faith. We have to believe God loves us and wants the best for us. That His intention towards us is good. If we understand this, God's provision for our salvation will also save us.

Mind and hand always go together, and so in order for us to receive salvation, our mind has to choose to believe first. So what caused the fall of man was distrust (mind), the action was going against God's rule (hand).

The restoration is to trust God (mind), and then our natural response, based on this trust, is to act (hand) in accordance with our faith.

Why God can never give up His position.

Now, as many might know, after the fall of man, we see Adam start blaming God for creating the woman, rather than blaming himself for making a bad decision (Gen. 3:11-12). Although humans are intelligent, we often want to blame someone else when we make a foolish decision. We prefer to see ourselves as victims to avoid accepting responsibility for our actions. However, God holds us accountable for our actions cause He views us as intelligent beings. With intellect comes accountability. When we blame someone else for our mistakes, we actually credit ourselves with less intelligence than God does. We tell God we are stupid, but He insists that we are not.

Now, if you have children, you know you can impress and teach them your values, but one or more might still choose a different path than you believe is right. They are individuals, and they act accordingly.

While some might regret having children, the majority are still happy they had them and know that, if they treated them right, they are not to blame for the decisions their children make as adults.

God's system, much like the American Constitution described by President John Adams, only works if people do not violate certain moral principles.

In the Bible, the breaking of God's moral principles is called sin. Sin is related to our morality towards our Creator and fellow man. God's moral teaching is this: if our freedom and expression force, suppress, or destroy the opportunities of others, we undermine God's principles for a good and healthy society. We violate the laws of man's mental health and human behavioral patterns.

This is why God's law does not contain thousands of laws about your everyday life, but rather consists of a set of morals as a basis for living. God depends on you not to make His laws burdensome by adding your own rules to them. Unfortunately, this is what many who follow the Judeo-Christian God do: they add many laws, making life seem unbearable. The Jews added an entire book of supplementary instructions, which Jesus strongly criticized when it existed as an oral law. Christians and Muslims have done the same. And when God's commands conflicted with their own, they began removing some of God's laws to make room for their own rules.

God had instructed: *"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it"* (Deu. 12:32).

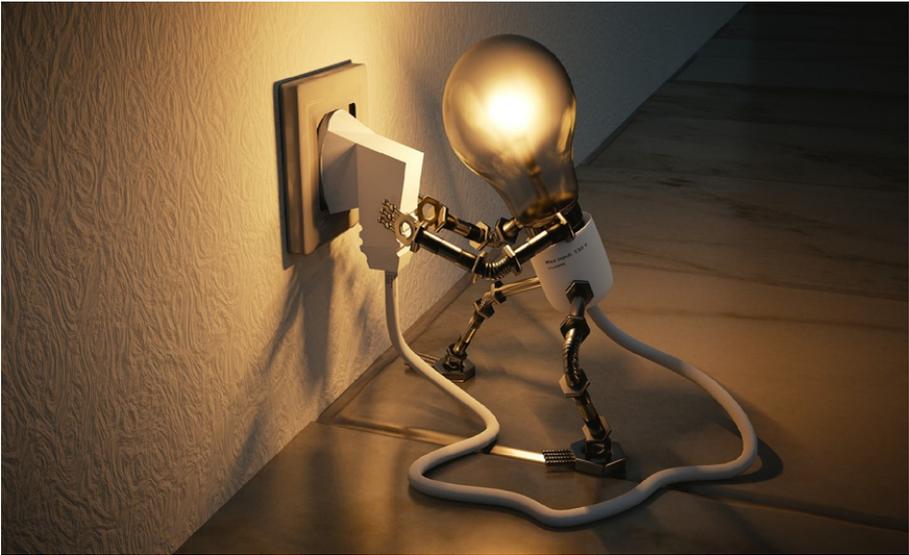
If too many laws are added, people feel oppressed; but if some are removed, they also end up oppressed in a different way. Both adding and removing destroyed the balance and the perfection of God's law. Religious people add to or change God's law because they want or feel the need to control others, but that permission is not found in the law, and so they have to add to it.

Now, with the freedom God has given man comes the need for a judge when peace is disrupted, and, as the creator and origin of life, this belongs to God.

Why God? Why does He have to be the one and only superior judge?

This is one of Satan's accusations and questions. But the answer is simple. If bad takes over the universe, only He has the power to stop it all. If we destroy, only God can restore. Because of this, He has to remain in position and in existence. He cannot quit or retire because someone questions Him, because there is no one to take His place who can do what He can.

Being the only one who can create life from Himself, He is the only safety, the security, the universe has. All is dependent on His decisions. With such a position, God has a huge responsibility to protect His own position for everyone's sake. But not only that, to remain good. If God gives up on His good principles in the position He is in, everything and



Do we really understand what would happen to us if we could even remove God from His position?

everyone will be in danger. If God puts Himself in danger, everyone else is in danger too. And so God has to stand by what is good and right, and He has to maintain His power. Some think that makes God a dictator, but in reality, it is what makes God great. Not just because He is the origin of life, but because He has chosen to be good. He, too, has freedom of choice, but all life is dependent on Him being absolutely good in every way and every decision He makes. So God is holy, He has chosen to remain undefiled no matter what, and that decision is life's salvation and security. The universe needs Him to be holy and stay holy. He does not accept bribes, He does not make decisions to gain favor, He does not change sides after who flatters Him, He does not cause instability by changing His opinions, or make decisions based on a sudden emotion of anger or fear. He is always rational and fair. He can not let anyone change His righteousness for any reason; He chooses this for the sake of everyone.

God should be praised for that decision, not condemned. And if we condemn Him, we condemn ourselves and life's sustainability. Attacking God is ultimately self-destructive. Creation is like a child in its mother's womb—if the mother is harmed or dies, so does the child.



If the mother is healthy and good, the child lives and thrives; but if she is not, the child suffers. In this way, the baby in the womb is entirely dependent on the mother's well-being and desire to be good. And if the mother harms herself, she also knows she does harm to the child,

and so she chooses to protect herself, which is ultimately the salvation of the child she carries. And for the love of it.

That is why God is His law; He has to be, and even He has to protect and maintain the principle of the first four commandments in His honor. The four commandments say that there is no other God, no one can take His place. If the originator and the life-giver are destroyed or removed, life perishes and can not be restored. The second commandment is to prevent anyone from creating a false representation of Him to others, claiming it is Him. The third and fourth commandments demand respect for God's position and identity. We need to know the origin of life and understand the conditions for life's continued existence: God. The sabbath many have felt is misplaced in the moral law, but God says it is morally important to honor your lifegiver, and the Sabbath does that. And part of God's moral responsibility for His creation and for everything common good is to also protect Himself. The idea that God demands respect out of arrogance is a falsehood planted by an envious enemy. Satan seemed to at first understand that if he had been able to wipe out God, he would cease to exist. Life would die out, and he, Satan, did not have the power to restore it all. Satan's plan was therefore to use God to advance his own ideas, but God could not do so and remain good. God could not hand over His throne in heaven to Satan and remain good; the majority did not even want Satan's rule. Here on earth, we know how Satan rules very well, and it is not good. He then tempts humans to blame God for both their own mistakes and his chaos. Satan was allowed in part to rule on earth because man chose his rule (Luk 4:5). In reality, it was a coup, but by man's invitation.

One word for God in the Bible is Elohim, meaning “a judge.” But God is also a father, the father of all beings. The first four commandments of the Ten Commandments are about respecting the highest authority in existence. Four simple rules are all God asks of us to show our loyalty to Him.

The next six commandments are about humans not violating others’ rights to exist, to be respected, to not be used and disregarded, to own, to build, and to be happy. If your expression of freedom violates another’s freedom, God does not agree with you that what you are doing is «freedom,» and He is forced to judge you with His law. An example is the ninth commandment. If you give false witness against someone else, you sabotage their life and opportunities. And so this is not allowed to do and is called a «sin». This is what it means to be a lawbreaker (1 John 3:4).

King David openly admitted that God was the real king and that the acceptance of His laws brought them under His kingship. This thought made David sing with joy. He never viewed God as a competition to his power.



You cannot elevate yourself in life by ruining someone else's and expect God to look away. It was the breaking of this commandment that caused so many angels to follow Satan.

This is how he got beings to doubt God. Breaking this law can have a massive effect on families, society, and politics. The moment you have sown the seed of doubt about another, it is almost impossible for them to be completely free of suspicion.

All six of the last commandments of the ten commandments are tied to morality. The key to true peace in a greater society is inner morality, not force. You have to choose this morale yourself in order for it to work.

But you are also dependent on others to follow it. If someone can lie about you, steal from you, and deceive you, then you will not prosper even if you follow these moral codes yourself. And so God's commandments only work to bring peace if they apply to everyone.

Just like Americans and others consider their constitutional laws as their liberty and pride, God's laws were to be viewed the same. They were to be laws of liberty, laws to bring happiness and peace. They were meant to foster a sense of belonging and identity in God's kingdom (Jer 31:33).

David wrote: *"The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes"* (Psalm 19:8)

"Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end" (Psalm 119: 111–12).

Why no one can serve God by force.

Wars and conflicts arise because humans were originally created with intellect in a sin-free world, where they had an inner responsibility for others' well-being and understood the importance of God's position in their lives, and now that this is lost, the same human trait creates tension. We are created to be free, but at the same time, God asks us to use our intellect to understand and choose to live by a set of moral codes to keep it. If not, there will be no freedom.

God is not being difficult; rather, true freedom cannot exist without ground rules that apply to everyone. For humans, a misunderstood idea of freedom tends to suppress and harm other people's lives. And so a moral ground rule on the practice of freedom has to be respected by choice by all for it to actually work. Can it work without our moral responsibility towards our creator? No, because we need Him to live, and there is a need for someone to hold us accountable for everyone's security. Someone greater than us, someone good, someone who loves us but is also absolutely fair.

In such a world, intellect and choice can be used for good, to build, to prosper, to learn, and to grow in the right direction. Within this frame, having the freedom of mind and choice is unproblematic. And as we see in Eden, the Lord Himself came to talk with His beings in person when the world was in that state (Gen 3:8). There was no separation. God enjoyed the company and conversation of the intelligent beings He had created.

This was God's design. But the moment sin entered the world, human intellect became subject to lust. Instead of trusting God to provide for our needs, we looked to our instincts for guidance. Our bodies became our leaders, and their desires commanded us. The intellect was then used to serve these desires, which the Bible calls serving the 'flesh.' God did not design us this way and identifies this as the second cause of all sin and conflict. The first is not trusting and choosing Him; the second is letting our lust lead us.

God had already created beings that lived by instinct and feelings—the animal world lives by the flesh. But humans were meant to make decisions based on morals and intellect, not on lust and instinct. Emotions were intended as a bodily self-reward system for doing good. Some emotions served as warning systems, but this order was reversed. People began seeking fulfillment by indulging their desires, which only grew stronger and more demanding the more they fed them, never truly satisfied. Instead of the flesh serving the mind, the mind began to serve the flesh. Instead of our bodies responding to good choices, our decisions became driven by the pursuit of bodily gratification. The Bible explains that humans degraded themselves when their focus shifted. When you live to serve your 'flesh,' anything that gets in the way becomes a threat. Like animals, you begin to live by instinct, leading to strife and conflict. Many Christians think that living by the 'flesh' refers only to sexual desires and appetite, but being controlled by the flesh includes fear, anxiety, suspicion, aggression, and more. Perhaps the greatest of these is fear. Fear has no patience.

Fear is a bodily reaction that triggers a fight-or-flight response. It acts hastily and irrationally, turning friends into enemies and creating apathy and depression when "fight or flight" isn't an option. Fear is one of humanity's greatest problems after the 'flesh' became superior to the mind. Fear cannot love or reason; it can only react. When the mind becomes the servant of fear, negative outcomes follow. These effects are seen daily in people's choices and are a major factor behind most conflicts. Many consider those who conquer their fears to be heroic because of the power fear has over us. Fear also prevents people from seeking change or from clinging to traditions that run counter to

common sense. There are many ways in which the change from God's system has crippled and handicapped human intellect. Although people did not initially intend to be controlled by negative impulses—only to seek pleasure—they gradually conditioned their minds to serve their bodies. In doing so, they trapped themselves and struggled to regain control. Even what began as a pursuit of pleasure became their master, dominating their decisions. To escape responsibility, people claimed they were born that way, that it was their identity, or that circumstances forced them to act, and that nothing could be done. To justify their behavior, they insisted they had no choice. According to God, we imprison ourselves this way.

In the Bible, we see God telling people to stop doing wrong, only to receive this reply: *“And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart” (Jer 18:12)*. God would not have asked them to change or turn from their ways if it were impossible. They would not listen or take responsibility, refusing to admit they had a choice. By their own reasoning, God said they had become slaves to their bodies, claiming they no longer had free will.

Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”* He then explained that He had the power to free people from this degrading entrapment that prevented them from reaching their full potential: *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:34, 36)*. They had a choice; they simply needed to believe and choose it.

Many believe the body needs to be freed from the mind and work eagerly to release it, hoping to live in sin without shame and illness. However, the body will continue to demand more, and satisfaction will never be reached. As the appetite for pleasure grows, character deteriorates. Even non-religious observers of human behavior recognize this pattern.

Jesus wants to free our minds from slavery to our bodies and restore our self-control. From birth, children learn to follow the pattern of serving bodily desires, continuing the cycle of bad habits. They are taught that

happiness comes from following their feelings and that feelings determine identity. Yet, feelings are mostly shaped by circumstances, others' reactions, and fears—and should not dictate long-term decisions about our futures. This deprives children of the chance to plan their lives using their intellect. It also explains why society's morals and ideologies seem to shift from one generation to the next.

God saw that the constant pursuit to satisfy the flesh was crippling humanity, creating a society where the fittest prospered and the weak perished.

It became a society of using and being used, of ruling or being ruled, of oppression or suppression, of constant envy, and of ongoing strife. God said that when Israel rejected His leadership, they were left with leaders who rationalized like children: *«And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them» (Isa 3:4)* And *«As for my people, children are their oppressors ...O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.» (Isa 3:12)*

Freedom of choice was misused when humans ignored the principle that intellect should be superior to urges. The body was meant to be a servant, not the ruler. This became clear when Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy and shame. A life was lost, and a brother lost his freedom due to another's impulses. Before Cain committed his crime, God warned him: *“Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.’” (Gen.4:6-7)* God told Cain straight forward that he must rule over his emotions and think about what he is doing before he ends up acting on them. Cain refused to listen, and when he saw Abel, his anger took control, just as God had warned. God approached Cain through reason, but Cain set aside his intellect and let his instincts guide him.

Reason, logic, and understanding were not what determined Cain's decision, but lust and passion. This created great grief for his parents and possibly other siblings. Every act of sin man does is somehow tied to lust, and it will harm others.



Did God spare Cain's life after he killed Abel for Adam and Eve's sake? They undoubtedly loved their firstborn, and his death, in addition to losing Abel, would have caused even more pain in an already difficult situation. God let Cain live, and humanity had to witness the consequences.

Cain's influence over his descendants led each generation to take rebellion a step further. One of Cain's descendants was the first to take multiple wives, and by doing so, suppress women. He also justified murder: "for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt." This resulted in a savage and cruel society. God spared Cain, but Cain's descendant would not

even spare a man who insulted him. As a result, society was rife with violence before the flood. Withholding punishment from those who did not repent only made sinners more confident and violent in their ways. After the flood, one of the first things God told Noah was that from then on, if someone committed murder, they had to be punished immediately (Gen 9:6). Adam lived nearly a thousand years and saw the result of God sparing Cain's life. Yet, if God had judged Cain and put him to death immediately, Adam and Eve would have felt God was irrational and unloving, which could have driven the whole family away from God. After 900 years, Adam understood what he could not have understood then. Therefore, either choice—letting Cain live or giving him a death sentence—would have had significant and unfortunate consequences for humanity.

God created us with the ability to desire, sense, and feel. However, these abilities were meant to work in harmony with a peaceful, loving mind. Desires themselves are not intelligent; they are bodily reactions that need guidance, much like a child does. The more we are controlled by our desires, the less we use our intellect in decision-making. For example, why did God create us with the ability to become angry? Anger is a natural, God-given emotion that can be used for good. If you

want a coconut from the top of a tree and it won't fall when you shake it, healthy anger, controlled by the mind, gives you the adrenaline to keep trying or to find a creative solution. You might climb the tree, build a ladder, or devise some other way to reach your goal. If an animal is stuck in the mud, anger over the situation can give you the adrenaline you need to save it. When the mind controls the body, all of the bodily emotions we have can be used as a strength.

These emotions are our "superpowers." God created us with emotions, and after doing so, He said, "it was good." They are like a knife: you can use it to butter your bread or to create something useful.

But you can also use it to kill and wound. The knife itself is neither good nor bad. Why forbid the existence of knives when you can do so much good with them, and it raises the quality of life? The responsibility is with the one holding it. God created us with emotions and instincts, but He holds us accountable for how we use them. If you stand trial for a murder, no judge is going to accept that your hand did it all on its own and thereby acquit you. Or if you rape a woman, can you blame your desires for forcing you to do it? You will still be judged and go to prison. God does not let us off the hook either if we claim that what we do is our body's fault. We understand this logic in our own courtrooms, but when God tells us the same, we call Him unreasonable.

Just as the American Constitution is said not to work in an immoral society, humans created with intellect, emotions, and instinct also struggle to function properly in a world of sin.

God then faced the same dilemma that societies of all sizes have faced throughout history: What do you do when people choose the wrong path or think wrongly? Do you take away their free will? Remove their right to choose?

Throughout time, people have chosen force and suppression towards those who act and think differently.

Being our creator, God knew how we are designed. He could instantly have decided that intelligent beings are too great a risk and eliminated them all. But God loves intelligent beings because He Himself is

intelligent. The second thing He could do was to let intelligent beings remain, but take away their freedom of choice. But God knew that this was impossible. You can not have intelligent people able to reason without giving them choice and freedom, or they would either hate Him and rebel or become deeply depressed in apathy. Neither would He have their trust.

It is impossible to separate freedom of choice from intellect—God understands this. Brainwashing is not an option, because it creates a conflict between body and mind. Most people who experience such treatment, intentionally or not, lose their sanity and become conflicted within themselves.

And so when the world fell into sin, God chose to speak to man's intellect. Throughout the Bible, we see God speaking directly to man or through a chosen people. One point God says straight out: *«Come now, and let us reason together; saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool» (Isa 1:18)*

“Come, let us reason together”. The consequence of creating intelligent beings is that you can only get them to love you and trust you by approaching them intellectually.

God does not want to create a society based on force. He says He will recreate the world, but those who refuse to reason will not be invited to this event or to live there.

God offers forgiveness. He offers new chances to make new choices, but He does not offer the new earth to everyone. The principle is that peace and true freedom can only exist if people have made a conscious choice or decision to make God's standard their own. To respect and understand God's position as the existence of life and their moral obligation to Him and their fellow beings. They can not become the «god» of another person; this position belongs to God. The moment God brings in one person to His «new Jerusalem» who is not there by choice and trust, by intellect and desire, there will be no peace. It is very difficult to sin without involving or affecting another person. Sin is

always selfish in nature. The conflicts we now struggle with on this planet will continue there.

So instead of forcing people to turn from the path they are on, God tries to reason with them and show them the end of the road they are walking. He talks to them through His Spirit, through His children, through nature, science, or anything good representing His standard. He allows them to make mistakes and to see the consequences of them, so they can understand the nature of sin and, with their intellect, understand why it is wrong. Usually, some consequences unfold over generations, so God depends on us learning from history to get a clear picture and, by doing so, make our own decisions. This is the purpose of retelling history in the Bible, a place where you can see the result of sin over many generations at once. For instance, Solomon believed he was good when he participated in all kinds of religious observances, but the results of his example were not fully seen for generations. He was liked at first, but then he was disliked. In a world of sin, when you try to please everyone, you end up pleasing no one. The idol practices took over society, and none of the kings who came after were able to completely reverse the negative influence. And so, through the Bible, God has the opportunity to show us the long-term consequences of sin, not just the short-term consequences in our own lives. Throughout history, man has been biased in retelling history or even engaged in historical falsification. And so God made one book holy, and by it protected its words and kept at least one version unaltered, to tell six thousand years of history to be used to learn from.

Sometimes a whole nation sins, sometimes just a person. Both have a long-term effect. By learning from other people's mistakes, we can gain understanding and knowledge that would take many more years to acquire in our present lives. The decision Sarah and Abraham made to bring another woman into their marriage, and the conflicts that arose from it, are still evident today, thousands of years later. Although Abraham was a man of faith, for a moment he was led to distrust God, and this led to this decision, causing him pain, his wife pain, the maid pain, his son pain, and many others. All because of distrust. Later, when he had learned his lessons, he became an example of one who had complete trust in God.

The belief, held by many evangelicals, that Christ will create a Millennium in which pagans are subdued or ruled by force, misses the entire point of God's coming kingdom. This theory is an idea planted by Satan first to the Jews, then to the Catholics, and now to the Protestants. The lie is based on Satan's misrepresentation of God. That God would have pleasure in ruling over unwilling recipients.

If this were the case, God would have ruled over man by force from the beginning. He would not have placed the tree in the Garden of Eden either.

Happiness and force do not go together; intelligent people and the use of force do not work together. You cannot gain someone's trust by force or suppression. And so Jesus said His kingdom starts «*within us*» (Luke 17:21). It is not just an intellectual choice, but must spring from love for the Creator and His principles. We have to trust that He works for our best interest. «*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end*» (Jer 29:11).

One of the great principles we need to understand is that God can not detach Himself from His moral law, or life itself will be in danger. God has to be good and steadfast for the sake of all life. He is the only security life has. He can not go on vacation or take a break from being good. He can not experiment with sin. And this acknowledgment has to spring from our hearts. Our salvation is not to change Him but to accept Him. And so God wants us to understand Him, love Him, respect Him, and choose Him. The opportunity for man to get a second chance was not created by abolishing the law, but by gifting humans with a way to redeem themselves, an atonement.

God sent His Son to be born as a man and take the penalty for man's sin. The condition was that they had to be spiritually "born again", meaning reverse back to God's original plan and stop living by the flesh or lust. But because of human degeneration and weakness in a world of sin, God knew He had to add another gift with His invitation, or man would not have the strength to turn from his ways. For thousands of years, mankind had for the most part lived by the flesh. The gift was the

power of His Spirit. When invited in, through it, we would get the moral strength to reverse the law of sin if we wanted (Rom 7 & 8). The law of sin was that lust and flesh control our actions and thoughts. Our emotions and urges are controlling and crippling our intellect, and by it reducing us to live more like animals than in the image God created us in. The law of the spirit would again bring man under the control of a moral mind and bring us in harmony with God's moral laws. With the spirit's added strength, people could get the help they needed. The more the mind and spirit educated the flesh and took rule over it, the less the flesh would be dominant in our lives. And in the end, the flesh would be completely under the rule of the mind and spirit as God had intended, and work for our happiness. We would be restored in the image God created us in, His own image, where the intellect is superior.

But the spirit was received only by invitation; God would not force it upon anyone. It was not a brain-washer, taking away our intellect or right to make our own decisions. It could only be given to those who choose its presence with their intellect and reason. It was given to help navigate, to bring a wider understanding of right and wrong, to help detect deceptions presented as solutions to problems, and to strengthen the human spirit to stand by their good decisions. (Joh 16:13) The spirit would simply guide man, not take over. God maintained His great respect for man's independence and intellect.

In the Bible, we learn that Satan's spirits possess and take over when invited in. They do not respect people's right to choose. Once invited in, they dominate and control the individual by fear and force. In these principles, the difference between God's respect for human choice and Satan's disrespect for it, it is easy to see which spirit a person is controlled by. When God sends His Spirit, an individual can at any point choose not to accept its guidance and push it away. Satan's spirit does not leave once invited in. This is why Jesus said it takes fasting and prayer to rid yourself of these spirits (Mat. 17:21). God has to rescue such a person, as they can not liberate themselves after inviting these spirits in. God then asks, through his spirit, whether they want to be liberated, and if they cling to the evil spirit, He lets them keep it as their chosen companion.

Among God's people, there have been spirit-filled men with great works to show for whom can later choose wrong. Because God's spirit does not possess once it has been invited, it can be just as easily uninvited. The moment we reject its counsel, it withdraws until we seek it again. No Christian, based solely on their profession of faith, should be viewed as unable to make wrong decisions. A profession of faith simply states a chosen spiritual journey; it does not guarantee that every decision made is right. Unfortunately, many Christians misunderstand this and believe their emotions and thoughts are controlled by God the moment they become Christians. They continue living by the flesh, thinking their desires are now under the Spirit's control and therefore trustworthy. As a result, they persist in their old ways, merely giving their behavior a holy label. Selfish conduct, fear, and anger are then justified in the name of God.

But God guides; He does not take over. Jesus said we will know who is led by His spirit by their fruits (Mat. 7:16). This is why God needs people to read the Bible, to intellectually understand Him and His laws

and standards, so that they, by the help of the spirit, choose the right path intellectually. If a Christian does not seek knowledge and thinks they can rely on the Spirit alone, they may struggle to distinguish between desire and truth, or between the spirit and the flesh. Without knowledge, it becomes difficult to recognize the difference between an unclean spirit and God's Spirit.

Jesus and Paul state in the Bible that the evidence that it is the Spirit advising is if it's in harmony with God's law (Rom 8; John 14&15).

If the advice and impression push you to violate God's principles, it is the flesh and not the spirit. And so knowledge and spirit go together because God does not take over your mind; He only reasons with you.

When you see spiritual manifestations in the church where a person's body shakes uncontrollably, and they lose control, it is not God's spirit, as it goes against God's principles.

God does not want you to bark like a dog or imitate animals. He wants you to resemble Him and be elevated by it. God does not possess people. His enemy does.

God's way of evangelism is therefore not one of force, because He does not want those who come by force, only those who come by invitation. And when you do invite Him, He will still not take over your thoughts or your body. He will be a companion, impressing you with the truth, be your teacher and your coach, but not speak through your private thoughts in such a way that you feel you do not control your own thoughts. Among people with heavy psychiatric problems, you can see people who are both Christians and non-Christians who have had contact with spirits. Often, you see the same effect of "voices talking" in their heads, threatening them unless they follow a command. These Christians are unfortunately controlled by spirits that do not come from God. Although professing faith in Christ, they have at the same time rejected His influence and accepted the influence of other spirits. Many wish to be dictated to and controlled and seek a religion where they get this. They long for dominance; it makes them feel safe. They are attracted to spirits that use force because it appeals to their «flesh». And so this spirit can preach the Bible and appear from God, but the spirit of force and disrespect for your freedom reveals who is really behind it.

Not all who profess the Christian faith are under the Spirit of God. But they walk after lust, the law of the flesh, and seek any spirits that condone that path, while God's spirit quietly reminds them what the truth is, which is rejected. In the Bible, whenever God speaks directly to man, you will notice it says it is by a voice heard from "above" or through an angel, through a prophet, or through His word, and not an audible voice in someone's head. *"God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her" (Gen.21:17) "Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee" (Deu.4:36) "And there came a voice from heaven" (Mar.1:11) "Then came there a voice from heaven" (Joh 12,28) "But the voice answered me again from heaven" (Act.11:9) "And this voice which came from heaven we heard" (2.Pe 1:18) "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven" (Rev.12:10)* The voice from God comes usually from the outside, but He impresses people in the heart

through His Spirit. If you seek Him, He can remind you of Bible verses, guide you, and impress you. But He is not a voice that takes over your thoughts. Nowhere in the Bible does a prophet say «the voice came from my head». This is part of the reason God gave the human race the Bible. And you can choose not to read it. He does not invade us. You take the words that are in the book, and you have to put them in your heart and mind by your own free will. Many of the claimed prophets that are all over the internet right now, giving their “messages from God,” are in reality giving messages they think are from God because they think the voice in their head is God. While God’s true prophets in the Bible actually communicated with God and angels, the Bible reveals that false prophets are identified by their messages coming from their own thoughts and hearts: *“Then the Lord said unto me, ‘The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spoke unto them. They prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought and the deceit of their heart’”* (Jer. 14:14). Most people who prophesy in God’s name today are actually deceiving themselves. They truly believe that the thoughts and voices they hear are God. And they are brought in great distress, for they see the spirits lie to them. Sometimes it comes true, other times it does not. Satan can not predict the future, but he is very good at guessing it. He will get a lot right. Some he makes happen after predicting it. The same with us: to a certain degree, we can predict the future by evaluating what we can see. You can also make it happen. If you say you are going to the store later and then go to the store because you said it, that is not a supernatural prophecy. False prophets, even sincere ones, believe their own assumptions and thoughts are messages from God and become distressed when these predictions do not come true. Some of their predictions come true because they act on them, while others do not, leaving them genuinely confused. As a result, they may lose faith in God. This harms both themselves and others. Throughout history, false religions—even false Christianity—are marked by a spirit that forces people’s consciences, violating the God-given right to reason. This deprives people of control over their own decisions and, by extension, their destinies. Teachers and religious leaders who claim you need their relationship with God in order to know the truth are not truly speaking for God. The Bible warns against this mentality and clearly states that

no one should stand between God and humanity except Jesus: “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*” (1 Tim. 2:5). Most narcissistic sect leaders or religious leaders depend on their followers, believing they are needed to connect followers to God and preach His will. They do not want you to think for yourself. This makes it easier to identify false or deceived religious teachers who lead others astray. They often use fear, suggesting that if you leave their church, assembly, or do not do as they say, you will be lost. Most of them genuinely believe what they teach, which is why others believe them. Often, they are just as deceived as those who follow them. Their followers trust them, and they trust a “voice in their head” that they believe is God.

Knowing the Biblical facts regarding God and how He works should help you free yourself from the grip of such religious figures if you have them in your life. And if you have been tricked into thinking your thoughts are God’s messages to you, then you might find freedom in the truth.

We can see this is a typical human trait because many irreligious leaders share the same ideas about themselves, with the same results. They believe people are foolish and that it is in their best interest to control them.

In Revelation 3, we see Jesus standing outside the door, knocking, showing that He waits for an invitation from us to save us. He cannot save us any other way, or His future kingdom would not be peaceful. If He had acted differently, He would have broken His own principles. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).*

Here, God gives the picture of Himself going ahead, taking the lead, rather than forcing the sheep from behind.

He says He is the “light” in the darkness to help us see where we are walking, the “door” we must walk through, the “way” we must choose to walk, the “bread” we must choose to eat, and the “water” or “wine” we must choose to drink. We enter into a relationship with God through a covenant—an agreement—not by brainwashing.

Jesus said: *“If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).*

The Freedom of Speech

In the American Constitution lies the freedom of speech. This was another concept that has been fought against throughout history. If you can speak freely, you can also influence people with your speech. It is the influence of the speech that many governments or people in leading positions fear. It is also feared by those who want to force society to head in a certain direction.

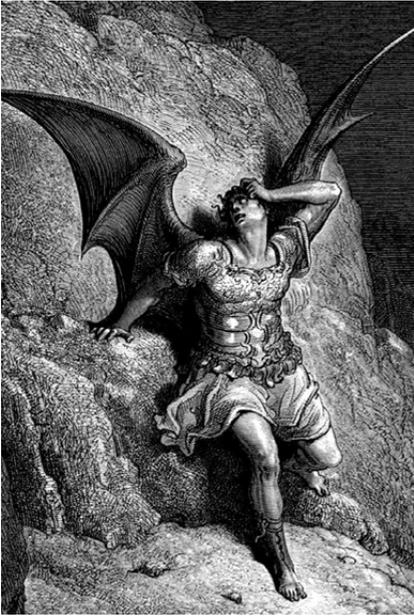
In the USA right now, we see how free speech is limited by the liberal forces who want to change the country.

In schools, universities, workplaces, and even churches, liberals try to silence conservatives and prevent them from speaking. They feel threatened when opinions are expressed that do not align with their feelings, and their fears are aroused. Only by controlling what people say and how they feel can they change how people think. And what happens is that they actually become what they fear the others can become if not controlled by them. So it is a double standard.

Freedom of speech is reserved only for those who agree with them, allowing them to influence others toward what they believe is the right direction.

It has also given birth to what is now called “cancel culture,” where you risk losing your job, your reputation, and your future by saying something that is not considered ‘politically correct’, and it is the mob that rules the land.

The Catholic Church, during its time of power and influence in Europe, did the exact same thing. They wanted to silence the opposition at every opportunity they could see. You could be sentenced to death just for



Why did God give Satan the freedom of speech, knowing how it would influence and lead so many to perdition? It is all about God's respect for people to choose for themselves, even the right to choose wrong. Satan did not give God the same respect.

voicing a different opinion than what was accepted by the church.

Again, the fear of losing influence over the masses was the reason for this violence. They believed that a world without their control would descend into chaos. This is a very grandiose and conceited thought, based on the idea that you are more intelligent than everyone else.

How does God view freedom of speech? The Bible shows us that God did not choose the same path that we see the Catholic Church or the irreligious and liberal movements have taken. He allowed Satan the freedom of speech both in heaven and on earth. Yes, Satan did influence Adam and Eve and many others after him. Bad things did happen. Yet, God still allowed Satan the freedom of expressing himself. God, in His kingdom, did not choose to combat resistance by silencing the opposition. In this way, we can see that the original American Constitution was, in part, inspired by God's principles on this point. It gave men the responsibility to think for themselves. And God has given His beings the same responsibility. Silencing the opposition would only create more opposition and more violence. We see in the Bible how Satan came before God and the other angels, and voiced his opinion on why Job was obedient to God (Job 1:6). We also see him accusing us in heaven repeatedly in Revelation 12:10, arguing against our salvation.

That is right, Satan was invited by mankind to rule and has tried to persuade God many times that we all deserve to die. Satan accuses us before God of being given new chances, without acknowledging how

many chances he himself was given before going beyond the point of no return. He was a backstabber towards God and is, according to this verse in the Bible, a backstabber to mankind as well.

Only when everyone had made their decision not to listen to him anymore was he cast out of heaven for good. Here comes the other side of freedom of speech, it must not violate people's freedom not to hear. So freedom of speech has to be in harmony with others' freedom to choose what they want to hear. When no one wished to hear Satan anymore, his right to speak conflicted with the others' freedom to allow him to continue. At that moment, freedom of speech became forceful, no longer representing freedom. In such instances, we see God allow the removal of the freedom of speech in private quarters.

Another situation in which freedom of speech is punishable is when someone orders a criminal act that is carried out. If I order a murder, I will be charged with murder. In God's law, if someone tried to persuade people to perform idol practices, it came under the criminal law of the land. A lot of the idol practices violated other people's rights and were illegal. So God does not say we won't be judged by the words we speak, but He allows free discussion.

God wishes for people to at least hear someone out before deciding not to listen to maintain people's rights to choose. So to Ezekiel he wanted him to speak, knowing they would not wish to hear it, just so that they would have option of reflection and choosing the alternative path:

“And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them” (Eze 2:5). Choice being a human right God protects, He has to sometimes make sure options are atleast presented even if unwanted.

When is the first time in the Bible story when someone is attacked for speaking their mind, and by whom? It is not God! It is actually what led to Abel's death. Notice in the story that it says Cain was talking to Abel before he slew him: *“And Cain talked with Abel his brother ...Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.”* This meant that Abel voiced an opinion contrary to Cain's, and he got provoked by it and responded

by taking Abel's life. So he was the first to use violence and silence someone who spoke something he did not like. God then makes this a point when he asks Cain where Abel is. God says: *"the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground"* (Gen.4:10)

The voice he had silenced was not silenced. God claimed Abel's voice could not be silenced by violence. His murder would forever echo the words Cain had found offensive. Here comes the great fact: that if you deny someone the freedom of speech, you expose something about yourself, and you will not have solved anything in the long run.

God uses the same expression when speaking about His other faithful that has been killed: "I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: *"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"* (Rev.6:9-10)

This is just an expression that is similar to the one God made on Abel's blood; they are dead, but their death witnesses the injustice and confirms the testimony they gave when they were alive. Notice how it says that they were *"slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held"*, meaning they were killed because of the words they spoke, not because of something they did.

Although God had allowed Satan and his followers freedom of speech, they did not give the same to God and His followers.

Jesus exposed Satan and called him a liar and a killer: *"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not"* (John 8:43-45).

The most incredible thing about this dialogue was that Jesus was speaking to people who claimed to represent God. But Jesus made it clear that their behavior did not originate from God.

There are many such examples in the Bible, where it is the devil who answers with force and violence and is opposed to any speech that is in God's favor. He might want the freedom not to hear the gospel, but by denying others the right to hear it, he goes against God's principles. You can't make an educated decision if crucial information is hidden from you. Satan does not care about people's rights, and his methods should not be used by anyone who follows God. The moment you use violence in return for words, you create fear, and others do not dare to express their opinion, and your rule becomes that of suppression.

Many of God's prophets who never once tried to physically control anyone, command crimes, or take over the government were silenced just for voicing a different path than the one others were pursuing.

The prophet Isaiah is said to have been sawn in two by the King in his day just for speaking up. Before the destruction of Jerusalem, we see the same two opposing approaches. Rather than taking control of the city, God tries to reason with them, but He sees that they prefer to listen to the prophets who lie to them. We see that God allowed these prophets to speak:

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jer 5:31)

They, however, did not give God's prophet the same opportunities: *"Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die" (Jer 26:8)*. When they did not get permission to kill him they silenced him by putting him in the stocks, in prison, and later in a well. All to prevent anyone from hearing what he had to say.

In Nazareth, it was the people who, after hearing Jesus speak some very unpopular words, decided to lynch him, and he barely got away from them.

In the end, the reason that was used to justify killing Jesus was that they feared His influence on the minds of the people. They feared the words

He spoke would threaten their position. And so they answered by force and violence.

When His disciples preached after Christ's death, they had their freedom of speech restricted: *“And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus” (Act.4:18)*

When Stephen, a follower of Christ, voiced his criticism of the leadership in Judah, it says: *“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him” (Act 7:57-58)*

They even stopped their ears. In Revelation, Jesus says repeatedly: *“He that hath an ear; let him hear”*. Just as God would not take away the freedom of speech, nor would He take away someone's right to choose who they would listen to. Thus, He asks people to choose for themselves whether or not to listen to what He has to say. **However, God’s enemies will mostly use force in all instances. They will try to force you to hear what you do not wish to hear, to do that which you do not want to do, and to force you into silence if necessary.** Their double standard is revealed when it only goes one way. For they reserve the right to hear what they want, to speak their opinion, and to do as they please, but they do not give you the same rights. Not only do



Picture: Jeremiah. God’s people have been silenced by the opposition throughout history since the day of Abel to this very day.

irreligious, atheists, and liberals hold these opinions, but many Christian congregations also do. Jesus said, *“they don’t know Him” when they do these things (Joh.15:21)*. The best example is the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages, but many other congregations do the same today.

One good example is the Jehovah's Witness Watch Tower, which dictates to its members who they can listen to and what they can say in the congregation. Their control is dependent on it. In fact, most religious congregations behave as the Jewish leaders did in their day and silence, in one way or another, anyone who dares to question their ideas.

They do not allow conversation or personal evaluation, for they fear people will choose the wrong side if both sides are heard. We see the same in Jewish communities and in many Muslim countries as well. People fear free speech because words can shift perspectives and alter power dynamics.

It all comes down to the root: fear. We think that other people's decisions are our responsibility. We fear the unknown. But, it is really presumptuous and arrogant for anyone to think that they ought to think for other people because they are presumably too stupid to think for themselves. Too stupid to make the right decisions, and some probably are. Still, God does not want us to rule over each other; He wants to hold each person accountable for their own actions. Words cannot force anyone to do anything. By using words as a weapon, you respect the other person's right to choose, their free will, and their right to hear. Therefore, words are the only means to create a society built on trust. Words are powerful, but in the end, their reach is limited—they can do no more than invite or threaten.

In John 1,1 Jesus is called 'the word made flesh'. Christ's life was in harmony with these principles, and He never forced Himself on anyone. He never controlled anyone's arms, feet, or brain. Yet His words were, and still are, His weapon: "*and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword*" (Rev.1:16). Christ was the "word made flesh," but He was also the "word" killed and resurrected.

God's enemies are shown to silence God's people, but they also use speech to entrap people into their ideology: "*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet*" (Rev.16:13)

God warns us that their words are full of lies and deception, but at the same time, we see that God has allowed them to speak these lies, and we can still choose to listen to them if we want. God is here, not silencing the enemy, and if someone is silencing a religious competition in the end times, we know they are most likely not working for God. According to the Book of Revelation, God will permit His enemies the freedom of speech to the very end. About the “man of sin,” Paul writes:

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2Th 2:10-11)

These people are lost because they chose not to listen to God, instead listening to someone who speaks lies. God gives us the responsibility. The history of the world is the greatest evidence, if we believe in God, that God does not take away man’s freedom to express his opinion.

Everyone is speaking their own truth, and many deceive each other, but there is no fire from heaven that devours them. When God destroyed cities like Sodom and Gomorrah, it was not to silence their words, but it was because they were physically forcing others to do as they wanted.

It was the inhabitants of Sodom who attacked Lot’s freedom to speak when they said they would silence Lot. He was accused of judging them with his words (Gen 19:9). The men of Sodom did not like it when they felt restricted by words, but they had no problem taking others' freedom by force.

Jesus warned that in the future, many would persecute others for just feeling offended. He said: *“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another” (Mat 24:10).*

When people use force, God sometimes has to intervene because it violates others’ rights. But when they just speak their opinion, God usually goes into a dialogue with them if they are open to it. In the book of Revelation, we can see men blaspheme the name of God to the very end. God has not stopped their mouths from doing it (Rev 16:9). God is being mocked daily by people all over the world. The devil has done all

he can to make it seem like God is the one silencing others. At the same time, he uses these methods aggressively towards God and His people. God can handle people questioning Him while still maintaining a good conscience, knowing that the truth will eventually unfold. People will one day learn of the harm they have done by their words.

Satan fears freedom of speech for the same reason; he has nothing to gain from letting things unfold, as he is in the wrong. His best approach is therefore to use violence and force straight away to eliminate competition. He also needs you to forget history, because history exposes him for what he really is.

The USA has long been the voice in the world defending the freedom of speech, but this principle is under severe attack as we speak. Just as before, those who are silenced are those who speak in harmony with God's laws, revealing who is behind it all. God's words are again presented as something 'dangerous' that people need to be protected from. And the hypocrisy is not noticing that fighting against freedom of speech with force is becoming what they fear free speech will lead others to become.

As God says, *"Do not preach," they preach.*" And: *"Is the spirit of the LORD straitened? are these his doings? Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?" (Mik.2:6)*

If you do what is right. If you fight the right battles, why do you fear others expressing their opinions? It is a force you should fear. If you are a Christian doing this, it is because you do not trust God and think it is your duty to make decisions on behalf of others. When you remove open conversations, you also remove people's right to make their own choices. You remove the options, and you lead them into a relationship with God that might not last.

This is not helping God but helping yourself to feel safe. Peace cannot be obtained that way; it is a deception. God has not given you the job of thinking or choosing for other people. A Christian is asked to be an example for someone to feel inspired by, not to rule. On judgment day, every individual will be judged according to their own choices. No one will be judged or acquitted in groups. If a religious leader thinks he saves someone by withholding information and encouraging obedience to themselves, he is mistaken. No human will be saved by others making decisions on their behalf.

God's earthly kingdom in Israel

God wanted to create an earthly haven as a place for His people to find rest in a world in turmoil. He chose the tribes of Israel to establish an earthly kingdom. If they followed His commandments

faithfully, they would serve as an example to the rest of the world and hopefully inspire others to follow. If the whole world chose God, everything would change (Exo. 19:6; 1Ch 16:24; Psalm 105:1, Psa. 67:5).

Even the establishment of this nation was based on willingness. At Mount Sinai, God presented His law to the people and asked if they would enter into a covenant with Him and let Him be their king. They all willingly took an oath, agreeing to represent Him (Exo. 24). He did not demand this role; He offered it after they had called upon Him in Egypt, and He had saved them according to their wishes. The covenant was established by the consent of the people (Deu. 26:7; Exo. 24:3). Before God offered them the opportunity to become His earthly kingdom, He sought to gain their trust by saving them and providing for their needs, showing them His concern for their well-being. He fought their enemies, he fed them, and listened to them. God did not let them enter into this covenant in ignorance; before any covenant was established, He informed them of His laws and how He would govern among them. Once they had become acquainted with God's laws in full, they were asked whether they would willingly enter into the covenant, and they said yes; the covenant was then confirmed. From this moment on, the success of this covenant depended on them trusting Him and obeying Him. No country can survive unless its citizens agree to follow its laws.

Even here, God asked them to make their own choice; He did not choose for them. However, the covenant failed because the people did not trust God, no matter what He did (Heb. 3 & 4). They allowed the seed of distrust to guide their choices.



Later, when the people were settled in the land and asked for a human king, God said:

“Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” (1Sa 8:6-7)

God then permitted them to have a king.

Why did God have to give up on the theocracy in Israel and eventually withdraw? For the same reason, they did not trust Him and thereby rejected His rule. They did not accept His laws and chose to follow the path of the heathens. In the book of Ezekiel, we see a seemingly a defeated God, leaving His temple and rule. But God was not defeated. He could have ruled by force; He simply did not want to continue ruling over a people

Even though God permitted them to have a king, the kingdom's rules were to remain the same. God was to be the higher authority. The king did not rule in place of God or could make his laws contrary

to God's. Whenever there was a conflict, God was to have the say. The only earthly government God would rule with was one that did not try to make the leader God or God's replacement. When the kings

refused to obey God and broke His law for the sake of their own laws customized to the nations around, God spoke against them. In the beginning, those kings who would not compel were rejected, like Saul

and many of the Israeli kings. When God no longer had the people's trust, and they preferred their earthly ruler and law, God decided it was time to withdraw as their leader.

who had not chosen Him (Ezek. 10). When neither the majority of the people, the leadership, nor even the priests would stand by Him, He could not stay. God is not a dictator. If they do not want Him, He will not lead them. So God left His throne among them and allowed them to be subdued under heathen kings. God did not want Babylon to torture and kill them. As we can see in the Bible, God was very upset over how Babylon treated them once He withdrew (Isa. 47:6). He said Babylon would be judged at the right time for their acts of violence. He did not stop loving them, but He continued His principle of not ruling them against their wishes. Israel did not reject God completely; they just wanted to make their own laws and then have God rule by their laws. But this is impossible for God, who is far above all in intellect and position, to reject His own wisdom and rule the land by humans and their ever-changing laws tied to lust and oppression. God could not “reason” with that, and the ultimatum was therefore that if He were to be their King, they had to follow His law; otherwise, God Himself would be forced to go against His conscience and morals. If He had, the rule of the universe would be in danger. God had to remain uncorrupted at all times, as life itself depended upon it. So when God established the theocracy at Sinai, He asked whether they would accept His laws first, stating that the condition of His kingship among them was their acceptance of His laws. When they later rejected His law, God could no longer remain their leader. If they made the rules, God would be led by them, not the other way around. God would have to abandon His character to do so and be subject to the rule of flesh like them. It was not possible. He wanted man to be restored in His image; they wanted God to degrade into the image of the beast.

When Jesus came to earth, born as a man, He refused to give flesh the upper hand. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”* (Rom. 8:3–4). Jesus did the opposite of Adam and restored humanity to the state in which they were created—not in the image of beasts living by instinct, fear, and desires, but in God’s image. Jesus ruled not by flesh but by intelligence, love, and trust in God. He was an

example for humans to follow, showing that, even in a degenerate world, it was possible to be restored in the image in which we were once created. When He did this, as a representative of the human family, He lifted humanity again.

He was good, but He was hated by those who wanted to remain slaves to their lusts. Jesus said: *“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil”* (John 7:7).

They hated Him because He exposed them and put them to shame by His example, showing another way to live. Although born in the flesh, human just like them, He had a superiority of mind and intellect because of His choices and by fully allowing the Spirit to strengthen Him when the human flesh was weak. When Satan came to tempt Him in the wilderness, Jesus defeated these temptations every single time by putting mind before flesh—giving God the mind through His trust and acting only upon that trust. John, who was Christ's apostle and watched Him, said: *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”* (1 John 2:16-17)

Israel treated God similarly to how kings in Europe were treated after they lost the ability to make laws and govern. They became status symbols, doing charitable work. Today, we call it a constitutional monarchy, where the monarch must follow laws made by the people and does not govern himself. Some question the point of the monarchy, while others want to keep it for tradition's sake.

God warned and pleaded with them, but in the end they refused to follow His rule, so He withdrew from His earthly seat of rule—the Ark of the Covenant, containing God's law. However, God promised those who loved Him and wanted Him as their King and Lawgiver that He would create a kingdom, not in the current world of sin and chaos, but in a new world.

Today, many Christian societies have done what Israel did. They have made God and Christ their status symbols—the subject of their songs



Top: Queen Elisabeth is a constitutional monarch like the rest of the Northern European royals. Judah and Israel were allowed to have Kings if they allowed God to be the legislator and themselves to have a lower position. However, they turned it around, making God more like a modern constitutional monarch. Meaning God was reduced to a mere ceremonial role. God did not agree to this role and would only rule by His laws.

Bottom: The pope did the same when he placed church ordinances over God's laws.



and praise—yet they do not accept His law or rule. Instead, they want God to rule among them by their church ordinances and by the laws of their flesh. Others want God to rule according to the rules of the larger society, which are constantly changing, so they will be accepted by society. But God cannot do this. God's identity is His law, His character. Christ is the law made flesh (John 1:1). They cannot rule without their law. God's unity with His principles is the security of life, and He cannot rule by human or church laws. If He did rule by man's laws, God would be an accomplice to their sins. The apostle John understood this, and he said: *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him"* (1 John 2:3-4).

Jesus warned: *"If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake,*

because they know not him that sent me" (John 15:20-21). Jesus said that His name would be used to force people into church submission, but that this happens because they do not know or understand God's principles.

Unfortunately, such acts are really carried out by a different spirit that rejoices in misrepresenting God and is glad these acts are done in Christ's name.

God's approach to sharing the gospel—the offer of forgiveness for past transgressions and a new life in a new world—was an invitation to trust Him. Jesus sacrificed Himself to give us this invitation, showing us God's great love and eagerness to save us. Jesus preached that the Creator views us as His children; He wants us to succeed, be free, and be happy. Most of all, He wants our love and tries to speak and reason with our hearts.

Jesus used a lot of time trying to inspire man's trust in God.

Jesus spent much time trying to inspire man's trust in God and to show that all He really wanted was their well-being. He spoke about how God had even counted the hairs on a sparrow and how much more we are worth.

He spoke of God as a provider who wanted to give us good things, just as a father gives to his son. He spoke of the father and the prodigal son, of God's eagerness to forgive, and of God as a loving Father and healer. He clarified God's motives, showing they were not what Satan had made them out to be. Jesus was clearing God's name of the misrepresentations and lies that had led people to distrust Him and refuse Him. However, would people still prefer their flesh to be their god? Did they prefer the lies so they could unapologetically continue seeking ways to satisfy their desires?

Even after realizing God could be trusted, was the need to satisfy the flesh ultimately more important?

God's and Christ's work is undermined when people take His words and apply force, making it nearly impossible to reach those same people with the same invitation later. This is why Satan is so active, working through people who call themselves Christians but have rejected God's rule. It is sabotage.

The majority of Christians became corrupted, just as Jesus said, and the gospel was corrupted with them. The institution of the papacy displayed the same attitude that made God leave Jerusalem. They wanted Him as a status figure; they wanted His protection and forgiveness, but not His rule. They picked and chose what they wanted and rejected what they did not want. They created their own laws and regulations as they saw fit, changing God's times and the definition of sin. They sold indulgences and made God's salvation a trade. They even changed the memorial of God as the originator of all life and claimed that shifting God's rule to their own was in God's honor. The Catholic Church got it all wrong when they did this, and by their actions, they pushed God out of their church and were left with only their imagery of God and strange spirits. Through their pictures, they claimed He was still there. Their paintings depicted a God approving of them and their rituals, but it was all in their imagination. Not understanding God's law or morals, or even how He wanted to rule, they began persecuting everyone who had a different opinion or conscience. They attacked those who went against their religious laws, all in Christ's name, just as Jesus had predicted. It went so far that they targeted those who continued to keep God's original laws and called them heretics. The Papacy established an earthly seat of control that Jesus never asked for or accepted. They claimed their leader ruled in Christ's place, but he did not rule by Christ's law. They forced people to convert, pressuring them to go against their conscience and reason. Seeking worldly control, the Papacy wanted to rid themselves of any form of chaos they viewed as the source of the world's problems. They forbade people from reading the Bible and thinking for themselves, preferring that people come to church and receive their version of the truth without question. By removing anyone teaching differently and by removing the Bible from the hands of the common man, they thought they could create a Christian utopia. They believed that if everyone thought as they did, there would be peace. They controlled governments, education, economy, religion, and family, and did not permit opposition to speak. But the peace they sought did not happen. Those who were suppressed would eventually rise and not be held back.

Many chose their religion out of fear, desire for position, or need for control. They followed God according to the flesh, not by intellect or trust. The rule of sin became the rule of the church. Even popes and priests were caught performing the most degrading and immoral acts. Believing church doctrines did not make anyone holy or free from their passions. Those who tried to reform church doctrines were imprisoned, tortured, and killed. Jews were also forced to convert. The whole affair became bloody, costing more lives than can be numbered. Even today, many Catholics believe the problem was those who would not convert and that such people are still the problem. The reason the church did not conquer sin was that it did not encourage trust in God. Even the priests looked to themselves and to a human leader for trust, but this trust did not lead to victory over the flesh, for it broke the bond God needed with His people to lead them. Today, the irreligious have taken over the same influential positions that the Catholic Church once held in Europe during the Middle Ages, and many evangelicals dream of reclaiming that power. But it has already been done, is being done, and people have never been more divided. In the Bible, God called earthly powers beasts, reminding people that they have chosen a government that can never heal the land as long as it is ruled by the laws of the flesh. The beast rules by fear, self-preservation, anger, and lust—just like these earthly governments. Man’s only path to peace is to regain trust in God, be restored in His image, and respect God as their life-giver.

At creation, God was the authority over man, and man was given rule over the beasts. But in Daniel and Revelation, we see beasts ruling over man, and man attempting to rule over God. We will examine God’s use of these illustrations as we study the end-time conflict.

The reason of the constant conflict

Any false religion will create conflict, but so will the truth. Jesus said He was the truth, the way, and the life. And if we believe Him, we also have to see that many hated Him and stirred up controversy because of how He lived His life (John 14:6).

Truth can be subdued, but it can never be destroyed (Dan 8:12). Just as Jesus said He was the truth, yet was killed, He was also the truth, resurrected.

In the Bible, we learn that God has a spirit seeking to influence man to choose the moral principles that come from God, principles by which humans were designed to live. The more people say «no» to this spirit, the more it will drift away. The more people say «yes», the more fullness it will bring. The spirit is independent of religious membership or your geographical location. All men are God's children and will receive a call from the Spirit.

And so man's inner conscience has always felt the influence or calling of the spirit until it is rejected completely. The spirit always preaches God's morals and truth with whatever tools are at hand. Jesus used scriptures, but He also used nature and parables. Sometimes He used real events. All to bring people's attention to the same truth. God's spirit does the same thing.

Paul explained the phenomenon like this: *«For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;»* (Rom 2:14-15)

So no matter who you are, where you are, or to what religion you are born into, God will come and visit you with His Spirit to seek an invitation to teach you His ways and principles. Many say «no thank you,» but others are intrigued, love what God shows them, open their hearts, and God gives them more.

Now, the irreligious do not understand this principle. They think that if they take over the school system, governmental institutions, and force people into a scripted mindset from childhood, they can eliminate religion and create a uniform conscience constructed by their morals. But as long as God's spirit remains, and as long as people reason with it and invite its teachings, there will be opposition to what is not of God. The irreligious cannot control the channels God uses to communicate. Every individual controls it themselves. Only when we individually choose not to receive the Spirit's invitation to learning will we shut down the channel through which God communicates.

When man first sinned, God made the following prophecy: «*And I will put enmity between thee [Satan] and the woman, and between thy [Satan's] seed and her seed*» (Gen 3:15). Here God makes it clear He will never abandon the human race, and there will always be resistance against Satan's rule. Satan's followers will never win everyone, and so God predicted that conflict would always exist.



Several declared atheist governments are also communist in structure. Life in those countries has not become a utopia any more than in other religious countries. The persecution of Christians and Muslims is also present in all countries, although it rarely receives attention. This is one reason Christians fear strong socialist countries. Removing God from society does not reduce crime or make people better.

The irreligious movements in the USA claim to be defenders of freedom of choice and the celebration

of differences of opinion, but in reality, their practice has shown itself to be totalitarian. Just like everyone before them, they suppress others and force others to make the changes they think are right. Their freedom is not for everyone; it is only for those who support their worldview. Christianity is seen as the biggest threat to its morals and is therefore subdued and attacked. They think that because they would feel violated by following the moral codes of the Biblical faith, all those who do also feel suppressed by it. They don't understand that to many, following these moral codes brings inner peace, freedom, and happiness.

The irreligious belief is that anyone religious is suppressed by religion and has to be freed from it. In this mindset, they attack the religious people in some attempt «to save them from themselves,» and if they refuse, they aim to save others from them instead.

Many conflicts arise because people do not understand that what makes one person happy does not automatically make another person happy.

Forcing a liberal worldview upon a man of faith is an attack on his freedom and conscience. The irreligious belief is that anyone religious is suppressed by religion and has to be freed from it. In this mindset, they attack religious people in an attempt «to save them from themselves,» and if they refuse, they aim to save others from them instead. But this is just what the Catholic Church did in its day, or what the communist countries did, or any society did when suppressing groups of people. You can not save someone who does not wish to be saved or who does not intellectually agree with you. Personal freedom is only achieved by choice.

If the passing of time has taught us anything, it is that every generation believed it was right while suppressing others in its own era. They thought they were creating a better society, only to be seen as ignorant

and unfair by later generations. Our generation is doing the same, finding its own truth and forcing it upon others.

The irreligious society on the rise today most closely resembles the Roman Empire. The morals were similar: sexual immorality was accepted and celebrated. Religious traditions were observed, but religion did not affect the overall conscience. Philosophy and theaters were popular then, as they are now. The Empire was diverse, with many different groups of people, just as we have today. When pure Christianity was on the rise, it was hated—just as it is by the irreligious today. They tried to eliminate it then, and they try to eliminate it now. The more Rome attempted to fight the people’s conscience and force them to conform, the more the Christians grew in number. The more Christians were put on trial and killed, the more people converted. In the end, Rome could not defeat Christianity and had to incorporate it. Once the church became powerful in the empire, the wind changed, and they became the oppressors instead.

Eventually, atheists and agnostics also had enough. Under the French Revolution, Bibles and religion were forbidden again, yet not many years later, they were re-accepted. Suppression and bloodshed did

not create the utopia they had hoped for. They paraded the streets with a woman symbolizing “reason,” yet the people had not become any more reasonable. One could even say they were unreasonable. Saying you are something and being it are two different things. The land was filled with violence and immorality, and many suffered because of it. History repeats itself because people do not understand God’s principles—principles they were originally designed to live by in a world where intellect ruled over the flesh. Trust in God as the only supreme leader was the only road to unity and peace.

Peace can never be obtained through the oppression of conscience. Humanity cannot prosper or develop without freedom of choice. That is the truth, and so it will always be, no matter how many governmental forms or religions are tried against it.

No religious freedom allowed in God's kingdom.

Many criminal laws in ancient Israel, especially those involving worship, can seem to modern readers like suppressions of religious freedom. For example, the death penalty was applied for breaking God's moral law, including worshiping other gods. This appears harsh because today we often think of God as a distant spiritual being rather than a literal king. But if we view God as Israel's actual king, these laws take on a different meaning. Consider a human king, such as the King of Sweden. In his country, you cannot simply declare someone else to be king—it would be a coup attempt. Likewise, God, as king, could not allow His subjects to install a rival. The Hebrew word Elohim also means judge. You cannot stand before a judge and demand a different judge simply because you prefer a different law. This logic is clear in human society, yet many reject it when applied to God.

God views Himself not as a mythical figure, but as the actual ruler of His people. In His kingdom, introducing other gods was seen as an act of rebellion and essentially a coup against His authority. That is why the laws against worshiping other gods were not just religious restrictions, but measures against attempts to overthrow God's government. While other nations resisted God's authority, in Israel, God actively opposed the idol worshipers' attempts to claim ultimate power. The struggle was always about who held true authority. After Jerusalem fell to Babylon and God withdrew His presence, He revealed to King Nebuchadnezzar through the prophet Daniel that human rulers would govern until the time of God's final kingdom.



God's Ten Commandments only bring true freedom if everyone follows them. If only a few people keep the law while others steal or do wrong, peace and prosperity become impossible. Even if you are faithful, the choices of those around you will

God had been rejected, and Daniel saw that the dream prophesied a line of heathen rulers until the restoration of God's kingdom.

affect your life. If your neighbors worship other gods and reject God's laws, their influence will eventually shape society, often making it harder for those who want to follow God.

Israel's role as a witness to the world depended on unity under God's law. When the people failed to remain united, the nation split into two camps:

Those who worshiped Ba'al and those who remained loyal to the Lord. Instead of demonstrating the blessings of God's kingdom, they showed how division and competing loyalties lead to collapse. Two different gods meant two sets of laws, which created confusion and conflict. No judge can rule fairly when laws contradict each other. This kind of division inevitably forces society to choose between the two authorities.

The conflict with idol-worshippers became a struggle for control. The people had to choose whether to yield the land or fight to preserve God's authority. A good example of this is the story of the golden calf at Mount Sinai. When Moses was delayed on the mountain, rebellious leaders had a golden calf made and told the people it would lead them

back to Egypt. In reality, these leaders wanted to take power and undo what God had started. Most people still wanted to follow God, but these men threatened to take control. Ultimately, they were executed for this attempted coup because if they had succeeded, God's leadership would have ended. People easily recognize this kind of power struggle in politics, but often overlook it in stories about God.

Punishing these kinds of crimes was never a peaceful matter in ancient times. The death penalty was common not just in Israel, but in many other nations. Early kingdoms did not have well-functioning long-term prison facilities, and most who ended up in prison died slowly. They did not have the ability or willingness to give people "life sentences" in prison. In those days, it would not have been humane to keep tens of thousands of people in prison, neither morally nor physically. It would also have been difficult to force the community to provide for so many imprisoned people without reducing the victims to poverty. Most men were farmers living off the land. So, in times of major conflict, the death penalty was often the only option left. It was either kill or be killed. People did not want to support men who had raped their daughters or murdered their sons, especially while being left in need themselves; it just wasn't fair. Those who committed severe crimes were therefore sentenced to death. Although many oppose sentencing people to death today, we need to understand that the people who committed crimes did actually have a choice not to. In those days, they were well aware of the consequences, and still they chose to do it. In this way, people were held accountable for their own death penalty. When it came to idol practices in those days that were subject to the death penalty, we need to remember that part of those practices involved behavior that most of us would consider to be criminal conduct today.

Human sacrifices were still practiced, which violated God's law against murder. In some places, young virgins had to be raped at a temple for the gods before being married, which was also against God's moral laws. These are just two examples. Because of such practices, pagan worship and God's law could not exist together and were therefore illegal in God's earthly kingdom.

When idol worshipers gained control, they did not allow the people to worship God in peace either. In the Bible, we read about how Elijah had the Ba'al prophets executed, which shocks many (1Kings 18:4). At first glance, this seems very harsh, and Bible critics often describe them as innocent men who only wanted to practice a different religion in the kingdom. What few realize is that these prophets had already killed God's prophets before they themselves were judged and executed. (1Ki 18:4)

When Elijah showed the people that it was the prophets of the true God who had been killed, they realized the Ba'al prophets had massacred many innocent people. The rest had to go into hiding and became fugitives in their own country. This is why the Ba'al prophets were judged and sentenced for murder and for their political coup.

In those days, the worship of God and the state were unified, not only in Israel but also in all other nations. As long as God's throne was among them and He was the ruler, what kind of leader would He have been if He had simply handed over the scepter to the enemy and allowed them to subdue His people? What would you call such a ruler? Would you have trusted such a person to lead your country, or would you want your ruler to stand up for you and defend the people?

In the end, God did leave, but not until He was no longer wanted. Elijah had said to God:

«The children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away» (1 Kings 19:10). God answered and said He still had people He was fighting for: «Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him» (v.18)

God would not have been a very faithful ruler of His people if He had not fought to maintain His rule and protect His people.

God could not allow religious freedom in His earthly kingdom because that would be the same as allowing people to choose different laws in a society today.

If you lived in a country where everyone could pick their own leader and their own laws, it would no longer be a single country, nor would there be a higher authority. The difference between God's kingdom and other countries in this respect is that God's kingdom was built upon willingness. People could choose to leave and join another nation if they wished. Back in those days, God did not stop people from leaving the kingdom if they wanted to; He just didn't allow them to take it over as long as there were still people who wanted His leadership.

When, over time, the people who rejected God far outnumbered those following Him, He stepped aside and let them choose their own leaders. Back then, religious tolerance was only possible if the religious people themselves agreed on a common law and ruler that was not connected to any religious observance.

The state of Israel, however, was a religious state, and its existence was initially wholly dependent on its relationship with God. God said: *«And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation»* (Exo.19:6)

To use a modern example, imagine a Buddhist moving into Vatican City and trying to convert the state and take over the leadership to make it Buddhist. Then, suppose they tried to force the priests to pray to Buddha and keep Buddhist feasts. That would be wrong, because the residents did not choose to be Buddhist, and it was their state to begin with. However, if all the priests in the Vatican converted to Buddhism and wanted to practice it, it would be a conversion, not a coup.

Technically, what the idol worshipers tried to do with Israel and Judah was a coup. During the time of the kings, Israel was the only kingdom in the world that worshiped God. If idol worshipers were able to take over the land, there would be no one left representing the true God. Those who followed God would have nowhere to worship in peace and without discrimination. God wanted there to be at least one place where people could seek the original plan for mankind under the real Creator.

God fought for his kingdom for a long time, as long as there were people calling for Him to rule and protect them. Once they chose God

as their ruler, He became responsible for defending His government, preventing a takeover, and protecting the people of His country.

The United States of America created religious freedom because it found a common ground. They were either Christians, theists, or agnostics, but they still roughly kept the same traditions and had, for the most part, the same moral standards, which is why it worked. The agnostics came from Christian culture. God blessed America because, although they did not choose His law and rule, they also did not choose another religious rule, making it possible for God's people to live in peace. When their moral foundations changed and the nation adopted many new religious directions, the land itself became less peaceful. The main conflict became a struggle between atheists and the religious, rather than between religious groups. As we can see today, the country is now torn mainly into two sides.

Israel was also torn in two because of the difference in beliefs. If God were to have an earthly state in which He could work for peace, He would have to require the worship of only one God. In the end, it does not work any other way.

This is what governments throughout time have realized as well, which is why they try to force or pressure one religious or irreligious direction upon the people. Yet, they still do not have peace because force and pressure do not work to create peace, and someone will always end up being suppressed, depending on who is larger in number or who has the most influence. God does not want that in His kingdom. He wants suffering to end, and He wants equal rights and opportunities. Therefore, God's solution is that people must choose Him with their hearts, with love, and with mutual understanding. That is the only way you can have both peace and one government at the same time.

In His new coming kingdom, the New Jerusalem, there will not be religious freedom; you cannot make yourself a god in the New Jerusalem and tell everyone to follow that god instead. You cannot make yourself a god and tell people to follow your set of laws instead. This would only cause chaos to re-emerge. This is part of the reason for the first four commandments in the Ten Commandments. To protect

God's right as «the government». We know very well, after living some years on this planet, that those who think they would make the best leaders are usually also the least qualified character-wise. God has to be seen as a governmental power to be understood in the correct light. Any conflicting law or god is a governmental issue. God's law does not bring peace unless all agree to it, and so God cannot create a paradise if not all participants who come there agree to follow it. He does not want to suppress one group of people over another. And so He made this condition for man to enter His kingdom of heaven, that they had to choose Him.

By choosing Him, you gain the benefit of having the Creator as your King. He can heal and restore; He can do all these things Satan and human leaders cannot give us. He will even create fruit to eat that ensures His people do not have to die: *«Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city» (Rev 22:14)*

This is also why God needed Israel to agree to follow His law and not have any other gods before establishing the earthly kingdom.

God had great plans for the earthly kingdom as well. Being all-powerful, He would remove illnesses among them and protect the pregnant, the babies, the animals, and their crops. He would give them longevity. He said that if anyone attacked them or their land, He would scare the enemies away so that they would have to flee. He promised to protect them from drought, keep their stored food safe, prevent them from becoming indebted to other nations, and make sure they would not be suppressed by others. Those who died at 100 would be considered young because their strength and health would be so much better than others'. All these promises, He said, He would fulfill if they chose Him to be their king in the earthly kingdom. The condition was: *«And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them» (Deut.28:14; Isa.65:20, Exo 15:26, Deut.28)*. In Hebrew, a different god means a different judge. Elohim, the word for god, also means judge. A judge rules by law, which means replacing God's law with the laws of others. Whose law you are under reveals who your god is.

God gave them some really amazing promises! Who would not want to live in a country with such benefits as God promised? But they ended up choosing other leaders instead, even other gods, and God could not fulfill His promises to them because of that choice. God could never leave His position in heaven for many reasons. He could, however, leave His throne on earth.

By withdrawing His presence from His seat of reign on earth, heaven became a witness to what would happen if God left His position in heaven.

It is important to understand the difference between being forced to worship a deity and making a covenant with a deity. God does not force people to live a life they do not want. If they chose to follow Him, He would protect them as a King should, which meant not allowing a coup. When God did not have a people to support Him, He left them to their own devices. He never raised His throne in the midst of a people who did not want Him, only to demand that they worship Him and follow His rules. We need to understand this difference, because many religious countries today force people to worship certain gods or leaders, and this is not God's way.

God has allowed people to follow the leaders, religion, and ideology they choose on this planet until judgment day.

He has given them a chance to prove their thesis that their ideas and leaders are better than Him. They criticize God and claim they can make better laws. Can they succeed in the impossible task of uniting a divided people without suppressing, discriminating, or allowing evil?

God cannot allow the same to happen in Heaven or on the New Earth that He has said He will make. In heaven, God is not only needed but also chosen.

God left His earthly kingdom, but His new kingdom would not be in this world as it is, since He would have to rule by suppression to make it happen. Jesus spoke about the future home of His people: *«In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you» (John 14:2)*. To be part of His

kingdom, Jesus tells us to first enter into a covenant with Him. He used the symbols in the Lord's Supper, or Passover, as signs of entering into the covenant with Him. By drinking the wine and eating the bread, we accept Him as both Savior and Lord. Jesus called it the «*blood of the new covenant*» (Mark.14:24), and Paul states Christ ratified the new covenant on the cross (Heb. 9). Therefore, the new kingdom is also built on an agreement between Christ and the people for Him to be their leader. Because we have been sentenced to death for rebellion against God's government, we cannot just agree on God being our ruler; we also need to pay the price for our crimes. Since we are not able to pay without losing our lives, Christ paid the penalty for us. This is an extremely generous offer from God, showing that He was not after revenge, but that He actually wants us to live.

It might be hard to understand for some that religious freedom is not the answer in God's kingdom, but there is no other way to create peace. Because God cannot rule without His law, He cannot allow religious freedom in His kingdom. God is a king, a ruler, not an idol made of wood, rock, or gold. Worshipping God in the Bible is always tied to obedience to His law because He is a leader, not a made-up, make-believe figure. He is a government, and the first four commandments of the law reveal no distinction between God as a government and God as a religious figure. Where God is king, there is no room for another god. The modern concept of gods is that they are just spiritual beings who come in to bless or curse, and that they need to be satisfied in some way or another. Because of this, God is not properly understood.

God has allowed people to choose whom they want to follow on this earth, but, as mentioned, He cannot allow it in His kingdom. God is responsible for more created beings than just us, and life depends on Him staying in position. No rebel will be allowed access; it is God's home, and He is entitled to invite whoever He wants. If you had worked and paid for a house, got married, and had children, you would not allow a stranger to come in and be in charge of the home, your money, your things, and make the rules you and your children are to follow. To sleep in bed with your wife, while you lie on the couch. You would quickly kick the man out and call the police.

Modern Israel

Is modern Israel God's state? The answer is simply no. They gathered in the country because they were related, had been persecuted for a long time, and wanted to practice their traditions that were inspired by God's laws. Modern Israel is not a theocracy; God is not their ruler, for they have their own law by which they rule.

In ancient Israel, they were to rule by God's law, and God's spiritual court was, in part, the temple. Here, people would receive atonement from God after breaking the law. For Him to remain as their ruler despite their previous rebellion, they had to reconcile and renew the covenant at God's court. People would sometimes fall into temptation and fail to keep His law, so God provided a way to atone for their sins. This was not an open rebellion or takeover; rather, it was the people failing to keep the law at times but still wanting to do the right thing. Coming to the temple represented an admission of guilt and a desire to follow God. By admitting their crimes against God's law, they showed respect for God as lawgiver and affirmed the validity of His law. By respecting the law, they accepted God's rule. In this way, God could continue as their King even when they sinned against Him. If they did not make this admission or seek to change, sin would stop being an abnormality or exception and eventually become the rule. And once it became the rule, God's rule was subdued and abandoned. This is what God did not allow.

If they were in constant conflict with Him as lawbreakers demanding the right to sin, God would be forced to rule over unjust people if He stayed. Only when God was accepted and the temple was present, could God rule as their King.

In modern Israel, the sins are many and great, of both the state and the people, but God has not given them a new temple.

When there is a competing law and no temple, God can not be their earthly ruler. Because of this, modern Israel is not a theocracy, and it is not God's kingdom on earth. They have to enter the same covenant as everyone else to gain access to the New Jerusalem, where God is the

sole leader. Their only hope of restoration now lies with the atonement provided by Christ. This is the only way for them to re-enter a covenant with God.

Should the United States of America unite religion and state to save the country?

The Christians in the United States are facing the fact that their country is going from being Christian to becoming increasingly favorable to atheism. The word religion comes from the Latin ligare, meaning "to join" or "to link." And atheism has linked its ideology with its origin story just like religions have to theirs. An evolutionary story that cannot be proven and therefore is a myth or a belief, and thereby a sort of religion. Remember, from God's perspective, who knows these are lies, it is a religion, an alternative belief system, making mankind the supreme beings. They worship each other. With the atheist or non-religious worldview comes the natural resistance to the moral standard of the Judaeo-Christian God and the Bible. Their belief system is that it goes against their desires, and thereby, rather than their desire being the problem, as Jesus said, they make God's morals the problem instead. If you feel condemned, you will feel shame and not feel free, so they view the Christian moral system as spiritual suppression. It is clear that the country is headed in a direction that will lead to Christians being persecuted once again if nothing changes.

When God is not the king of the land by the people's own choice and support, God's people have no right to force His rule upon anyone. There is a difference between God ruling in His own name and people trying to rule in God's name for His sake. The first is legitimate; the second is not. Laws against false witness, stealing, and murder are already in place. Some of God's laws are already part of countries' criminal laws for logical reasons. The laws that are not included are those that require honoring and worshiping God.

This, for the very fact that God will not accept people to worship by force, is not possible. In ancient Israel, He was a ruler who forbade

idolatry, but He did not force anyone to bow before Him. Any attempts to force worship upon others are not God's way. Any country today is therefore best served by having religious freedom until God Himself establishes His kingdom. If the Christians in the United States make

There is a difference of God ruling in His own name and us trying to rule in God's name for His sake.

religious laws «to save the country», in reality, they will tear up the country even more, and that without God's blessing. They will only copy the behavior of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages, which we know for a fact did not work.

Another reason why Christians should not try to enforce any religious laws is that they do not even follow God's laws themselves. The religious laws they want to push on people are mostly church ordinances or human laws created "in God's honor," not God's law. God's laws can only work if everyone agrees to keep them and if they are the real, authentic ones. If these laws are forced upon people, they are broken by nature and neither work nor bring any blessings.

To combat the problems the Christians are facing right now, there is only one right solution. They cannot bring the country back to God through legislation, because the country was not a theocracy in the first place. They can not force God into a theocracy, nor can they use God as a gallion figure for their own laws and ideas. God's Ten Commandments are unique because they do not depend on a human government to be kept; you can keep them yourself at any time. Therefore, Christians need to turn away from their own church laws and ordinances and return to God's law themselves.

It will be their personal covenant with God. Once they have chosen God as their King by respecting His laws, they will receive atonement through Christ's sacrifice, the High Priest in the temple in heaven.

These two combinations re-establish God as your King. Just like this combination once established Israel as God's kingdom. With it, you are granted to be under God's rule, but still in enemy territory. God has not promised you to live in paradise here on earth, for He will not force the

worship of Him. The best thing Christians who fear their future should do is go back to God's rules themselves and then pray to God for deliverance. The moment you place yourself under His protection and care, He will help fight your battles. If Christians in the United States fight to incorporate worship into the state to protect themselves, they will not help God or themselves. The result will be catastrophe. The persecutions of the Middle Ages will return.

The situation of the Christians in America can, in part, be compared to the situation of Israel before the promised land. When God called on them to enter the land, they did not do it. When God told them He would not go with them without their trust, they answered by going into Canaan anyway to prove to God their willingness. But they were defeated because they still did not let God lead them. When they refused, they disobeyed, and when they went,



In the vision of the coming kingdoms, God explained that after God's earthly rule ended heathen rulers would take over until His kingdom would be restored. A very important message came with the vision "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed ... Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold.." (Dan.2:44-45)

The kingdom of God will not be established by human "hands". Meaning it is not given o God's people to establish an earthly kingdom on God's behalf. He will do it Himself at His chosen time and His chosen way.

they still disobeyed. Both instances were disobedience, both were taking the matter into their own hands and trying to drag God along with them. And so what appears as obedience and alliance with God is not when the people go by their own rules. The same took place when



What and tares together. Jesus gave a parable with an important lesson for His people. They were not to divide the tares and the wheat, representing the children of the world and God's people. He told them to leave this job to Jesus when He returned, and to have angels help carry out the work.

Again, God's people are warned not to take rule in the world in His name. He said it is not a task entrusted to them (Mat 13:28-30; Mat 13:41).

the Ark, as well as the people, were just as bad as those they were fighting. Many Christians see the symptoms of sin, but they do not see the cause of it. Often, they, by misrepresenting God, actually cause sin and rebellion.

At one time the people in Judea wanted to crown Jesus as king: *«When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Then Jesus, realizing that they were about to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself.» (John 6:14-16)*

Israel later fought the Philistines. The Philistines were their long-standing enemies who continually invaded their lands and suppressed them. Israel was losing the battle but decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the war, representing God's authority and presence. They cheered and were so happy when it came into the camp, sure it would bring them victory. Instead, they were beaten once again, and the Ark was taken from them. You cannot force God into a war He does not want to participate in by bringing «His name» or even «law». Those who carried

That is right, Christ would not accept kingship in His honor when it was based on the wrong principles. Jesus would not be the kind of Messiah they wanted; He was trying to be the Messiah they needed. No Christians in the United States of America cannot force Christ to rule there either. Some Christians who say they need to take the USA back quote Jesus: *“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence”* (John 18:36). But as we just saw, they did try to force Him to accept a crown at one time. Jesus said they did not want what He represented, which was His law. They only wanted Him if He would heal, provide, and do what they wanted. Jesus needed them to accept Him on His terms, but they would not.

So, for Christians in the United States who are mostly in need of conversion themselves, who break God’s law to follow their own ordinances, who think they will be victorious, bringing God into the battlefield, will be very disappointed with the end result when finding out that God did not go with them. Jesus said false Christs would appear in the end times, and surely if Christ does not go with them, they might just choose a false Christ who does what they want instead. In Judea’s case, this led to their ruin. They did not accept Christ, but later, when another Messiah-figure appeared, they followed him. This led to the rebellion, which caused the Roman army to destroy both them and the city. If Christians do not turn from their ways, they will end up with a false Christ that leads them into destruction as well. The difference is knowing and understanding God’s principles. By knowing Christ’s character, we will know if it is really Him, for He would never accept a crown from people on their terms. The salvation of the believer is to turn to God and accept that God’s kingdom will not be in this world as long as He is not voluntarily elected, and with Him, also His law. For without it, He can not be the judge, the elohim. And it will not be established by “human hands”.

When men of sin take over

In Bible history, we learn that the enemy's suppression results from God's people falling away. It was when Israel fell away from God that He allowed the Philistines to subdue them; it was when they rejected His rule that God allowed Babylon to conquer them.

Every time a different ruler takes over, it is because God's people are not in the right relationship with God. How can God defend one over another if they both equally do the same bad things?

How can God defend us if we are not repentant, without at the same time aiding us in doing harm?

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, we learn the “man of sin” comes after a falling away: “except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” Many think this refers to the «others» falling away, but the Bible has already given the answer in God's dealings with His people in the past. The others had already fallen away from the time of Babel; Paul is speaking about the fall of God's people. Suppressive rule comes because God's people fall away. When we leave God or live in violation of God's moral law—when we become worldly, unrighteous, unkind, unloving, or misrepresent Him—that is when the way is paved for our suppression because God withdraws His protection from us.

The Christians in Europe and in the United States lost control because the majority partook in the evil; they fell away from the truth. When God called them to turn back to Him and His law, they would not.

They wanted to keep their own traditions and create their own suppressive leaders. They chose greedy leaders promising them prosperity in worldly things. They did not care for the weak among them; they discriminated. They did not love and welcome the stranger; instead, their lives were about finding ways to please themselves. Their behavior is in many ways the same as everyone else in the world; it is hard to see the difference. Their pursuits are the same, their traditions are the same, their pleasures are the same. When the majority of Christians stopped reforming and instead became one with the world,

they had a falling away. This leads to the same situation as in the past: God's spirit withdraws, and suppressive leaders take advantage and take over. Their only way of salvation is to go back to God with a whole heart, not to try to overthrow the government. History is repeating itself.

During the Roman Empire, Christians were persecuted for refusing to participate in Roman sins. After a while, they adjusted, persecution slowed, and eventually they had more freedom. When they began to drift away from the truth and their traditions, and their purpose was largely unified with the pagan state, they took control of the political climate and ended up with the pope. This was a man who claimed to rule in Christ's stead, but he became an oppressor. This oppression lasted a really long time. What the Christians should have done instead of pushing for a pope and a governmental position was to turn back to God and God's law.

In the past, when God's people turned and renewed their covenant with Him, He came to their rescue. If they had done it this way, God would still have been their leader, but instead of this, they chose an earthly leadership. They rejected God as king and selected their own. Just like with Israel, the Christians ended up with a long line of Sauls. Saul fought against Israel's enemies, but he also refused to follow God's rules when he disagreed, and ended up killing God's priests and persecuting God's anointed.

The majority of Christians in the United States need to realize that they are not as holy as they think they are, that they have fallen away, and that they have not listened to the prophets who were sent to them. Instead, they have chosen to follow false prophets and leaders who have led them astray. They listened to what sounded good to them, and they have not turned back to God's law and rule. As a result, the enemy has gained ground and is now in a position to subdue Christians, at least in part. If they choose the same path the Christians under the Roman Empire did, they will simply repeat those mistakes and end up with something that is Christian in name only.

The reason for the irreligious takeover is that the Christians have fallen away. By their own conduct, they paved the way for it. The solution lies not in fighting the result but in dealing with the cause.

Many Christians feel they only want to secure the Bill of Rights, but as we can see, it does not work if everyone does not agree on the common ground rules. Now that the country has changed, it is in a state of conflict no matter who rules it. Another alternative is to declare atheism a religion and the theory of evolution a belief, and give it the same conditions and limitations as other religions. Only then can they hope for equal rights again. They should not combat it by forcing God upon the land.

As long as evangelicals and protestants in the USA still follow the papal laws, they are under papal rule. Meaning they still have not placed themselves under God's rule. When all their holy days have been created by the Pope, when the day they go to church has been established by the Pope, and when, in large part, their traditions are from the Papal institution, they have chosen him as their ruler before God. The Pope is their Elohim. The pope adopted most of the traditions from pagan religions, which, in turn, placed them under «the rule of the dragon». This cannot bring the kingdom of peace God promised, nor did it bring an earthly utopia when it was enforced in the Middle Ages or under the pagan Roman Empire.

This is what Christians in the United States need to turn from. If God is to lead them, they must choose His laws above human ordinances. If they do not choose His laws, He will not rule over them, even if they put an image of Him on a pedestal. He still advises and invites people to follow Him individually, just as He did with the Israelites and Jews. The situation with the Christians in the United States can also be compared to Jerusalem before it was destroyed by the Babylonians. They believed themselves to be God's people, but they were following pagan practices and were just as ungodly as the people around them. God even said they were worse (2Ch 33:9). God said He would not rule over them anymore, but sent His prophets to warn them of what not to do and advise them on what to do instead. The prophet Jeremiah was sent with the message that they had to yield to the Babylonian government; if they fought them, they would be destroyed.

God told them that He would not side with them in a battle; He was withdrawing. And so God's advice to them was that they should accept



God was withdrawing, but He sent Jeremiah to tell them not to fight the Babylonians. If they did, they would get in trouble. God was no longer part of their government and would not fight alongside them for their independence. The people and priests refused to believe God would send them such a message. They insisted that God was with them and wanted them to fight. They could not believe God would want them to stand down. Jeremiah was put in prison for treason for bringing them these messages.

the takeover as best they could, because they were just not strong enough to protect themselves against them. The priests and people in Jeremiah's day were angry with Jeremiah and refused to believe that God would not protect them anymore. As a result, they convinced their leader to punish Jeremiah and rebel against Babylon's suppression. They listened to false prophets and persecuted the one who told them the truth. It was their own rebellion against God that caused Babylon to besiege the city and destroy it. Their leader was taken prisoner, his sons and people were killed, and the city was left in ruins. God did not want this to happen, but this is what happens when we go to battle without His leading.

The same goes for the majority of the Christians in the United States today. God will not go together with them when they fight the irreligious power. He will not lead them when they do not follow His law. Babylon was judged by God for its actions, and so will anyone who suppresses and forces others to deny God or follow other gods. Their punishment will come for what they have done, for their crimes against humanity. God will not let the irreligious off the hook.

Many Christians will not accept the message that they should not try to establish an earthly kingdom for God today. They prefer to listen to the prophets who tell them to fight, to take over, and that God is with them. They want to believe that they still have God's blessing. God still cares about them, which is why He warns them and calls upon them. God did not want the people in Jerusalem to be killed and become slaves. He still wanted to help them as best He could under the circumstances, but it was dependent on their receiving His prophet and understanding the seriousness of their situation.

God does not pick sides in a conflict because He represents His own government and will always choose His own side. That is why it must start with us turning to Him: *«Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts» (Zac. 1:3)*

Before taking the city of Jericho, Joshua asked the angel of the Lord whether he was with them or with their enemies. The leader of the heavenly host answered that he was on neither side. *«And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.» (Jos.5:13-14)* He was not sent to be on anyone's side, but to fight the Lord's battle. If they were on the Lord's side, they fought with God, not the other way around.

Why did God participate in war?

Is war necessary? Many accuse God of the wars that He seems to have initiated in the Bible. And it is true that God engages in war. Using the American Civil War as an example, we can see how war is sometimes necessary. The Southern states built up their wealth on the backs of slaves and inhumanity, abusing the principles of the Constitution for profit.

Perhaps, at a kindergarten level, the idea is: if you are good, you do not go to war; if you do, you are bad. But this is not a morally good concept. Sometimes, you must fight for the oppressed and against the oppressors. Slavery happened in the USA, and the suffering was their responsibility. The Civil War was necessary when the South refused to let go of its slaves. Likewise, Europe needed the USA when Germany went on its rampage. They were too strong for them to handle on their own.



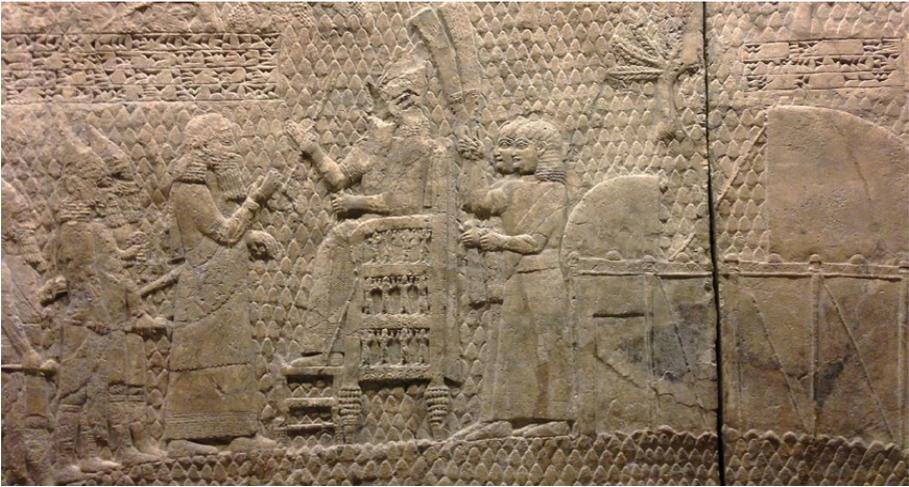
Germany believed it had a noble cause and that everyone would benefit from being part of German society. They dreamed that the result of their actions would be a Utopia, but it was far from it. Most countries did not

want them or their ideology. Most certainly, the jews did not appreciate Hitler's concept of Utopia. The USA's help was greatly needed at the time. If the USA had not intervened, the world might look very different today.

Very few understand that the principles of ruling a land by choice and freedom, and at the same time partaking in war, do not have to contradict each other.

God ordered Israel to drive out the Canaanites because their inhuman and destructive culture was hindering any good progress in the entire region. God made war on them to save the region. If He had not intervened, world history would have changed, just as it would have if Hitler had not been stopped. We do not understand why God had to intervene in the situation unless we see the bigger picture.

Sometimes, God does not judge immediately, and the consequences become evident over time. God decided to spare Nineveh, which He initially saw as needing to be destroyed. He sent His prophet Jonah to warn them, and when they responded by humbling themselves and praying for forgiveness, God spared them. If God at that point had carried out the sentencing, He would have been seen as unfair, and His judgments would not have been understood, and only caused terror. However, a few decades later, their true nature and dangerous ways became evident when the King of Nineveh and his soldiers went on a bloody rampage across the entire region, attempting to create a world kingdom under his rule. Even Hitler's Germany was more merciful by comparison. The Assyrians had completely destroyed Israel, where Jonah had come from, perhaps even Jonah's relatives. An Assyrian king then took up residence in Nineveh and continued from there. Every Judean city except Jerusalem was conquered. One inscription from a temple in the city of Nimrod records the fate of the leaders of the city of Suru on the Euphrates River: "I built a pillar at the city gate, and I flayed all the chief men who had revolted, and I covered the pillar with their skins; some I walled up inside the pillar, some I impaled upon the pillar on stakes." The Bible says they ripped up the bellies of women with children (2Ki 8:12). In their own accounts of war, they bragged about burning large numbers of preteens. They were known to be



Reliefs about the conquest of one of the Judean cities read: "Sennacherib, the mighty king, king of the country of Assyria, sitting on the throne of judgment, before (or at the entrance of) the city of Lachish (Lakhisha). I give permission for its slaughter."

especially cruel to their victims and prisoners; many were forced into slavery, and families were separated. One palace relief depicts them piling up corpses and enjoying the torture. (https://www.ancient.eu/Assyrian_Warfare/)

When the King of Nineveh got ready to take Jerusalem and besieged the city where God's throne was standing, he showed no sign of remorse.

The throne belonged to the same God who had spared their city when they pleaded with Him. They had now killed His people, destroyed their cities, and were now mocking God. God had had enough and sent an angel to carry out the judgment over the soldiers who had all the blood on their hands. If he had not, they would have destroyed Jerusalem as well.

Even though God does know the future, He depends on people committing crimes before He can punish them, or every judgment He will ever make will be doubted and questioned. He will not have trust, and there will be no peace. In the case of the Assyrian king, even his rampage did not initially cause people to view him as evil, because

many of the cities he attacked were disliked or considered bad as well. And so sometimes it takes time to see who the hero is and who the villain is.

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It can be compared to the USA and European countries fighting Islamic countries. Blood flows, but most think it is necessary because those countries are run by what they perceive as bad people. So, is the USA really the hero or the villain? People still debate it even after all the lives lost. The same was true of the Assyrian and Babylonian empires, and of those that followed. Were their wars justified and even needed, or were they driven by selfish motives?

Regarding God’s war against the Canaanites, it is important to know that they had a choice before they were sentenced. During the Civil War in America, the lives of the soldiers of the South and the North could have been spared if the South had agreed to stop the slave trade. They were not allowed to use their freedom to suppress another’s freedom. If the North had not proceeded to go to war, slaves would have suffered and died. When you are in a situation where you have no choice and are acting for the sake of morals and freedom, war is necessary. If you are forced to choose between an oppressor and an oppressed, you will most likely choose the oppressed. But what if the oppressed are the bad ones and the oppression is the only way to save the others? These are the ever-asked questions in a situation of war. This is why God has a moral law He goes by; He can not judge randomly. God often was forced to judge when some people went too far and refused to reason. In the incident of the army surrounding Jerusalem, He was forced to choose either to let them destroy the people and city, or He had to destroy them. There was no other option. If God acted and if God did not act, lives would be lost either way, and He would have been responsible either way. So He judged and decided the army was in the wrong, and they were judged according to God’s law for stealing, killing, and so on, and sentenced to death right there and then.

If there is a rapist in your neighborhood and he goes from house to house, and you are able to stop him, but only by force, are you a good person if you don't? Would the victim consider you good? And if you stopped him, the perpetrator would not perceive you as good towards him. In matters of sin, you cannot please everyone and still be good. Nor can you remain good by simply doing nothing.

So God can be the defender of freedom while also being a judge. If God does not judge, He is not good. God's principles, His ten commandments, ensure freedom and equality of life, but if they are violated, the freedom the law offers can not be given to everyone. When the violation of the moral law ruins someone else's rights, we end up in a higher court. And so God is forced to act as a judge when His principles are violated. As long as there is transgression, sin, and violation of human rights, we need a judge. But we need a judge with clean hands. A good person sometimes is forced to put people on trial. And just as the judges of our courts do not take pleasure in seeing criminals stand before them, neither does God. We do not wish for people to get hurt, but if we have to choose between the perpetrator and the victim, we are only good if we choose to protect the victim.

The lives of those in Canaan would have been spared if they had left. Everyone had time to leave the area or stop the terrible acts they were doing. We know from the Bible at least some of their transgressions.

One was sexual perversion between family members, temple prostitution (often forced on young girls), slavery by force, and human sacrifices. Children were not even safe in their own homes, and their society and life were under the control of fear and desire. Other nations followed their example, and the world as a whole was threatened.

Their crimes against humanity were most likely a lot more than what the Bible says. For God in the Bible always waits as long as possible before judging. In the case of Canaan, God said He waited hundreds of years before giving them up and acting (Genesis 15:16). Those hundreds of years showed how reluctant God is to judge and how eager

He is to save first. No war came without warning, and God warned them years in advance. And in the end, the city of Jericho was warned an additional seven days before it was conquered. They could all leave. But they chose to stay and fight.

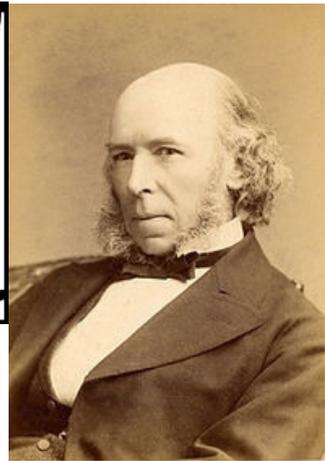
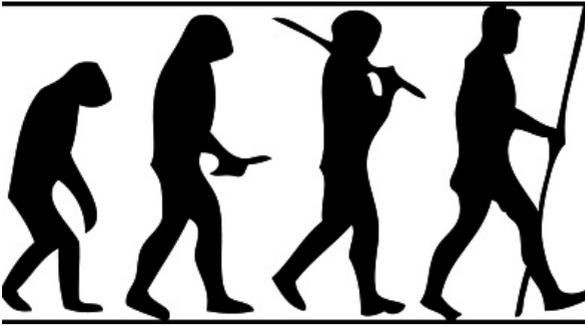
There is a difference between dealing with crime and establishing a kingdom based on an agreement (covenant). Sometimes individuals commit crimes, and you punish them by sending them to prison. Sometimes a nation or a whole society commits the crime together. The judgment can not be withheld just because the criminals are in great numbers. After world war 2, we saw one German soldier after another standing trial because of the slavery and mass murder of Jews, gypsies, the handicapped, and other unfortunates. Their actions were legal under German law on German soil, but once they were conquered, they were put on trial.

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When Egypt was at its greatest and most powerful, God interfered and made it weak, promising that He would prevent it from becoming great again. God said, *“I will make it so weak that it will never again rule over the nations.”* (Ezekiel 29:15) God did the same with many of the powerful kingdoms and empires judging them and taking from them the ability to survive as a kingdom when their cruelty became too much for the rest to bear and when they forced people to follow their mindset. He did the same at Babel. And so it is not the strongest that survives; it is those who are the least cruel, as God intervenes as a judge throughout history. God did not attack those who did not follow Him; He attacked those who committed great crimes against humanity to save human



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So even in the more modern world, when a society commits a crime against humanity and calls it «legal» in their territory, we often accept it as fair that a larger force intervenes and puts them on trial. Most of these leaders got the death sentence. Few irreligious would call that unfair today, yet they hate God for doing the same thing. The modern world has even created the International Criminal Court to bring

societies that commit massive violations of human rights to justice. Meaning, even they see the need to tell countries that they can not do whatever they want just because they are in charge of their own country. Even they see the need for a greater court to deal with large-scale crimes.

The wars in the Bible are criticized because, unlike the crimes of World War 2, we no longer know and can behold the crimes they committed and are therefore not struck in terror by their actions or feel triumph and relieved by their fall. Nor do we understand what the world would look like if they had been allowed to continue without hindrance.

But if we had lived in their day and been suppressed by these powers and heard the cries and seen the oppression, we might have been relieved by God's judgments. When God, in the end, judges spiritual Babylon, He says to His people: *“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her”* (Rev 18:20). God has brought judgment for His people's sake. Why, what had they done to them? Refused to praise God and go to church? No, it explains: *“And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth”* (v.24). So God judges and goes to war against the end-time governments in the large part for the sake of His oppressed.

God does punish humans, as we can see many times throughout Bible history. He takes action when cruelty becomes too unbearable. This is not punishment for not singing His praises; it is a «greater power» coming in to put a society committing terrible crimes on trial. A heavenly Criminal court, so to speak. He steps into their territory, dismisses their unfair laws, and sentences them. Just like worldly institutions try to do. But the worldly institutions, unlike God, do not have clean hands. They are operated by people who themselves follow the rule of the flesh.

God is a judge. And many times in the Bible, we can see that God's act of judgment comes because they suppress and treat each other horribly. When God destroyed Sodom, He said He had «heard the cry» from the city. He could not watch it any longer without acting. He said the same

about Jerusalem at one point. He said their hands were full of blood. He had to judge. But no matter who God judges, He always tries to reason and communicate with them first. He wants to teach them what is right, but if they do not want to listen, there is nothing He can do. For the sake of others, He is forced to stop them.

And so God does judge even among men who reject Him as well as those who profess Him as their God. But judging the ungodly is not the same as forcing them to be citizens in His kingdom.

God never forces anyone to obey Him or sing His praises; He doesn't possess their minds. He wants their trust, their love, and devotion. He wants to «reason with them». He invites a conversation. He asks us to invite Him into our hearts to hear Him out. And all of this He does to save man because He loves him and wants him to get a second chance. So that they one day can see God's true paradise. The apostle Paul committed many crimes against God's people and humanity, but God saw that he had been confused and was sincere at heart. God turned him around, and he became a faithful preacher. God's patience with Paul shows the reason God sometimes waits. Often, people do not understand their own behavior. When Jesus was crucified, He said about those who had hammered him to the cross: *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Luk.23:34). God does not judge in haste; He will always try to speak to them first, either by His spirit or His representatives.

This is the principle of rule by choice, through a covenant. Christ confirmed the covenant between God and anyone who wanted to be part of His kingdom. He secured the right to it with His blood and calls on us to trust Him to be our leader.

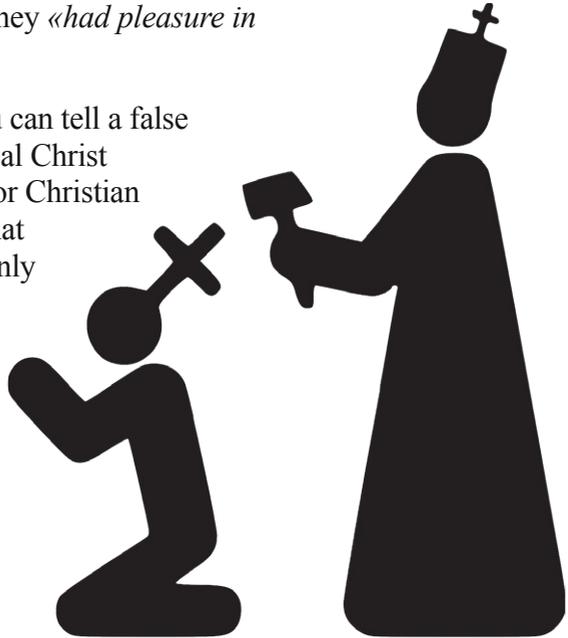
But it will not happen in this world. Here, God has permitted man to reject Him and build his own kingdom.

The reward for those who choose to follow God is God's land. And He invites those whom He wants. No humans have the right to it or can claim it. It is a gift He gives to those who wish to live in a land where He is the king. *“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my*

kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” (Joh. 18:36). Jesus is here honest. He says His kingdom is not in this world because He is not chosen by the people. Peter did fight; he drew a sword to save Jesus, but Jesus needed everyone's support.

The antichrist figure in the Bible chooses the opposite approach. It says: *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God ..with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness” (2Th 2:4,9 & 10).* Antichrist wants to rule the world whether you invite him or not. He uses lies and tricks to obtain power over you. But most of all, he appeals to your flesh, desires. It says that those who follow him do so because they *«had pleasure in unrighteousness» (v.12)*

This is one of the ways you can tell a false Christ kingdom from the real Christ kingdom. The false Christ or Christian leader will break the rule that worship is to be obtained only by invitation. The enemy will always use temptation or force when it comes to religious practice, and he will appeal to the laws of the flesh. He will flatter and seduce you so you will want to be in his presence.



Freedom of conscience

For some time, the USA and European countries have upheld religious freedom, allowing people to follow their conscience and God's spirit without fear of persecution. They have not forced people to adopt one way of life, yet they have punished crimes committed against others, which have violated other people's rights.

The difference between the USA and Europe was that, due to its constitution, the USA did not permit legislation favoring any particular faith. Although Europe adopted the principle of freedom to follow

one's conscience, many European countries maintained state churches and promoted propaganda favoring their chosen church for a long time. Now, the state favors irreligious ideologies over Christianity, making many people of faith feel like second-class citizens—especially those who do not follow Papal institutions but instead adhere to Biblical teachings.

As irreligion took over government institutions, educational facilities, and the media, crime and hatred have rapidly increased. In the USA, the very principles Christians advocated for in the Constitution are now being used against them. Many irreligious individuals attack religious ideology and seek to use force to prevent the religious from following their conscience when God's morals conflict with their own.

They want to replace the Christian conscience with a new set of moral standards called 'progressive.' However, many of these standards were already accepted in ancient Greece and Rome before the rise of Christianity—they are recurring forms of pagan social laws.



The picture shows girls with Beatlemania. To many in those days, it was shocking how religiously devoted they were to four musicians. This era saw a shift in power and influence from the church to the media. The less religious people got, the more immorality and violence in society grew. Young people started idolizing musicians, movie stars, and other public figures instead of God. In doing so, they created a modern version of the old pagan religions, with real people as idols instead of stone and wood figures. From this time on, culture and media became the new “religious” teachers, promoting new standards of morality.

Before this time, being religious was politically correct, and sin was a shame. Now it is politically correct to be sinful and shameful to be religious. This dramatic change took place over only a few decades.

In the “land of the free,” many now fight for the right of freedom of speech and the freedom to follow their religious conscience all over again. They fight for the right to believe and practice the morals given in the Bible. The “progressive” movements are now going against the Constitution because the Constitution allows faith, while their dreams of a perfect world involve the suppression of religion, or the abolishment of it, or the submission of the religious conscience.

To control people, they remove the rights of, bully, or pressure those who hold different morals, seeking to silence them. Not content with this, they also want to force churches to replace God’s standards with their own. If the churches are willing to do this, they will accept their existence.

If pastors wed gay couples and bless transgenderism, if sexual immorality can be accepted and celebrated, if the creation story is rejected, evangelism stopped, and the rule of the flesh allowed to be superior to God's law, they will allow the church to continue to exist. God is allowed to be the God of their desires. He can be their graven image or a legend. The ultimate success of a sinful man is to «convert» God and subdue Him under their rule. Man rules over God. But it is all an illusion.

Those who do not agree to follow these rules will be pressured, put on trial, forced to submit, or rejected by society. They will destroy their livelihood if they can.

Today, religious people are only accepted if they give up Biblical morals and convert to the worldly standards of right and wrong.

By destroying the principles of the Constitution, the irreligious progressive movement is not progressing at all but going back to the ever-existing source of conflict and suppression. They are just repeating, with a restored old ideology, the same tactic and behavior that is assumed as a road to peace and utopia, but which in reality never has been.

God created man intelligent, with the ability to reason, and never will there be real peace in the world or any society if anyone is denied the right to think, talk, and choose. Where there is no happiness, there is no peace; where there is submission based on fear, there is no freedom.

If people are forced to go against their conscience to earn a livelihood, receive an education, or get a job, they will not find true happiness.

If they are tolerated but not treated as equals—if they are made outcasts and silenced—conflict will eventually arise. Society might enjoy peace briefly before facing new uprisings, rebellions, and societal challenges. History has shown that these patterns will inevitably repeat, regardless of whether the victors are irreligious or Christian.

The mark of the beast.

The final conflict described in Revelation 13 and 14 revisits the previously mentioned dilemmas and God's principles. It depicts a society that misrepresents God and ultimately compels Him to judge them for it.

It speaks of a mark received on the forehead and the right hand. This is not a physical mark, as many Christians claim today. Known as the Mark of the Beast, it is not associated with an actual beast; rather, this is symbolic language. The Bible elsewhere explains that a beast symbolizes an irreligious or religious-political power that oppresses God's people. The forehead represents our intellect, reason, and decision-making, while the hand represents the choices we make.

God instructed Israel to bind His law on their hands and foreheads as a symbolic reminder to choose Him through trust and free will. This was not a mark He forced upon them, but something He asked them to do willingly, signifying their loyalty to Him (Exodus 13:9; Deuteronomy 11:18). In this way, they would be reminded of the origin of sin and encouraged to trust and obey God as their beloved leader.

In Revelation 13:11-18 we see a second beast, a political power, copying other political powers before Him. From the clues given, we see a republic (no crown), a democracy (the leaders ask for authority from the people for the establishment of their law), it is established on a new piece of land (out of the earth) and not the "old world" (out of the sea), it appears as a Christian nation at first (lamb-like horns), but it will speak like the dragon (persecute Christ and God's people). It will be a super-power co-existing and cooperating with a divided Europe (Dan. 2:42-43; Rev 13:12). Considering the time of its dominion right before Christ's second coming, this description can only fit with the USA. The



beast it is “making an image of” is the first beast mentioned in Revelation 13. The power that for 1260 years persecuted people in Christ’s name, the papal organization, the one who changed God’s times and laws that they forced upon people (Dan 7:25; Rev.13:1-10). And before that, we see the dragon, representing Rome, executing Jesus and persecuting the first church (Rev.12).

All these powers came under the influence of God’s enemy when, through their governmental authority, they violated religious conscience and pressured people to go against God’s moral standards and laws, urging them to accept human rule in religious matters. God’s symbolic language is fascinating: at creation, God told man to rule over the beast (Gen. 1:26), but in the end time, the beast is said to rule over man. This symbolizes both the perversion of creation’s order and the ongoing conflict with sin—how humanity imitates the beast, living by the flesh and constantly seeking self-gratification.

These governments try to gather people under the wrong principles. The reason Papal Rome is a beast is that they followed the same pattern of rule. They placed their rule over God (their laws were elevated and chosen before God’s), and their flesh ruled over them. The papal

institution sought to gratify itself rather than God. As Scripture says, *“But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.”* And, *“For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts”* (Jeremiah 23:22; Malachi 2:7).

To say it frankly, all these beastly governments want you to replace God’s morals and law with theirs. They want your choices to be based on their understanding of right and wrong, on their laws and legislation.

They feel threatened by God’s authority in His law and persecute those who are loyal to Him. They are ready to allow you to continue in your church of preference as long as you go by their rules and make God a

King without a crown and without law. This is the real «lawlessness» that Jesus and His followers warned against (2 Thessalonians 2:7, Matthew 13:41, Matthew 23:27-28). Because if we do not have God’s law, He is not really our God; man is, the flesh is.

We are told in Revelation 14:12 that those who refuse to change their mindset to adopt an earthly, god-like leader (forehead, hand) are the ones who also choose God’s law and have the faith of Jesus. The faith of Jesus refers to how Jesus came in flesh but did not live according to the law of the flesh, but instead relied completely on trust and faith in God, thereby gaining the victory.

Those described as not taking the 'mark of the beast' refuse to abandon their conscience and loyalty to God, even when pressured by governments or by Christians who believe in using force in matters of conscience. Whether it is a fallen-away Protestant nation turned irreligious or Christians following their own laws, anyone who seeks to take God’s place in our lives is a threat to those *“who follow the Lamb wherever he goes”* (Rev. 14:4).

In Revelation 14:7, we are told that, in the end times, God invites the whole world to worship Him as the creator. The mark of the beast law prohibits or pressures people from doing that.



In Revelation 16, God is depicted as contending with three major powers. One is the dragon, which is said to persecute those who keep God's law and have the faith of Jesus (Rev. 12:17). The same is true of the other powers.

The dragon refers to "Satan," but it also represented the Roman Empire, a pagan state that played God and persecuted Christianity. In the end times, this dragon is resurrected and stands alongside the beast and the false prophet. Today, it most likely represents the devil's use of irreligious governments in the West to persecute God's people and law. The beast is the papacy, and the false prophet is fallen Protestantism.

But this time, according to the Bible, will be the last time. Why now, after it has been done so many times before? It has been done through paganism (Rom). Man has done it in God's and Christ's name (Middle Ages), in the name of «reason» (French Revolution, communist countries), in the name of all kinds of gods and religions. So why now? Why is it the backslidden Protestant nation of the USA?

In the Bible, there is a time for everything. God gives people time to repent and a time for judgment. He gave the Canaanites hundreds of years to reform. He gave Israel and Judah several hundred years to reform. He has also given the Catholics hundreds of years to reform, and now, lastly, He has given «reformed» Christians hundreds of years to reform.

The once-Protestant nation was not satisfied with its own fall; instead, it corrupted other nations with its immorality, leading the whole world to follow its example in indulging in sin. Its inventions were used to spread this immorality. The world now suffers under the oppression caused by unchecked desire, lust, greed, the pursuit of power, and the urge to be gods. Everyone believes their own way is right, even if it means stepping on others. When the suffering becomes too great, apostasy is irreversible, and God has pleaded long enough, the time of God's judgment must come for the sake of the afflicted. There comes a point when the perpetrator, through his actions, forces God to intervene and judge.

In Revelation, we see that the “time for judgment has come”, and when Jesus returns to gather His people. It says: *«for the time is come»* (Rev. 14,15)

God does not have pleasure in anyone's death (Ezek. 18:32). His first desire is for us to become better people. He cares for those who reject Him and have tried to give them a good life when they have let Him.

His first wish is for us to live, to be saved. And so this is His first aim and the reason it takes time. This involves a lot of work on His part to reason with us. He needs to know that a person has understood and made a decision before they are sentenced. Usually, for individuals, the complete rejection of the Spirit speaking to our hearts brings sentencing. Eternal life, citizenship in the new earth that God will make, is a gift, not a right.

Christ's message of peace is very easy. He wants us restored in His image. But before that, He needs to deal with the cause of our sin, our distrust in Him. When we have regained our trust in Him, He can start

to help us return to His design. A God-loving mind will rule the hand. The person who lives by lust is selfish by nature, for they seek pleasure for themselves in most of the things they do and the choices they make. And they love those who cheer them on and do what they do. When they see someone else live and thrive by being self-absorbed, it pleases them because it gives them the courage to do the same. In modern society, the more people elevate themselves, the more they are praised.

The beast mark on the forehead and hand is not a computer chip, or a vaccine, or anything of the sort. It is about worship. In the Bible, worship is about obedience, because it explains that you cannot worship God and go against His law and rule at the same time. You can not make your own set of rules and ask God to rule by them. God rules only by His law. He is the greatest scientist who ever existed. His intellect is far above what any human can ever hope to achieve. He has seen the beginning till the end. He has seen it all. He also rules another world, a universe. He knows what works and what does not work. He does not need to repeat mistakes or rule as humans rule. He does not accept your altercations or corrections to His law, or your new laws replacing it. He did not make mistakes in the law for you to correct. He is not old-fashioned and needs you to modernize His moral laws. Either you accept Him as your king and by it His law, which is His nature, or you do not worship Him, and you do not love or understand Him. We cannot change God's law because we cannot change Him.

Revelation 13 says: *«And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast» (Rev 13:12)*

Meaning you obey the rules of man over the rules of God. You give your obedience to a “beast”, a human religious-political power over God.

Do not misunderstand, the Bible is not against laws in societies. Even Paul tells us to respect the laws of the land:

«I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and

for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.» (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

It is good that we have governments that deal with people committing terrible crimes against others.

This is not what the Bible is speaking of in Revelation 13. The laws in question and bringing on the final judgement are related to worship.

This is a matter that concerns God and His people on earth because it threatens people's religious conscience.

Jesus said: *«Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's» (Matt. 22:21)*. Here Christ separates what we can give earthly governments and what we can not give them. The mark of the beast is about what we can not give the state, our obligation to God.

This very thing, earthly rules have fought so long to avoid, but never could. The same reason ancient rulers declared themselves to be God, so they would not have this problem, the reason the atheist government tried to remove the belief in God, so they would not have this problem, the reason the Catholic Church claimed to be God's representative, so they would not have this problem. They think that if only they can control man's conscience, they can have peace, and the only way to get there is to move people's loyalty from God to the state, and by doing so, make the state their god. This is how the conflict is tied to worship and a government state at the same time. They don't want you to bow heads, kneel, and pray to them. They just want you to obey them in matters where your loyalty is with God. They want to be your moral conscience in some misunderstood attempt to create world peace. They think they need you to make man your god on earth in order for that to be achieved.

Jesus has even permitted pagan and other religious societies to exist as long as they do not destroy other people's right to choose Him. He even says: *«Your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.» (Matt. 5,45)* He wishes them to follow Him. He might plead

with them through His spirit, or invite them through gospel workers, but He will not force Himself upon them. God has allowed societies that reject Him to exist and have accepted that they do not want to worship Him and allowed them to live their lives free to make their own gods, leaders, and make their choices.

The conflict in Revelation is tied to laws forbidding God's people from following their conscience and from giving *«unto God the things that are God's»*.

Meaning the favor God has previously given those who reject Him is not returned to His people, and thus God is forced to judge, for He has promised to fight for His people's rights. These laws that the beast represents are an attempt to force you to go against your conscience in your obligation to God. They do it by trying to make you not trust God and what God has said, just like the serpent did in the Garden of Eden. They want you to question God and then act accordingly, placing your trust in them instead. That they will provide, that they will save. That they will speak on God's behalf or be as a god to you.

When you make this decision with your intellect, you give them your trust before God, and make the decision with your hand, your actions, you risk taking the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast simply means you follow the authority of the beast in religious matters and give them what you need to give God in order to be saved, your trust (faith).

Revelation 13 tells us that those who do not choose what the earthly government wants will be denied the right to buy or sell, and some will even be denied the right to live. This is pressure beyond, and many might choose to go against their conscience to secure themselves a good life in this life. God has little good to say to those who do, for their decision to save themselves will increase the pressure and persecution of those who choose to remain faithful.

It also says you can take the *«name of the beast»*. In the Bible, a name is always something that speaks of someone's mission, character, or behavior. In the old times, names had meanings; they were not

**Decision:
Adopting the mindset of the beast.**

**The carry out of your
choices (Obedient to
the laws of the beast)**

*Mark: Represents your allegiance to The beast /
Sign of loyalty to "the beast".*

*Rewards you with access to society and the
economy if you obey.*

something randomly picked. All of God's names in the Bible are descriptions of who He is. The name of the beast is the nature of the beast, his traits.

God does not care so much if you have a piece of metal inserted underneath your skin as He does if you have a corrupted heart and mind.

As Jesus said, it is not so much that which enters the body that makes a man unclean, but that which comes out of the heart.

“Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; ... That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. ..or from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil.” (Mark. 7: 18,20 &21)

It's your faith God wants, your heart. He is like the Father standing waiting for the prodigal son to return home. The battle is of your devotion to who you give your loyalty to. Not a physical number placed on your physical hand.

In the Bible, a name describes who you are—your character, personality, title, or purpose.

If we want to know what the coming law is about, there are only a few commandments that tell you to «give to God what God's is». In matters of worship and obedience to God, four of the ten commandments can be challenging under the mark of the beast law. One says to not have any other gods, the second to not make an image of God to worship, the third to not speak the Lord's name in vain, and the fourth to keep the sabbath holy. And so the laws of the beast, which you must not take on your forehead and hand, are contrary to or in competition with these laws.

The first of God's laws tells you who to worship, the second tells you how not to worship Him, the third tells you to respect Him, and the fourth tells you how to worship Him. The beast at least symbolically challenges all of these commandments. The first to not have any other God is challenged when the «beast» presents you with a higher authority requesting from you what you owe God, your trust, and loyalty. The second tells us not to make a graven image of God in the likeness of any creature on earth and to not «*bow down thyself to them, nor serve them*». This is exactly what is written about the «image of the beast.»

in Revelation. It is presented as a god (authority in competition with God). It also says, «*as many as would not worship the image of the*

beast should be killed». They are forced to submit. Again, remember the language in Revelation is symbolic.

The third commandment of your duty towards God's name, the beast can attack by taking God's name in support of something that goes against God's principles.

The fourth commandment is the only one in which God says Himself how He wants to be worshipped.

This is why many believe the mark of the beast laws are related to the Sabbath commandment. A commandment that has been changed by the Catholic church, and the change has also been kept by most protestant churches.

They want you to worship on the day instituted by church ordinances (Sunday) instead of the day God instituted as a homage to Him (sunset Friday to sunset Saturday/Sabbath). By the words of the law itself, you pay homage to God as your life-giver by observing it, and it was made for man's sake so God could bless him.

The command that asks you to pay homage to the Creator of all things is seen as of no value or is not understood by many. However, going against this commandment and creating a new one in its place is achieved by taking from God what belongs to God to give it to earthly governments. When you replace it with human legislation and keep that above what God asks for, you have made them your god before God, and if you do it in God's name, you have taken God's name in vain. But you also break the principle of the second commandment, saying: «Thou shalt not make unto thee ...any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God». When you make your government your spiritual authority, and you give them the homage due to God, or you follow a leader who pretends to be like god and puts his legislation above God's, you also break the second law.

If you take a command by God to worship Him, as seen in the fourth commandment, and change it or abolish it, then you have, by your

action, chosen to whom you pay your homage. You will also have refused God's invitation.

In this way, man will become your conscience in religious matters. Instead of giving what you owe God, you take that and give it to man instead. You give Caesar what God is. Your faith in God and what He asks is replaced with faith in man and letting them take God's place in your life.

Right now, there is actually a worldwide attack on the Sabbath commandment. Firstly, because the commandment claims God created the world in six days, and the rest of the world claims the earth was made through an evolutionary process and that there is no God.

Now think about how God chose to symbolize these powers in the image of beasts. The world media, art, governments, and learning facilities all say that man is not created in the image of God but has evolved from beasts. They teach mankind to compare themselves to beasts, and they teach them to view their instincts and behavior in light of that development. They teach children to follow their lust because they are nothing but developed species from beasts. By viewing the beast, beholding it, they see a reason to act like it. We are taught that the world's progress happened by chance, that we can not control it. That

**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to
God the things that are God's. (Mark 12:17)**

our flesh and instincts helped us survive and evolve into intelligent beings.

The pressure to accept this view of life's origin has been so great that most church organizations have agreed to accept, at least in part, that we have developed from the beast. Even the Catholic church has accepted that God used an evolutionary process and that the six-day creation story is a lie. The whole world is now following this ideology and has accepted it as a truth and a fact that they claim can not be disputed. The consequence of this teaching is that man is the ultimate judge and that life's security depends on their superiority and control.

What happens to you if you do not agree with society's rules on life's origin? You can lose your job as a teacher, researcher, scientist, or not graduate if you do not give these answers and are not accepted by society. They are suppressed in society and, in many places, are mistreated. Anyone believing the fourth commandment to be the truth, who honors and worships God as the six-day creator and is open about it, will be spoken of as fundamentalist, dangerous, and unintelligent. Intense pressure is placed on them to give up their faith in God on this matter and trust the government's support in the theory of evolution in its place.

You may be a Christian, but you may not give your God the credit for creating man in His image. And if you do not, you actually break the principle of the fourth commandment and rob God of what belongs to Him, to be worshipped as the Creator of all things.

The sabbath commandment celebrates and reminds man that we are created in God's image, that we are not like the beasts, nor do we come from them, and neither are we to be placed in the same group as them, nor should we act like them. It is not His design for us to live as if we were a developed mammal. Do we behold the image of the beast or the image of God? Authorities all over the world have asked us to adapt to and to reject the message of the fourth commandment, and thereby, the worship of God mentioned there is of no importance. Society pressures you to refrain from worshipping God as Creator in order to gain acceptance. However, God asks us to "remember to keep it holy" as a celebration and worship of Him as our life-giver. When those who do this are discriminated against by the whole world, God has a say in the matter.

Right before God warns people against the beast and his mark, God sends this message showing us what it is all about: *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters"* (Rev 14:6-7).

So on one side, you have the beasts pressuring people in questions of worship, and on the other side, you have God telling everyone to worship Him as the Creator and that His people will keep His commandments and have the faith of Jesus (Rev.14:12). When God tells the world to worship Him as creator, He has given only one way to do that in the law, and that is through the sabbath commandment. Worship in the Bible is not jumping up and down and repeating His name a hundred times, but by trusting Him and respecting the symbol of Him as the life-giver.



The first beast of Revelation 13, the Catholic Church, did in their day force people to violate this commandment for the sake of their Sunday legislation. In their church meetings, they said it was illegal to do what the commandment asked because it competed with what they asked. And so, while claiming to represent God, they made it illegal to worship Him in His way.

The US-beast is said to copy the behavior and law of the former beast, and so it is not wrong to assume the law in question will be a law previously forced upon people by the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.

Before the US made its constitution, ensuring religious freedom and freedom of conscience in religious matters, they, too, had in one of their first colonies a law that prohibited people from buying or selling unless they kept Sunday holy. And if they still did not obey, the law said they

should be executed. The violation of God's fourth commandment in favor of church legislation has a long history going back all the way to the 4th century and until our day. It is, therefore, the only commandment that says how God wishes to be worshiped as creator by His people, likely to be the commandment that God's people will once again be pressured to break.

Whether it is Christians or irreligious people who make the laws, we know their nature. Whether you are forced out of society for worshipping God as the six-day creator by the irreligious and secular Christian societies, or if you are condemned for not changing the day in favor of a church-ordained day. Both try to take away your loyalty to God and prevent you from giving to God that which is God's. In this way, the irreligious, false prophet, and beast all fight against this specific worship in their own ways. It is also worth noting that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), created by a United Nations committee with most countries as members, has decided and standardized that Sunday is to replace the seventh day of God, and has advised the world not to give God worship according to God's law. Meaning to not give to God what belongs to God, and that this is to be a "standard" for the world.

No matter what we believe, one thing is certain. The laws that will be made will go against your right to follow your conscience when it comes to worshipping God. They will do as people have always done.

Push you out of society, punish you, even persecute you if you do not go by their rule. It says: *«And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name» (Rev. 13,17).*

This is a natural evolution of events. If you do not wish to go by society's rules, you will lose rights or be discriminated against. However, God asks us to be faithful to Him and His laws throughout this experience because it will be the last time they get to force people from worshipping/obeying Him. He asks for patience (Rev.14,12).

To better understand the conflict, we have to understand God and how He works, but also how He does not work. It is not our job as Christians to use legislation against others, to force others to submit to God. A Christian should have nothing to do with any type of force of religious conscience on another human being, nor by law. The first four commandments that relate to your relationship with God can only be observed by trust in God and by choice. They can not be forced upon people, nor can you force people to break them without consequence. To God, choosing Him is a human right that He will defend.

If God is not the ruler, then neither should there be any laws forcing worship or denying the right to worship in any governmental state. This includes the fourth commandment, as it represents worship.

If we vote for, use, or partake with force regarding commandments tied to worship, if we make these choices, we help make an «image of the beast», and if we follow such unfair legislation instead of giving God what belongs to God, we take «*the name and the mark of the beast*» on our foreheads and our hands. In the last conflict, your decision and choices show God who you regard as your leader, whom you have chosen. A government acting like God or God.

God has promised to save His people. God's kingdom among men will be restored. But only with willing participants who trust Him.

Anything else is God's enemy. The worship of God can not be forced, and God is not with anyone who uses this method in His name. Satan has long tried to make people think God is the dictator, but his rule on this planet has shown who the real dictator is: the devil. The seed of distrust he planted in the minds of beings has been shown not to have any foundation. All of Satan's accusations have proven to fit on him and not on God.

For God, choosing Him is a human right He will always defend.

In the end, heaven saw that it was God who respected man's right to think and to choose, but when Satan took control, he did not give man the same respect. God even allowed Satan the freedom to voice his propaganda in heaven and on earth, yet when God's people and the Bible were preaching to the world, he forbade the Bible and persecuted and silenced God's people by terrible means (Rev 12:10 & 17; Rev 6:9; Gen 3:4; Job 1:6, Rev 18:13&24). The amount of respect and time God gave Satan compared to the lack of respect Satan showed Jesus and God's people is forever a witness to who the tyrant is. God had dealt with Satan's accusations for thousands of years, but Satan barely gave Jesus three and a half years to speak, not even that, for he tried to have Him killed and silenced before he even started. Even right after he was born. Satan was not prepared to give him any chance at all to defend God and voice the truth.

And all of heaven witnessed it. They saw that God had spared Satan's life, while Satan, in return, was eager to kill the Son of God. Ultimately, Satan became exactly the kind of being he accused God of being, and he continues to make those accusations even now.

Trust in God was restored only by God patiently allowing the truth to manifest itself.

Revelation 12 tells us how no one wanted to listen to any more of Satan's lies in heaven *«And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night» (Rev 12:10)*

People continue to choose false religion and false Christianity because Satan's deception speaks to their flesh, and man is inclined to follow the flesh. It will draw men in easily if they are not self-aware. The desire for control, power, superiority, the force of fear and suspicion, anger, and desire, all mixed with God's name, makes false religion the road most traveled.

Revelation 12 says heaven rejoiced when Satan was finally cast away, and they felt bad for people on earth who had welcomed him. While

God was patient, slow to wrath, allowed free speech and conversation, was willing to give His son to restore and save man, Satan was dishonest, fought dirty, denied God's people to preach, and was not afraid to make sure their lives were taken.

«Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time» (Rev.12:12)

The tragic part is that the majority of the world still believes Satan's narrative of who God is. And they believe in Satan's version of utopia, which never worked and never will. God loved His enemies and wanted to reach them; Satan hated his and wanted to silence and kill them.

God judged those who committed horrible crimes against humanity, and Satan judged people just for loving God and having morals. Yet Satan claimed God was the unfair judge.

In the end, God will judge humanity. People have left Him without a choice. Ultimately, God must judge in order to remain good and just.

The discovery of the Ark of the Covenant is God again showing mercy to the inhabitants of the earth. A final invitation to restore and heal the land, a wish for them to invite Him to be their king. If his calling is refused once again, man has made a conscious choice.

God offers all people the opportunity to be pardoned and escape judgment. But if they refuse, they will have to stand trial, and as the intelligent beings God created them to be, they must take responsibility for their actions.

In the final battle described in the Bible, Satan, his loyal angels, and humans join forces to physically attack and attempt to overthrow God's kingdom and city (Rev. 20:8-9). Once again, they try to seize God's rights by force. Even then, their final punishment will be carried out in self-defense. They attack the city God created for the faithful; if God does not intervene, His children will perish. If God does not maintain His position, life in the universe would be lost. Yet even at the last moment, they force God to carry out their sentencing. This demonstrates God's endurance.

According to the Bible, this will be the end of the rebellion against God and His people.

Today, we can still choose sides. We can choose the One who created and respects us, values His creation, and was not afraid to make us intelligent beings in His image. He loves us and gave His life to save us and offer a second chance. When the devil tempts us to doubt God's care, we can choose to trust Him—or we can believe the devil's lies and act accordingly.



After Christ returns to gather His faithful to heaven, the earth will rest for a thousand years. During this time, God's people in heaven will review the judgment against those who died on earth before God permanently destroys anyone. After a thousand years, God will resurrect everyone on earth who did not receive His atonement so they may receive their final sentencing. He waits to see what they will do—will they humble themselves this time? Instead, the Bible explains, they gather together and decide to overthrow God's government and city by force, leaving God no choice but to carry out the punishment.

We have the opportunity to follow Christ's example and do as He did. Where Eve said yes, we can say no. When tempted to question God and distrust His intentions for us, we can choose to trust Him, breaking the cycle of sin in our lives. Through faith in Him, we can live and overcome.

It is our choice, and God will accept our decision.

The Abuse of Power

On November 18, 1978, more than 900 people died by suicide or were forced to commit suicide in a remote area of Guyana. The tragedy was closely linked to the people's dependent relationship with their leader,

Jim Jones. Things did not begin as they ended. Jones was a well-known American humanitarian and award-winning preacher, recognized for his extraordinary care for others. He began his work in Indianapolis and later expanded his congregation in San Francisco. Large crowds gathered to hear him, and people in need sought him out. He offered programs to help drug abusers overcome their addictions. He did not discriminate based on status or skin color.

He preached strongly against racism, attracting people of color to his meetings. In fact, it is said that he was part of the first white family in America to adopt a child of color. Charismatic and loving, he made each member feel truly seen. Secretly an agnostic, he once said in a sermon: "There's only one hope of glory; that's within you!" "Nobody's going to come out of the sky! There's no heaven up there! We'll have to make heaven down here!" He believed he was saving religious people by creating a new and better socialist society, but allowed them to keep their faith as long as they accepted his leadership. ("Transcript of Recovered FBI tape Q 622". *Alternative Considerations of Jonestown and Peoples Temple*. *Jonestown Project: San Diego State University.*] & *American Experience*. 2007. *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple* (program transcript). US: PBS. Retrieved June 20, 2020)

Jim Jones moved his congregation to Guyana to establish a utopia where they could live free from outside interference, share everything, and serve as an example to the world of how to create a human



Nearly 900 people - most persuaded, some forced - to commit suicide at the Peoples Temple in Guyana. One woman, who joined the group hoping to save her daughter from drug abuse, ended up witnessing her daughter's death before dying herself.



Jim Jones receives a Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, January 1977.

evaporated, and Jim Jones quickly transformed from a friendly pastor into a dictator. Their freedoms were stripped away, and fear spread among them. Many had nowhere to go and depended on food rations from the camp, so they felt forced to comply. Freedom of speech was eliminated; no one dared voice disagreement. Without free speech, they couldn't find allies or risk their own safety by speaking to the wrong person. A few days before the forced mass suicide, a congressman visited at the request of worried family members. Jim Jones coached everyone on what to say beforehand. They were told to claim they felt free, happier than ever, and wanted to stay. In reality, they were exhausted, partially starved, and oppressed. Some fearful members slipped a note to the congressman asking for help to leave. When this became known, it caused unrest, increasing Jones's fear of exposure and loss of control. His "happy" bubble was shattered. The following day, the mass suicide took place. Jones ordered the congressman's murder and convinced the people that they would be held responsible for it. He forced the children to take poison first, so the adults saw no hope or reason to live. Many parents, numb with apathy, allowed their children to take the poison. Those who refused were forced to comply.

Only a handful of people survived. One mother managed to hold on to her sanity, taking her son and fleeing into the jungle, though she lost the rest of her family. How could nearly a thousand people fall so completely under the control of one man's reasoning? In truth, they could have resisted or rebelled, but confusion and the acceptance of false principles held them captive. For such a catastrophe to happen, people had to mentally submit to an authority figure—one who, in turn, needed loyal enforcers to maintain his power. Jim Jones's appointed 'police' claimed to protect the group from external threats, but their real job was to keep everyone inside fearful and silent. At any point, these enforcers could have refused Jones's orders, but they did not. Ordinary people seeking peace and safety became murderers, even of children. Why, and how?

Why, in larger societies, do people continue to support dictators and participate in acts of cruelty? Are they inherently evil, or are they brainwashed? If these individuals had first met Jim Jones and he asked them to harm their children, would they have agreed? Of course not. They would have resisted because, initially, he had no authority over them, and they had not surrendered their ability to think for themselves.

A more recent true story took place at a fast-food restaurant. A prank caller, pretending to be a police officer, convinced the manager to undress and strip-search an employee, complying with his every demand. The caller claimed to have spoken with the manager's superior, who had supposedly given approval. When the manager called her fiancé to supervise the naked teenager, the imposter persuaded him to commit further acts of abuse, including spanking her while she was unclothed and other unspeakable actions. The girl did not flee—without any clothes and anxious to prove her innocence, she endured the ordeal, hoping to keep her job. The man tasked with watching over her abandoned his morals and became a perpetrator. In just a few words, the manager became an obedient follower of the prank caller, persuaded by his asserted authority and reassured that he would take responsibility for his and her actions. It's a bizarre story, but it is true.

How could someone, armed only with a phone call, gain control over three people in such a short time? None of them had been influenced by

the caller for long or subjected to brainwashing. The man who abused the girl was sentenced to prison; he could not claim he was only following orders from someone he believed was a police officer. The manager was also charged with conducting an illegal search. In just three hours, two ordinary people became criminals. Their behavior puzzled many, and the girl's actions were misunderstood as well. She had taken the job to help support her family, as one of her parents had recently lost their income. Dependent on her job, she was vulnerable. What would happen to her family if she lost her position? It turned out that this prank caller had tricked people into similar acts over 70 times in 30 U.S. states. This was not an isolated incident; simple manipulative tactics led many to comply in the same way.

This bizarre story illustrates the end-time scenario described in Revelation 13. There, an illegitimate authority figure emerges, leaders comply with his orders (like the manager), ordinary people become complicit in dehumanizing others, and the vulnerable suffer in fear for their livelihoods. Yet, just as the real police eventually intervened and held the perpetrators accountable, God will ultimately act as the highest authority, exposing wrongdoing and helping the victims.

A researcher once wondered how so many soldiers could participate in the torture and inhumane treatment of Jews during World War II. These soldiers had once been ordinary children, raised in stable homes. How could they lose their humanity and take part in such atrocities?

During the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, their defense was that they were merely following orders from their superiors. They had been taught and believed that responsibility for their actions rested with those who gave the orders, not with those who carried them out. To their shock, they found themselves held accountable by a higher authority.

Stanley Milgram, a psychologist at Yale University, was intrigued by this phenomenon and conducted one of the most famous studies on obedience and human behavior: the Milgram Shock Experiment. He wanted to see if ordinary people, with no military training, would obey orders that could potentially harm or even kill another person. Milgram recruited participants through newspaper ads, assembling a diverse

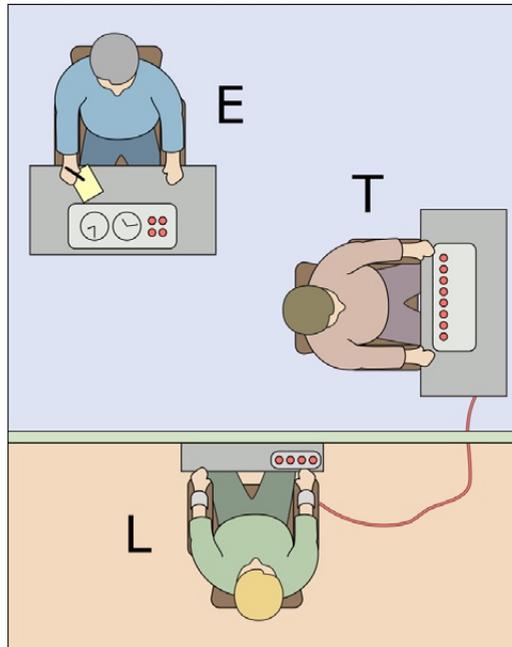


group ranging from unskilled workers to professionals. Participants were paired as 'teacher' and 'learner,' but only the 'teacher' was a true participant—the 'learner' was an actor, not an actual subject of the experiment.

The 'learner' had electrodes attached to their arms, while the 'teacher' sat in a separate room with an electric shock generator labeled from 15 volts up to a dangerous 375 volts, and finally to a potentially lethal 450 volts. The 'teachers' were instructed to administer a shock each time the 'learner' answered incorrectly (the 'learner' intentionally made mistakes).

With each wrong answer, the shocks increased, and the 'learner'—an actor—screamed in pain to make the situation seem real. When the 'teacher' hesitated, the authority figure used four escalating prompts: 1. Please continue. 2. The experiment requires that you continue. 3. It is absolutely essential that you continue. 4. You have no other choice; you must go on.

The authority figure consistently reassured the 'teachers' that the project leader would take full responsibility for any consequences.



How can an ordinary person become capable of murder in just a few hours?

65% of participants continued delivering shocks up to the maximum of 450 volts. Every participant went at least to the dangerous 300-volt level. If the shocks had been real, 65% would have become killers, and all would have inflicted severe torture. Ultimately, when told they were

not responsible and convinced by an authority figure that their actions were necessary, ordinary people were willing to harm—and in many cases, kill—another person. This is the shocking truth: someone who would never imagine becoming a killer can do so in just a few hours.

From his study, Milgram concluded that people tend to operate in one of two behavioral states in social situations.

In the 'autonomous state,' people direct their own actions and accept responsibility for the outcomes. The other, called the 'agentic state,' is when individuals let others dictate their actions and shift responsibility for the consequences onto those giving the orders. In this state, they act as agents of someone else's will.

Milgram further identified two factors that pushed people into the agentic state:

1. They have to view the one giving the orders as legitimate or qualified to give them orders.
2. The person has to believe that the same authority will take responsibility for what happens.

Milgram discovered that when people were reminded they were responsible for their own actions, almost none obeyed harmful commands. Remarkably, the Bible teaches that God holds everyone accountable for their actions.

When the experimenter claimed full responsibility, participants continued. But when he left, and an ordinary worker took his place, obedience dropped by 20%.

However, this dynamic does not affect those taught to uphold God's commandments. Even in such situations, they would follow their conscience and remain loyal to God's authority above all. In the fast-food chain story, if everyone had recognized God's moral law as the highest authority—even above the police—the manager would not have undressed the girl, the girl would have refused, and the man would not have committed the assault.

The 'beasts' in the book of Revelation depend on public support—they can act only if people remove God's moral law as their highest authority and instead accept the beast's authority.

Revelation teaches that everyone remains responsible for their actions, no matter what the beast commands. If you depend on "the beast" for your job, your sustenance, or acceptance, God will still hold you accountable for following orders that violate His commandments. The end-time deception cannot succeed if people uphold God's law as their highest authority. This is why "the dragon" and "the beast" target those who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." They cannot gain full control as long as people remain loyal to God's authority above all.

When Christian churches, Muslims, and Jews are taught by their religious leaders to place human authority above God's law, the vital bond between God and humanity is broken—a bond meant to protect them from participating in the oppression of others. When churches teach that God's law is abolished and treat God as a servant or mascot rather than the lawgiver, their members look to men to define right and wrong. They become easy targets for impostors and authoritarian figures, as history has shown across Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities.

Once people are taught that God's law is invalid, another authority can step in and interpret God's will for them, erasing God's principles from their communities. For example, Jim Jones shifted from Christian preacher to agnostic, yet his followers continued to obey him, failing to recognize how his morals and behavior had changed—and how he was changing them. Once they placed Jim's authority above God's, he gained power over them, even to the extent of convincing them to take their own lives. When responsibility is shifted from God to man, religious oppression often follows, leading people to commit bizarre acts in the name of God. They follow orders from leaders they believe are partially responsible for their actions. We see a similar pattern in fundamentalist Mormon cults, where members are taught to obey whatever the "prophet" commands, as if he speaks for God. At that point, they no longer test teachings by the Bible and God's law, but instead measure them by their appointed authority.

This has led some to marry underage girls or participate in polygamous marriages, believing these actions earn God's favor. They have surrendered their responsibility for critical thinking to the "prophet."

God's relationship with humanity has been, and continues to be, hijacked. The hijacker does not use God's methods or respect His law, but instead abuses authority. In Milgram's terms, when people move



from God's law and guidance to following someone who claims to represent God, they shift from the 'autonomous state' to the 'agentic state.' But according to the Bible, God wants people to remain in the 'autonomous state'—true worship always involves personal responsibility. It is impostors who push people into the agentic state. In the end-time events, Satan's goal is to keep people in the agentic state. This concept is crucial in the final confrontation at the end of history. Human governments depend on soldiers who believe they bear no responsibility when following orders; otherwise, governments would have little power. Sometimes this power gets out of hand. When soldiers are trained to surrender responsibility and critical thinking, they are more likely to lose self-control in battle. Soldiers of all nations have committed war crimes—rape, oppression, and violence—when they are taught to ignore their conscience. During World War II, on a mission to conquer a Chinese district, Japanese troops raped between 20,000 and

Vietnam War:

Mỹ Lai victims before the massacre. Unarmed men, women, children, and infants were killed. Some women were gang-raped and mutilated, as were children as young as 12. Twenty-six soldiers were charged with criminal offenses, but only Lieutenant William Calley Jr., a platoon leader, was convicted. Only three U.S. servicemen tried to protect civilians, but they were called traitors by several U.S. Congressmen. It took 30 years before their resistance was recognized.

80,000 Chinese women. Many of these men would never have committed such crimes at home. War crimes have occurred in every war, on every continent, throughout history. Strict obedience to orders often leads to lawlessness.

Training someone to ignore their conscience while expecting them to uphold it in chaos is a paradox; the creation of a “good soldier” in this sense is deeply problematic.

Often, those who commit war crimes do so under the orders of lower-level commanders. God holds everyone accountable for their own actions—no one can use 'just following orders' as an excuse for persecuting God's people. Nor will fear of losing one's livelihood excuse those who choose to obey unethical commands.

They are all part of the problem.

When people surrender their God-given conscience, they

share responsibility for their leader's actions. People, by their acceptance, help create that authority. This is why God has allowed so many different governments throughout history; leaders often reflect the character and choices of the majority. In nearly every nation ruled by oppressive leaders, those leaders are depicted as heroes who safeguard the people and provide for their needs—whether kings of Mesopotamia battling predators or Kim Jong-un in North Korea, celebrated as the nation's benefactor.

Jesus said, “*The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority are called benefactors*” (Luke 22:25). This is the oldest trick in the book: give people what they think they need or want,



Chinese and Malayan girls were forcibly taken from Penang by the Japanese to work as sex slaves

for the troops. The soldiers did not question whether this was ethical and were satisfied that it was being legalized by authority.



In most cultures, leaders present themselves as the people's protectors. In Mesopotamian kingdoms, they were often depicted fighting dangerous predators or foreign enemies to keep people safe. Feeling dependent, people accepted cruelty and suppression, fearing the alternative could be worse. These rulers were depicted as heroes—taking on the role of provider and protector; a role that belonged to God. For most, relying on human leaders felt safer than trusting an unseen God. Even today, leaders want to be seen as heroes to gain support.

authority, they will feel accountable for their actions, even if the government tells them otherwise.

It is important to God that people on earth understand they are fully accountable for their actions. Only then can He hope that people will make decisions guided by their conscience and the righteousness His law represents.

Even when we surrender our God-given ability to reason and choose to another person or system, God still holds us accountable—not only for our decision, but also for what the leader does with the power we have given them. Secular communities often label this mindset as “fundamentalism,” and anyone who holds God’s law above human authority is viewed as a fundamentalist. Nothing frightens governments and religious leaders more than this. They use examples of war

and they will let you rule over them and overlook actions they would normally never condone. The same dynamic appears in Revelation 13, where the “beast” controls resources and demands authority in return. Many people believe that as long as they are following the laws of the government, they cannot be held responsible for any wrongdoing—even if the law itself is unjust. This mindset only exists when the government is seen as the highest authority. But if people recognize a higher



When Moses struck the rock to provide water, he was tired and angry, saying, “Hear now, you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?” (Num. 20:10-11). This act cost him his chance to lead Israel into the Promised Land. By taking credit as the provider and striking the rock when God told him to speak to it, Moses failed to honor God. God still provided water but responded: “Because you did not believe me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them” (Num. 20:8, 12). As God’s chosen leader, Moses needed to remember two things: to give glory to God as provider, and to follow God’s instructions exactly. When Moses failed, God set him as an example by revoking his right to lead the people into the land. Moses was repentant, still loved by God, and was among the few resurrected and taken to heaven after his death (Jude 1:9). He later appeared to encourage Christ on earth (Matt. 17:3).

criminals or terrorists to argue that people cannot place God above the state, teaching most people to fear even those who have done no harm, simply by associating them with those who break God’s moral laws.

They claim that anyone who gives their loyalty to God above human government is dangerous and potentially out of control.

God says the opposite: those who reject Him and His moral law are the ones who are potentially dangerous, bringing the world closer to lawlessness and dictatorial leadership.



Yazidi refugees, attacked by people claiming to act for God (ISIS). Because many who claim God as their highest authority have committed crimes, modern society often views this mentality as fundamentalist and dangerous. However, those who commit such acts in God's name are actually following men who claim to represent God—not God Himself. Unfortunately, this distinction is often not made clear. In this way, Satan can trick people into fearing to follow God and continue to give man the highest authority. They did the same with Jesus: “He was assigned a grave with the wicked, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth” (Isaiah 53:9).

By creating counterfeiters who abolish God's moral laws and elevate human authority above His, Satan tarnishes God's reputation. As a result, governments ban people from following the true God as their highest authority, lumping them together with fanatics. In doing so, governments themselves place man above God's law while blaming God's people. Satan is a master manipulator.

The Bible teaches us to respect authority as long as the government does not conflict with God's law (Rom. 13:1-5; Acts 5:29).

God does respect human authority and government. The instruction to respect governing authorities is given because these institutions help protect citizens from crime and injustice. Governments work to create a peaceful society. If we work against this purpose, we work against God's intent.

God is not a God of chaos; He wants criminals to be punished and prevented from harming others. In this way, government serves God. However, God's instruction is always connected to the government's purpose of doing good. Paul, who wrote about respecting government, spent his last

years in prison for refusing to obey laws that conflicted with God's will. Clearly, Paul's words must be understood in a broader context. When government laws conflict with God's laws, God's people must remain faithful to Him above all.

This is why Christians were hunted down and executed in the Roman era—they would not do the government's bidding. Similarly, many Christians who refused to obey the Pope suffered terribly during the Middle Ages, when the government declared the Pope the ultimate authority on religious matters. But when the Pope's rules conflicted with God's, these believers chose to obey God. There are several biblical examples of people disobeying authorities: Jeremiah continued preaching despite being ordered not to, and was imprisoned for it. The apostles also refused to stop preaching: *“Did not we straightly command you that ye should not teach in this name? ... Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:28-29)

The Bible also shows that God will punish governments that work against Him. Any government that destroys its own people instead of

God will never take away your responsibilities. You will always be held accountable, which is why we must acknowledge our sins and seek atonement through Christ.

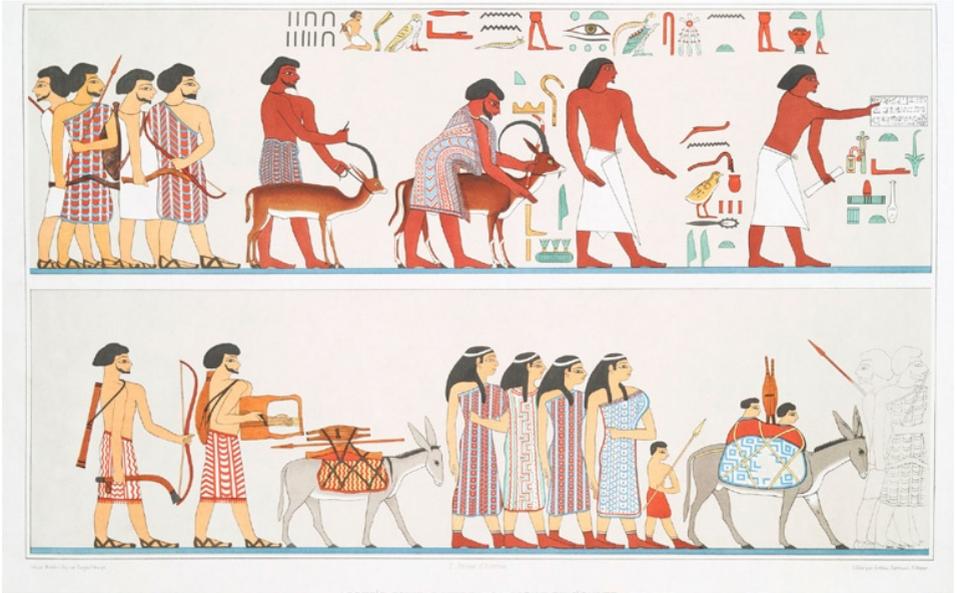
protecting them will eventually experience God's judgment. Although governments may not be punished immediately, God allows them time to reveal their true character and make their choices. He also gives citizens the opportunity to do what is right and address injustice themselves. God wants us to act responsibly, and for people to be truly responsible, they must be given responsibility. That's why God calls us to take the initiative in confronting injustice.

This is why God does not accept it when people try to hold Him responsible for what is actually their own duty and fault. If God always intervened, people would never learn responsibility. Imagine a parable:

If people deliberately start fires but rely on God to put them out right away, they will keep starting fires because there are no consequences, and it appears harmless. God, however, wants us not to start fires at all—He teaches this by letting us experience the consequences. When we see the damage, we learn to be cautious and take responsibility. Likewise, in real life, people can only be responsible if actually given responsibility. This means God cannot intervene in everything immediately.

God has no other choice; if He is to respect human freedom, He must hold people accountable. Otherwise, He becomes complicit in their wrongdoing, and they remain in ignorance. He then not only allows people to remain ignorant, but also permits them to become selfish. For example, when someone sees a beggar in the street and blames God for poverty, even though they have money in their pocket to help, it reveals the paradox of human nature. If God is not good because He does not do away with this man's poverty, how can you be good if you don't do the same thing? Your excuse might be that even if you give, you will not have solved the beggar's problem but only given him temporary relief. The same is true with God. If He doesn't allow people to bear responsibility for their own and others' actions, He can offer only temporary relief, not a real solution. The passerby must consider the bigger picture: what isn't working in society, why it isn't, and how it can change. People are all connected in society and often contribute to larger problems. Because they are part of the problem, they must also change their own behavior to address the root issues. So this is not about God allowing evil—it is about God teaching us how to address the evil we create, so that we learn to take responsibility and change our ways. **There is no other way to govern intelligent beings while still respecting their intellect and free will.**

When people go too far and their problems become too great for them to handle, God steps in. Throughout history, God has judged many governments—Sodom, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Kush, Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt. Even though these nations were idol worshipers, they could not escape God's judgment. He put them on trial, whether they believed in Him or not. Ultimately, the earth belongs to God: *“for all the earth is mine”* (Ex. 19:5).



Many overlook that Pharaoh involved the Egyptian people in the massacre of Israelite children. By convincing them it was necessary to avoid being outnumbered and threatened, he led them to commit an act of extreme racist violence. (Picture is illustrative and not related to the story)

In the book of Revelation, two beasts—representing governmental powers—work to force people to live by their rules. Eventually, they even deny people the right to buy and sell. Later, Revelation shows Christ punishing these same powers by casting them into the lake of fire. This means He destroys these governments and judges their leaders and supporters.

A government has no right to rule over God’s people when it is in conflict with God. Such governments are in opposition to heavenly law and will be put on trial in the court of heaven for their actions.

What about those who follow the orders of these governments when those orders are unethical? Their compliance is the greatest problem because it enables such situations to arise. The pursuit of material gain and security helped create these 'beasts' in the first place, and often, blood is on their hands. God judges in such cases—especially when people should have known better.

According to the Torah—God’s law—even the majority is not to be followed if it conflicts with God. This means that, for believers, democracy holds no authority when its decisions contradict God’s laws.

God’s government is not run by votes or elections. If it were, people would become gods, and God would be reduced to their servant.

God’s law says, *“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd.”* (Exo. 23:2)

In Germany, the Nazi Party received 43.9 percent of the vote and rose to power by cooperating with smaller parties. Would Germany have allowed Hitler to become a dictator if he had received only 1 percent of the vote, and no other party supported his vision?

History shows that majorities have often committed evil. Most governments that have carried out cruelty against humanity have done so with widespread support. The number of participants does not diminish the severity of the crime.

The Israelites were, in today’s terms, immigrants in the land of Egypt for several generations. They did their best not to offend the government or the people, but they were never to place Egyptian authority above God’s. For example: *“And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them; instead, they saved the children.”*

The king of Egypt called for the midwives and asked, *“Why have you done this—why have you saved the male children?”* The midwives answered Pharaoh, *“The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before we arrive.”* Because the midwives feared God, He blessed them, and the people multiplied and became very mighty. *“And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.”* (Exodus 1:15-20)

Their disobedience to a government command brought them God's blessing. But the story doesn't end there. Pharaoh then made all his people the executioners: *"And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive."* (Exodus 1:22) Those who obeyed this command followed the government, but in the end, God would hold them all responsible for their heinous acts.

When Israel was about to leave Egypt, God sent plagues over the people; one of the plagues was that all the firstborns would die (unless they sought pardon from God). That means that adults, as well as young people, died that day.

Their actions ultimately returned to haunt them, though God had tried time and again to reason with them before taking this step. The people of Egypt participated in racism, discrimination, violence, slavery, and killings—and all were punished for it.

They were all guilty of the wrongdoing in different ways. *"And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts."* (Exo.11:5)

We see God rewarding the same way as He judges: *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."* (Joe 2:28-29)

From the powerful and free to the lowliest servants, everyone is individually responsible for their actions—whether good or evil, rich or poor.

Another example is the rescue of the only family spared from Jericho—because one woman, Rahab, disobeyed her government. She later became an ancestor of King David and Jesus. Rahab hid two men who were about to be arrested by city officials and helped them escape.

Another example of civil disobedience was Obadiah, a governor of the king's house: *"And Ahab called Obadiah, who was in charge of his*



palace. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: For when Jezebel was killing off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in caves, and provided them with bread and water.)"
(1 Kings 18:3-4)

Imagine if the German generals or even the soldiers at the concentration camps during World War II had chosen this path—refusing to commit horrific acts. We all believe they should have stood up to the government, yet most people hesitate to correct authorities, even over minor injustices.

When the three Hebrews were thrown into the furnace, God miraculously spared them, but those who carried out the king's order died in the same flames.

Another example is when the king of Israel sent soldiers to arrest Elijah. Those who believe that people are innocent simply for following orders may struggle with this story.

«Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake

unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight. And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.» (2Ki 1:9-15)

As we can see, the story looks grim the first two times. It may appear that the soldiers were innocent for just following orders, but they were not. The last captain and his fifty used discernment—instead of blindly following orders, he tried a different approach and saved the lives of all his men. It’s important to note that the generals and soldiers knew very well who Elijah was. He became famous after the events on Mount Carmel, when God revealed Himself as the true God. Elijah preached obedience to God above the state religion of Baal. The soldiers even addressed him as “man of God.” They knew their orders were wrong, yet carried them out anyway, rejecting their God-given conscience to follow a corrupt leader. Israel had turned away from God, and these soldiers represented part of that rebellion.

In another biblical story we mentioned earlier, loyalty to a cruel leader cost the lives of 185,000 soldiers. The Assyrian king Sennacherib laid siege to Jerusalem after destroying several Judean cities. He told King Hezekiah not to trust in God and blasphemed the Lord. To save the city, God destroyed the entire Assyrian army in one night—an angel struck

down all the soldiers. These men were "just following orders," but they should have refused to aid their king's cruelty. The Assyrian armies' war crimes are well documented; they were far from innocent. Sennacherib could do nothing without his army, making them complicit in his actions. Ultimately, their loyalty to Sennacherib cost them their lives. God allowed the king to live, but he was later killed by his own when he returned home (2 Chronicles 32:21; Isaiah 37:21-38).

Again, we see God punish those who carry out the order but let the one who made the order live. God is warning people through these stories.

Another example of civil disobedience was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego during Nebuchadnezzar's reign. Although they held high positions in Babylon, they refused to put their government loyalty above God. The accusation was: *"There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."* (Daniel 3:12) When confronted, they replied: *"O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it is so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."* (Daniel 3:16-18)

Nebuchadnezzar became furious and had them thrown into the fiery furnace, but God saved them and rewarded their faithfulness, while the king was humbled. Notice what happened to those who carried out the king's orders.

God did not spare the executioners—the men who enforced the king's orders died from the heat as they threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fire.

In Ezekiel chapter 18, we learn that even a son under his father's authority, if he recognizes his father's wrongdoing and chooses not to follow it, will be acquitted—while the father will still be punished.

Every human being has the right to choose whom to follow. Regardless of our workplace or country, we are called to think for ourselves and choose what is right.

We will be held responsible—whether we give the order or carry it out—for both roles contribute to wrongdoing. The leader bears part of the blame for the followers’ actions, and those who obey are also at fault for empowering that leader. Throughout the Bible, we see that people often create their own leaders (see Judges 9:1-21).

We must not surrender our conscience or decision-making to an earthly authority or majority and expect to be acquitted in the courts of heaven for their or our wrongdoings.

Let’s choose to do our best to help the government keep order and peace, but the moment there is a conflict with the law of God, remember to stand on God’s side. Defend those who receive cruel and unfair treatment, no matter who they are or what they believe. For the government will one day be under condemnation and will be judged by heaven. And if you stand with them, you will face the consequences together with them.

Concerning spiritual Babylon, we read: *“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her” (Revelation 18:3)*. Governments have made alliances with a corrupt religious system, leading them to promote wrongdoing. God’s people have been warned: *“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” (Revelation 18:4-5)*

Have nothing to do with the sins of anyone in authority. Choose to take responsibility for your own actions at all times, for one day you will be held accountable to the highest authority there is.

Why did the Biblical God order sacrifices?

To most people today, the idea of sacrificing to a god seems like a primitive religious practice from an underdeveloped past. Yet the Bible reveals that God Himself began this practice. But why? What did He hope to accomplish through it?

From the moment Adam and Eve rebelled against God's authority, they received the death penalty. They had been warned that violating the symbol of God's authority on earth would bring death. When Eve was tempted, she clearly stated both the law and its consequence, showing she understood the risk she was taking: *"God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."* Yet, moments later, she chose to eat, fully aware of the penalty but hoping God would not—or could not—carry it out. As the serpent suggested, perhaps God had lied to protect Himself. Eve allowed herself to be deceived, believing God wouldn't fulfill the sentence or that, by eating, she could become like God and avoid the consequence. They were warned and knew that breaking the law meant losing access to the "tree of life," which would ultimately bring natural death. Yet she chose to believe the lie because it was appealing to her. That is often how we all fall into disobedience.

When God confronted them, He showed that the penalty would be exactly as He had said. Eve had not become like God; instead, she was now more vulnerable than ever.

God told Adam, who had joined in the rebellion: *"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*
(Gen. 3:19)

God then denied them access to the garden and the tree of life. Adam died about a thousand years later, most likely of old age.

If God had not upheld His law, it would have invited anarchy into the universe—even affecting other worlds. In our own homes, if children see that consequences are empty threats, the power dynamic changes quickly. Similarly, in society, if no one is arrested or jailed for breaking the law, there is little motivation to obey. Authority only exists if there are consequences for defying it. No consequence means no authority. If you pardon one lawbreaker but not the next, you are unfair. In the end, refusing to enforce the penalty for breaking God’s laws would affect all beings and lead to a lawless universe.

God knew that, for everyone’s safety, the consequence for breaking His moral law had to be exactly what He said: death. So the first humans were sentenced to die.

However, God loved the world, as we read in John 3:16, so He devised a plan that would uphold the validity of His law and the seriousness of violating it, while also providing a way for humans to once again eat from the tree of life and live. The penalty needed to be so severe that it wouldn’t cause law and order to unravel—so high that sin would never seem worth it to anyone, anywhere. Yet, at the same time, God could offer the opportunity to pardon the transgressor. **The plan of salvation is God balancing justice and mercy: “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face” (Psa. 89:14).**

God needed to do both.

Although law and order were important, God wanted to show that mercy need not lead to anarchy when given in the right way. Balancing law and mercy without harming one while helping another is an extremely difficult task, and it is something humans have struggled with for centuries. But God created a perfect balance.

God did not reveal the full plan at the beginning. He was under constant criticism and attack from His enemy, so He withheld all the details of His plan at first. In this way, He could prevent as much sabotage as possible until the plan was carried out. However, God did share with

humanity that there was hope and to keep a lookout for a deliverer (Gen.3:15). And He shared with them the cost of their future deliverance.

After Adam and Eve broke the law, God took the first life, an animal, and clothed Adam and Eve with its skin (Gen. 3:21). Through this and other symbols, God showed that their crime could be placed on a substitute, and the substitute would die: its blood would be shed in their place.



Every sacrifice offered was, in reality, an execution of God's law: after His law was broken, there was a death penalty. This was meant to instill great respect for God's law, to teach people not to continue breaking it, and to offer hope that a substitute could take their place in the execution of the sentence. God gave this promise immediately after they sinned, knowing that without hope, life would quickly degenerate and perish. Hope brings motivation and optimism, which are essential for a good life. So He gave them hope immediately, long before the fulfillment of their salvation. Hope and the sacrifice were connected.

The rules of the first sacrifices were simple: the animal had to be without spot or blemish. It also had to be a clean, innocent animal. This meant it did not kill prey to eat, nor did it consume blood. Sheep, lambs, oxen, or goats primarily ate grass. These sacrificial animals were peaceful and easily domesticated. Their lack of blemish symbolized their innocence. They were not wild but obeyed the voice of their shepherd, representing obedience. The symbolism was clear: if the substitute was not innocent, it could not serve as a substitute, since it would be guilty and therefore unfit.

Obviously, animals do not know the difference between right and wrong as humans do, nor could they consciously agree to take a

human's penalty. This reveals that the whole idea of an animal substitute was, in reality, an illustration of God's plan of salvation and not salvation itself. It pointed forward to a future deliverer.

By requiring these sacrifices in the Old Testament, God preached to the people and constantly reminded them of the seriousness of sin, hoping to make them reflect more deeply on their actions and their consequences. No one's sin is only their own business; it always affects someone or something else.

Many are willing to take chances if they know they are the only ones to get hurt. But the stakes are higher when you realize that others will suffer the consequences of your sin. That is, if you are a little caring.

For instance, shedding the blood of an innocent creature served as a harsh reminder: our salvation requires blood, our sins harm others, and every sin has a real consequence.

Cain and Abel

When Cain and Abel made sacrifices, Abel offered a blood sacrifice of an animal, but Cain offered vegetables.

By his actions, Cain undermined what the sacrifice was meant to represent: God's authority, the consequence of breaking the law, and the great cost required to save humanity from its crime.

Cain might have worked hard to produce those vegetables, but his offering diminished the seriousness of sin and its consequences. By doing so, Cain did not confess his own sin or acknowledge that he deserved the penalty, which is why he saw no need for a substitute to die in his place.



So God did not accept Cain's sacrifice. Here, the first great principle was revealed: people cannot atone for past wrongs by doing good deeds or buying God's approval with material things.

If God accepted such gifts to commute our sentence, He would be what we now call a corrupt judge. What judge would accept payment from the convicted to get them out of jail without being corrupt? And what message would this send to angels and other beings? It would suggest that you can sin and use your wealth to buy your way out of trouble. This is what Cain's sacrifice signaled, while Abel, by following God's instruction, showed respect for the law and the painful truth of its consequences, admitting his own guilt.

In reality, Cain's actions represented corruption, while Abel's actions represented God's justice system.

In Cain's sacrifice was the idea that humans were under a curse, not because of their own actions, but because God was upset with them. In this way of thinking, God had to be satisfied or pleased to let them off the hook. This mentality became the foundation of all ancient pagan religions. They saw the problem as God's reaction to their sin, not the sin itself.

We recognize this kind of apology in human relationships, and it is highly criticized today. When someone is confronted with something wrong and apologizes by saying, "I am sorry you feel hurt," rather than saying, "I am sorry for what I did."

It shifts the problem onto the other person's feelings, rather than taking responsibility for one's own actions. The issue becomes the responder's emotions, not the wrong that was committed. This behavior is common among narcissists, who rarely admit fault and instead blame the emotions or reactions of others. Often, such people will even accuse those they've hurt of being emotionally unstable for reacting to their wrongdoing.

This type of false apology, which is not truly admitting you're wrong but apologizing only because circumstances demand it, was used against God and His justice system. God, or the gods, were seen as

unstable beings who needed to be bribed with material offerings to give blessings.

Those who would not truly admit they were wrong, but realized they were in a bad position with God or the “gods,” created a false sacrificial system where the problem was seen as God’s temper, not their own actions. Others followed in ignorance, believing this was how God was.

They played the victim and cast God as the moody transgressor, sacrificing to “please the gods” in hopes of gaining control over things like the weather, rain, or death. Essentially, they created a victim-abuser relationship with God. The “god” answering such bribes and prayers was Satan, who was happy to trade off to get his way. This portrayed God in a terrible light and made human sins seem innocent by comparison. God repeatedly said He hated the religion of the heathen. It was a distortion of both God’s character and His justice system.

The false sacrificial system then and now

It went so far that many began sacrificing babies and humans to the gods to gain favor. This was a terrible abuse of the sacrificial system God had created. Satan even encouraged this practice by granting prosperity to those who did it, making them believe they were pleasing God and that it worked.

This pagan religious view even became great under the reign of the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages. Martin Luther's protests, which kick-started the Reformation, were aimed at this very mentality.

In those days, people could pay with money, abuse themselves, or make pilgrimages to try to get out of their debts with God. If you sinned and had money or were willing to work for it, you could supposedly be acquitted of your sins. St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, where the Pope is crowned, was built with money given as atonement for sin. This basilica thus represents corruption: escaping punishment by bribing God. The idea even spread that you could buy family members out of purgatory with money. For many, this church and its leader became a

corrupt institution and a distorted image of God’s justice. Christ’s blood atoned for some sins, while others you had to work off. This was the same principle Cain practiced, and God rejected. So Martin Luther openly protested the corrupt system and reintroduced the original principle: sin cannot be paid for with wealth or good deeds; the only way is through the blood of the substitute, represented by Jesus. God does not accept bribes or favors. What can humans give Him but love? Everything exists because He created it, and He can create whatever He wishes. People have nothing of value to offer Him except their loyalty and love—and that is all God asks for.

Cain's ideas became the foundation for many misunderstandings. Often, this resulted from a refusal to acknowledge one’s own sin, instead placing blame on the accusing law or on God Himself. Early pagan religions developed various sacrificial systems—often involving blood—yet they all carried the wrong understanding. They believed they were satisfying a bloodthirsty god or bribing a god for a favor. The sacrifice of unclean animals, or even humans, showed a complete lack of understanding about what the original sacrifices symbolized. The system spun out of control, thanks to Satan’s efforts, creating a bloodbath, disrespect for life, and a loss of everything good. It did not inspire people to change their behavior or give them hope; instead, it filled them with fear. The “gods” were never satisfied, and religious practice made many people unhappy. God’s original institution had been twisted beyond recognition, and it was time for Him to act.

The Sanctuary service

Because of the great abuse and ignorance surrounding the sacrificial system, God had to express His principles through more detailed symbolic imagery than before. This was done to restore the sacrificial system’s original meaning and testimony. To achieve this, He needed faithful people to represent it correctly—so He chose Israel.

When God called Israel out of Egypt, He instructed them to build a sanctuary. From then on, the sacrifices would be placed in a larger context, illustrating their true purpose.



They were told to make two rooms inside the sanctuary: a Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, both surrounded by a courtyard. Both inside and outside the tabernacle were several symbols of God's justice system. In the Most Holy Place was God's law for humanity, defining what sin is (1 John 3:4). The law was placed inside a gold-covered chest, topped with a seat and cherubim to represent God's throne (Exo. 25:22).

In a kingdom, there is a king and a law, and the law is the foundation of the kingdom's authority. The holy places represented God's universal kingdom in heaven.

So God was trying to illustrate as simply as possible the principles of His plan of salvation. Although not able to disclose all the facts to mankind, enough would be revealed to understand that it involved a substitute who would atone for man's sin.

God described Himself as righteous, and His law as fair, established for everyone's common good. The sanctuary system was designed to bring people back to the original understanding: the problem was not God, His law, or His sentencing. The real problem was our sins. Therefore, our apology had to acknowledge this fact. The sacrificial system was meant to provide an opportunity to acknowledge guilt, not to make God appear unreasonable or moody.

So God asked them to bring sacrifices without blemish to the entrance of the tabernacle, in front of God's seat of authority, and to slay them there to acknowledge the reason for the death penalty. By placing the sacrifice before the sanctuary, God revealed what sin was: the breaking of His law and rebellion against His authority. He made clear which specific law was broken and that its violation carried the death penalty.

Just as Eve was fully aware and could recite the consequences of breaking God's law when Satan questioned her, through the tabernacle, people would no longer remain ignorant of God's law and its punishment.

Right and wrong did not change, nor did ignorance make anyone innocent. God did not change, and neither did His justice.

The brutal truth was made clear: the consequence of breaking God's Ten Commandments was the death penalty.

The secret of the substitute

Yet there was still great mystery in it all. Why would God allow the death penalty to be transferred to an innocent creature, and how could this do justice to His law?

The explanation for these mysteries was revealed in the tabernacle service. The blood of some sacrifices was brought into the Holy Place, where there was a seven-branched candlestick, a table of showbread, and an altar of incense. Once a year, the blood of the sacrifice was brought into the Most Holy Place, which was God's throne room with the law, and it was sprinkled in front of it and on it. In this way, the law served as a witness that the penalty had been paid, and that both the law and the lawgiver had been honored.

All the symbols inside are related to God's connection with His people, showing how He could purify the sinner and restore them to good standing. It revealed that the condition for using a substitute was to be genuinely repentant, not to blame God's law but to take responsibility

ourselves. We had to show a willingness to start over and use the opportunity given to turn from our ways.



God's sanctuary system shared many similarities with modern courts. There is a law, a judge, a lawbreaker, and sentencing. However, what modern courts do not have is the opportunity to transfer the execution of the penalty to a substitute. This unique aspect of God's juridical system was so remarkable that even angels were puzzled by it. How could it possibly be fair? Could mercy and law exist together?

person instead of the guilty? Wouldn't that put others at risk if the offender goes free? Imagine if a rapist asked for his innocent mother to go to prison in his stead. What would happen to society if every criminal could have a law-abiding citizen serve their sentence for them? Eventually, all the good people would be in prison. God is no fool; He did not create a system that acquits the guilty so they can continue breaking the law without consequences. God claims to be both just and merciful.

In God's substitute system, repentance that leads to a change of behavior was essential. The sinner was not completely off the hook because of the substitute's death; they had to enter into a relationship with God and show a willingness to change. The rebellion against

It is similar to our modern judicial systems. In a courtroom, the law is present and serves as the witness against the accused. Sentencing is based on those laws. However, in our legal system, there is no substitute for taking the penalty for someone else; such an idea would be absurd today. What purpose would it serve to punish an innocent

God's kingship had to end. So, along with the substitute, God offered a rehabilitation program. If you dropped out of it, you lost the benefit of the substitute's blood. This was similar to parole as we know it today, where the criminal is set free but is expected to follow society's rules. If they do not, they risk losing their pardon and returning to prison. In God's rehabilitation program, those who prayed and asked for salvation through the substitute had to demonstrate a desire to learn God's laws and adjust to them, asking God for strength and help to change and staying in constant communication with Him to achieve this goal: "*against such there is no law*" (Gal. 5:23). The candlestick symbolized God's strength and protection through His Spirit, the table of showbread symbolized learning, and the altar of incense symbolized prayer. If they committed to change, God would provide mercy and the power to work for and with them.

Through God's sanctuary system, it was made clear that sacrificing to please God was not enough—there was a bigger picture. To be part of God's restored kingdom, they could be acquitted of their sins and go free, but only if they committed to change. This is what Christ called "*the new birth*" (John 3)

Sanctuary system abused

However, over time, God's sanctuary system was also abused. The idea returned that God had to be satisfied, and He was seen as difficult and unreasonable. This misconception affected how the sanctuary system was viewed. Sometimes people would bring sick or less valuable animals to sacrifice, missing the true point (Mal 1:7-8). At times, the Israelites took pride in sacrificing many animals, thinking it would please God just to see the blood flow. Animal killing became an everyday event, and people stopped feeling the weight of the terrible price for their sins. The richer someone was, the more they had to sacrifice, and the finer the animal. The idea developed that you could be cleansed from all your wrongs simply by sacrificing. This turned the system into a way to purchase from God the right to sin or to continue sinning. This was a profanation of its true purpose.

But the sanctuary system revealed something deeper: the sin that was pardoned was brought in by the blood, and once a year, on the Great Day of Atonement, God would investigate whether those who had shed the blood did so in arrogance and with the spirit of Cain, having no interest in rehabilitation, or if they had been sincere. This most holy place represented that each person's case would be reviewed in God's court in heaven. Why heaven? Because if a person is acquitted, they are allowed access to heaven, which makes it heaven's business. It is also where God's authority resides.

God said regarding the Day of Atonement: *«For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people» (Lev 23:29)*

God would not be fooled. The sacrifice did not blind Him to their motives, attitudes, or what they did with the freedom they believed they had purchased.

However, God was repeatedly pained by how people continued to misrepresent Him and the entire point of the symbolism in His justice system. In theory, God had the right to sentence everyone for breaking the law, take back the life He had given, and be done with it. Instead, the sacrificial system showed God's desire to save and restore humanity. It represented the only way for people to receive life when they deserved death. When the system was misrepresented, people lost access to their one true chance. God's motive was to save and spare us, but the whole system was turned against Him: His desire to help was interpreted as a desire to harm; His love was seen as hostility; His outstretched hand was seen as a striking hand. The sacrificial system, whether practiced inside or outside the sanctuary, lost its purpose. Without rehabilitation, the blood of the substitute became an excuse to continue sinning without consequence.

God once said about meaningless offerings: *“Offer sacrifice no more in vain: incense is an abomination to me” (Isaiah 1:13).*

And: *“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings” (Hos. 6:6).*

Some might say that God asked for sacrifices, but then seems to reject them. This confusion stems from a misunderstanding of why God asked for them in the first place.

“Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:21-22).

One reason God appreciated King David, despite his horrific sins, was that he did not misrepresent the witness in God’s sacrificial system. David said, *“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:16-17).*

David understood that he could not buy his way out of trouble, and that what God really needed to see was an admission of guilt and a willingness to change. David’s son Solomon said, *“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice” (Proverbs 21:3).* He, too, understood that the sacrificial system lost its meaning without repentance and rehabilitation. See also Micah 6:6-8, 1 Samuel 15:22, and Psalm 40:6-8.

In the book of Jeremiah, God goes so far as to say that He did not primarily command them to offer sacrifices. Instead, He commanded them to keep His law and love Him. If they had done that, the many sacrifices would not have been needed, since sacrifices were actually a testimony of their transgression and past rebellion. God did not command them to break His laws so that He could be glorified by a sacrifice. *“Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces? ... Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and*

ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.” (Jeremiah 7:19 & 21-24)

Because sin became so common, people thought less and less about what sin actually was. But sin against God’s law is like eating from the tree that Eve ate from, over and over again. It was meant to be a serious matter, and the sacrifice was to be a harsh reminder of the reality and consequences of sin. Instead, they created a society where sin was no big deal because they believed they had an easy way out. All they had to do was please the gods with some offerings.

God critiques them: *“Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD” (Jer. 7:9-11).*

God repeats this to every generation: *“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?” (Isaiah 1:11-17)*

They thought God would be happy with them bringing all their sacrifices. But it was a grievous thing to Him because of what it truly symbolized. It represented all their filthy deeds.

“Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil” (Ecclesiastes 5:1).

There was supposed to be shame in their actions. By the first century, sacrifices had even become a competition, a matter of status, and a

show of wealth. Money changers sold overpriced animals and exploited those coming to the temple seeking mercy.

Jesus, who was one with God and the prophets before Him, had seen enough.

Twice He entered the temple courts, and it is the only time we see Him use physical force: *“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”*

And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.” (Matthew 21:12-14)

Jesus also said: *“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.” (Matthew 12:7)*

Jesus was not just anyone expressing frustration over how God’s witness of salvation was being abused. Jesus was the person to whom it all pointed. He was the promised substitute, the Lamb of God. He was the one whose death and blood were being abused and used. The sacrificial feast, the bloodbath from all those who thought sin was not a big deal and could easily be atoned for, was now before the one who would pay the price and carry the heavy burden as the sin-bearer. Every sin was a deadly strike on Christ. Both the past abuse and the future abuse were before Him while cleansing the temple.

As it turned out, the sacrificial system was only symbolic. *“It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4).* God’s sacrificial system was a revelation pointing to the coming Savior and substitute. The secret rescue plan of God is now made known: *“Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to*

all nations for the obedience of faith” (Romans 16:25-26).

The symbolic system before Christ was meant to help people understand what sin is and what its penalty would be. But it also showed that a way out for the repentant was possible. God had a plan to offer mercy while still upholding the validity of His law.

Jesus was the only acceptable substitute. The blood of an animal could not fully honor the law. How could a grievous sin be erased by the blood of a lamb without the law being disrespected? But if the Son of God, who took part in Creation, came as a man, representing humanity and its transgression, and remained innocent, He would be the only acceptable substitute. **He was their King, the lawgiver in flesh. The law, in one respect, is equal to the one who gave it; its value is tied to the position of the lawgiver, and the lawgiver’s authority is expressed in His law. They cannot exist independently of each other.**

It would not be a random person paying the price for someone else, nor would it be a being unable to make that decision. God Himself made the sacrifice by giving His Son, His co-regent, and the cost was great. God risked losing the only one who shared His nature, who was part of Him and one with Him. If it had gone wrong, God would have lost His only family and been alone for eternity. Jesus, by giving up His nature to be born as a human, separated Himself from His divine nature and physical origin, though His soul remained at one with God. Christ’s outward form became human, but He was still God’s Son, only in a humbled state. As a ruler with God and in His likeness, Jesus was the only one equal to the law who could go. The Father could not, for then life would be over; a lower being could not, for they were not equal with the law or the lawgiver. Both God and His Son took a great risk to save humanity, and by careful planning and execution, they succeeded. Christ was resurrected, returned to heaven, and could claim earth as His, being the only human completely obedient to God. Dominion over the earth had been given to Adam, but humans handed it to Satan. He was not supposed to rule this planet; he and his angels are “aliens,” yet humans accepted his authority here. Now that there is a human who would not yield to Satan’s laws or join the rebellion, the earth is to be given to that man, for God’s law says the earth is to be ruled by

humans. In addition, Jesus, by atoning for humanity's sins, can welcome them back into His kingdom. Satan and his angels refuse to give it up, though the earth now rightfully belongs to Christ. This is why Christ is allowed to return to earth with an army, so that He may reclaim it and save His people.

From the book of Hebrews, we learn that the sanctuary system was really just an illustration of the sanctuary in heaven. Through the earthly system, humanity was permitted to see, in part, God's legal system put in motion to save them. However, there were no animal sacrifices in heaven.

The principles remained the same. God's law had been broken, and through Christ's blood, the sinner could acknowledge guilt, transfer their sins to Him, and take part in God's rehabilitation program. Jesus called this process "the new birth." We are to let our old sinful life die with Christ on the cross, and then rise with Christ from the tomb as new people, now children of God, made in His image. Jesus took the penalty we deserved; we receive the reward He deserved. The conditions were unchanged: the Old Covenant revealed the truth of the real salvation plan, but was not the solution itself. Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3).

He also revealed the reason behind the substitute plan: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

The plan was never meant to create the toxic relationship with a god that pagans, and sometimes even Israel, demonstrated. No random innocent creature was to be the substitute; it was only a symbol of God sending His innocent Son to die in our place. The sacrificial laws were given beforehand to help people understand the consequences of sin: *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:24).

If God had chosen a random person to atone, He would have been

unjust to the innocent. But Jesus, with God's blessing, voluntarily gave Himself out of love for humanity, and this could not be questioned. By giving Himself freely, Jesus showed that God was willing to make the sacrifice Himself. He is our provider, just as He is our life-giver.

It was never about God being bloodthirsty or needing to be bribed to forgive us. God was lied about, and His plan of salvation was misunderstood and misrepresented. Although the sanctuary service illustrated God's plan of salvation, it would no longer serve its purpose after Christ came, died, and entered the tabernacle in heaven. Since the system was so misunderstood, even by the Jews, the best way to show people the path to salvation was to present it plainly, as it truly is. There was no longer a need for symbols to guide the way, because they had found their fulfillment. The path now leads through Christ's blood and His ministry for us. The truth is out in the open. Yet, would it still be misrepresented and misunderstood?

Christ's sacrifice is being abused by Christians.

Although God's intentions and demands were clear, Christ's blood began to receive the same treatment as the animal sacrifices before the sanctuary system. Mixing pagan and Christian understandings led to the same problematic relationship with Christ as pagans and Jews once had with the animal sacrifices. Even though the Bible states that Christ presented His blood in the heavenly sanctuary as a witness, the knowledge of the sanctuary service in the New Covenant was forgotten or ignored by many Christians. As a result, the blood of Jesus was taken out of the context of God's juridical system. Some did away with God's law, while others changed it. Repentance came to be based on whatever truth people believed in their own era. God and His requirements seemed to change depending on who claimed to represent Him. The rehabilitation program was neglected or misunderstood.

The suffering of Jesus became less significant in people's minds, and many began to see giving their sins to Jesus as an easy way to atone. As a result, Christ's sacrifice was used as an excuse to continue sinning. The Bible warns against this (Hebrews 10:26; 1 John 1:8-10).

When the sanctuary context is removed from Christ's sacrifice, many Christians do not understand its true purpose. They do not recognize which law has been broken and demand justice, nor do they repent or participate in the rehabilitation program. Instead, Christ's blood becomes like a machine: you put in an apology and receive an acquittal card in return. Some even claim that freedom to sin can be found in Christ, based on how they practice their faith.

Pagans did not understand the purpose of sacrifice, and many Christians today do not grasp the meaning of Christ's sacrifice either. Instead, they see it only as a way to be saved while continuing to break God's law.

The belief that the law was abolished at the cross removes the true meaning of the cross. It was because God would not remove His law that someone had to pay the penalty for breaking it. God combined law and mercy; He did not replace one with the other. If mercy is not an exception, it is not mercy. If mercy becomes the rule, it is no longer needed.

Many Christians see the cross as something that eliminates everything—both law and sin—and believe a new spiritual world begins where neither exists. Because of this, they fail to see the cross within God's juridical system and do not understand how the plan of salvation actually works. Jesus tells us in several places that many will think they are saved, clinging to His name, yet they will not be saved (Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 24:48-51; Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 22:12-14; Matthew 25:32). They abuse His sacrifice just as Israel once abused the animal sacrifices. God said they were not granted atonement, and Jesus will say the same on the day of judgment to those abusing His sacrifice. This misrepresentation causes them to lose the opportunity they had been given to be saved by Christ's sacrifice. That is Satan's plan in distorting the gospel. He wins when people think they are saved, even though they are not.

Other Christians have more clearly followed the pagan path, such as the Catholic Church, where, in many instances, people still try to be saved by bribes and good deeds. The belief that sins are weighed against good deeds remains. Yet God's law is not respected and is even changed to

suit their ways and sins, while still claiming the blood for breaking their own rules. In this way, they remove the sacrifice from God's tabernacle and do not spiritually bring the blood before the throne and the tabernacle of heaven.

When Israel took their sacrifice away from the tabernacle that contained the law, the blood was said not to save them: *“What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp, and bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people”* (Leviticus 17:3-4).

The tabernacle illustrated many of God's principles. The book of Hebrews shows that Jesus is the High Priest in the heavenly tabernacle. It also explains that everything in the covenant ministry was illustrated by the ceremonies and symbolic roles in the Old Testament.

“For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount” (Hebrews 8:4-5).

Saved by Works or by Faith?

Some Christians try to do both: they rely on the blood of Christ, but also believe that their own good deeds can atone for sin.

This has led to the ongoing discussion of salvation by works or by faith. The one who first started confusing matters, beginning with Cain, then the heathen nations, and later Israel and Judah, is still active today. He turns things upside down as he always does.

Satan tries to make God's rehabilitation plan appear the same as trying to be saved by works. He presents respect for God's law and order as something negative. Most evangelical churches are built on this shaky ground that Judah once fell for in their day. Yet the truth lies in the imagery God set up.

“Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?” (Psa. 77:13)

«Until I went into the sanctuary of God, then I understood their end» (Psa 73:17)

Believing that we can be saved by works is not the same as rehabilitating or respecting God's law. What it really means is thinking you can erase a sin by doing a good deed. You cannot. Only Christ's blood can atone for your sin. Even if you go on a pilgrimage for days, recite the Lord's Prayer a hundred times, or devote your life to preaching as a pastor, none of these things can remove your sin. Being a missionary, adopting less fortunate children, or giving your fortune to feed the hungry cannot erase your wrongs. A good deed does not remove a bad deed. If your good deeds are used as an argument for atonement, it is corruption or bribery. It would not stand in any earthly courthouse, nor will it acquit you in God's court. Would an earthly court set a man free who has sexually abused a child if he can prove he has improved the lives of ten other children? Of course not. Neither will God accept this reasoning.

This is the true meaning of not being saved by works. Only Christ's blood can atone, and only the sacrifice of God can save you. Your own sacrifice is not good enough to grant you access to heaven.

Atonement is a free gift from God if you take part in His rehabilitation program.

You can do good deeds and keep God's law, but these are only signs that God's rehabilitation program is working in you. They show that you have repented and want another chance. However, these actions cannot be used to escape the consequence of sin, which is death. God's juridical system demands respect. You cannot take a life and then

assume that saving someone else's life will acquit you from the life you took. This was a pagan belief. Pagans imagined gods holding scales, and at death, a person's sins were weighed against their good deeds.

This is not how God's juridical system works, as shown through the imagery He has given in the Sanctuary system. You cannot steal from a store and then later give gifts to the poor, thinking this has balanced out your wrongs and atoned for them. We cannot be saved by works.

God's law remains and still stands. Because it is still in force, there is only one way for humanity to be saved after breaking it: Christ taking our place. This is why there is only one way to be acquitted, and that is by Christ's blood. If the law were done away with, we would not need Christ's atoning sacrifice to save us.

If you bring your sacrifices without repentance, without respect for the law and the lawgiver, and without a desire to change, your sacrifice is not accepted.

Jesus left no room for doubt: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

God has given us only one way to escape the death penalty, which is seen in both the sacrificial system and in Christ's sacrifice. Just as the pagans continued their false sacrificial system alongside the sanctuary service, many Christians continue a false use of Christ's blood and name, while the true representation is found elsewhere. There have always been both true and false representatives of Christ, and this has been the case since the rebellion began.

Every abuse of the sacrificial system in the Old Testament that God critiques can also be applied to the abuse of Christ as our sacrifice, because the old system was always a symbol of Christ.

Paul wanted his student to understand just how important it was to place the context of the cross alongside the witness in the Old Testament scriptures. He said: *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation*

through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Placing the cross in the right context is vitally important. Recognizing Christ as our sacrifice within the imagery of the heavenly sanctuary, as explained in Hebrews, is the only way to see the plan of salvation in its fullness.

Satan has always distorted God’s intention with the plan of salvation. He will continue to misrepresent Christ’s sacrifice.

Paul warns us that many *"would pervert the gospel of Christ"* (Galatians 1:7).

Although God is glorified by His Son’s sacrifice, He desires us to sin as little as possible. If He had to choose, He would have wanted mankind never to sin at all. Instead of Eve breaking His law, He would have wanted her to trust Him and remain faithful. She would never have needed Jesus to die as her substitute, and much pain and suffering would have been avoided. If we continue to sin willfully, not considering that each sin is a strike on our innocent Savior, we should consider changing our ways. Jesus is still our helper and the one to whom we turn. He would rather we go to Him for strength to avoid sin than come afterward asking for forgiveness. If we believe God wanted sin to exist so He could sacrifice Himself to save us, we have misunderstood everything. Although God gains glory from His kindness and mercy toward the sinner, the sacrifice was painful and cost God more than we will ever fully understand. If we think we must continue to sin to glorify God, we have misunderstood even more. He does not want us to fail.

God's first desire was for us to love and respect Him. Now that we have all sinned, His wish is for us to receive His gift of salvation and restoration. God never wanted sin to happen, and He never wants us to sin. He has never given anyone an excuse to sin.

“Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:7-8).

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin” (Romans 6:1-7).

We are saved by Christ’s sacrifice, but God is glorified only when we let Him change our hearts. *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” (Ezekiel 36:26-27).*

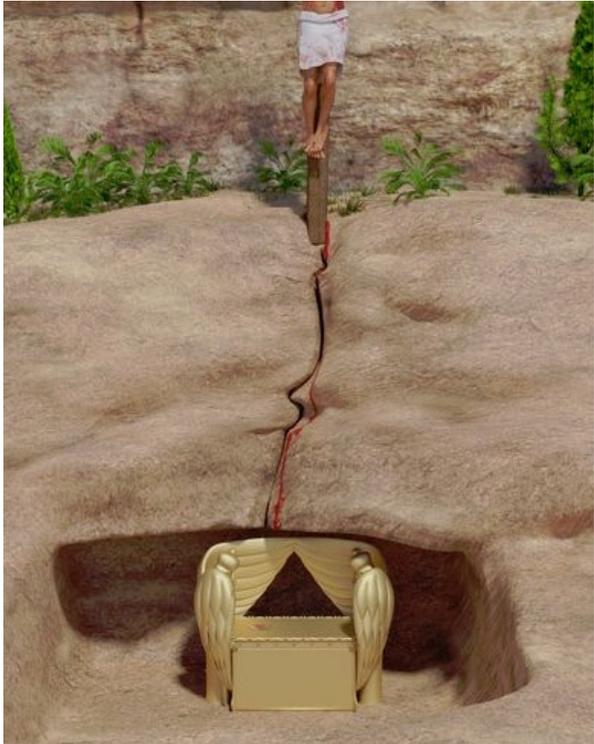
“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ... And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:5-10, 14-15).

Christ's sacrifice back in the sanctuary system

After many centuries during which Christ's sacrifice was separated from its sanctuary context, God encouraged people to study more deeply. When the sanctuary appeared in both the book of Hebrews and the book of Revelation, a movement began to reconnect the two. This did not happen until the 19th century. In a way, history repeated itself. The first sacrificial system was given and then abused. To restore meaning, God chose a people to reunite the sacrificial system with the sanctuary in the right context. When Christians once again separated the cross from the sanctuary, God repeated the process. He raised up a people to reconnect the two. God's law was elevated once more as the standard.

The majority of Christians viewed this as false light and chose to keep Christ's sacrifice separated from the sanctuary. However, they will have another chance to receive Christ's sacrifice properly.

In our age, at the end of earth's history, there are multitudes of religious teachers and spiritual guides. Many are trading God's gift to the world. Thousands of groups claim Christ's blood but teach different truths. All of this happens because Christ's sacrifice was separated from the sanctuary. Through the discovery of Christ's blood on the mercy seat, God will once again place the blood of our substitute in the right context. The cross



will be shown alongside the sanctuary items and the law, making clear what sin is, what we need to repent of, and the only acceptable atonement. This will reveal the truth of both why and how, as one last call for humanity to take part in God's plan of restoration before it is too late. God will also expose the lies of those offering Christ's blood on their own doctrinal terms.

Faith

God asks mankind to have faith in Him, trusting that He is a righteous judge who knows what is best for us. People were created to love their Father, and throughout their lives, they feel an emptiness in their hearts that nothing else can fill. Without a restored relationship of trust, true belonging and inner peace remain out of reach. This longing is always present. Many try to silence it by indulging in their desires, believing that achieving everything they ever wanted will satisfy them. It never does. Even the most successful individuals struggle to find inner peace. We are like children taken from their parents—temporarily amused and distracted by entertainment, but still longing for our true home. Amusement can help us forget for a while, and being busy or pursuing our dreams can feel fulfilling. However, at the end of the day, that longing always returns. The truth is, the missing piece is God. Not everyone will admit this; some even resist the idea, often because they have heard so many lies about God that they do not believe He could be the one their soul is longing for. So they continue searching for something else.

Humans naturally long to rest in the hands of someone strong, and the desire to worship is part of our nature. We need someone greater than ourselves to look up to for a sense of direction. Without this, we struggle with our identity. When Christianity lost influence in the Western world, young people began to idolize media personalities instead. They admired one another and made idols out of other people. Many of these figures lived lives as troubled as the ancient gods, yet their high status allowed their actions to be accepted—even celebrated. Others looked to self-help coaches, psychologists, new age philosophies, spiritualism, Buddhism, or anything else that might meet their spiritual needs. Because Christianity's reputation suffered, many continued searching for something else.

Satan knows that once the bond with God is broken, people will desperately seek someone else to lead them—someone they can admire. He uses this to his advantage by offering leaders who lead people astray, idols that corrupt the mind, and alternative religions.

God intended for human leaders to guide people toward Him, but instead they took His place and became gods unto themselves and others. The result was a scattered people. When Jesus was on earth, the Bible says: *“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).*

He also shared this parable: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep” (John 10:1-2).*

He explained the meaning: *“I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But the hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them” (John 10:9-12).*

God calls people sheep because, like sheep, they will always follow something or someone. Today, many claim to be different and unique, but the fact that so many strive for it proves that true uniqueness is rare. When being unique is a trend, it stops being unique at all. Even those who rebel are inspired by someone else. In groups of rebels, you can easily spot similarities in clothing, speech, and behavior. Even those who insist they are different have a group and a source of inspiration. For example, black metal musicians are just as similar to each other as nuns are to each other.

God explains in Ezekiel that part of the reason people have gone astray and *“turned every one to his own way”* is because of how those claiming to be leaders of God's people have behaved (Isaiah 53:6). Instead of caring for His "sheep," these leaders have abused their

position for personal gain. *"Woe to the shepherds of Israel that feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"* God continues with the symbolic language: *"You eat the fat, clothe yourselves with the wool, kill those that are fed, but you do not feed the flock."* He then puts it more plainly: *"You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bound up the injured, brought back the strays, or sought the lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. They were scattered because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my flock was scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them."* (Ezek 34:2-6)

From God, we learn that human leaders often abandon their followers when trouble comes. They use and abuse those in their care for personal gain, and they do not truly nourish them. Jesus said that real food is *"the word of God,"* meaning true leaders unite people with God, not with themselves. Many leaders fed people their own words instead of God's, and this made God very upset.

"I will hold these shepherds accountable for my flock. I will stop them from feeding themselves, and I will rescue my flock from their mouths. My people will no longer be food for them." (34:10)

God does not give up easily because He sees people as His children. He will try to bring them back: *"For thus says the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search for my sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out my sheep and deliver them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy and dark day."* (34:11-12)

Just as a child longs for its parents, so does a parent long to be reunited with their child. God wants to reunite with everyone who has gone astray, to heal their wounds and give them peace. But all He can do is offer us this chance; He cannot make the choice for us.

The power of doubt

The serpent made Eve doubt that God had her best interests at heart, and this same doubt still keeps many people from obeying God today. Once doubt enters the heart, it creates distance between us and the one we doubt. Whenever we hear something new about that person, our earlier doubts come back and make us question what is really happening. Doubt is one of the hardest things to remove or overcome; some say it cannot be done at all. The suspicion that doubt brings up makes us protect ourselves or try to take control, just in case we cannot trust the other person. It is very hard for God to lead someone who doubts Him, because whenever trust is needed, we take control away from God and try to handle things ourselves. Humanity's fall is rooted in distrust, so our restoration must come through renewed trust.



When God approached Moses, He introduced Himself as the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" to help Moses trust Him, since Moses knew God had been good to his ancestors. Throughout the Bible, God repeatedly says not only that He can be trusted, but that we need to trust Him: *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Trust in God is not supposed to be completely blind. If it were, God would never defend Himself against His critics. When He says He is good, it is because His character has been questioned. God tries to help us see how His enemy and even people have lied about Him, and He reveals the truth to win back our trust. He explains His position so that those who have lost trust in Him can understand and be saved.

Jesus spoke about false shepherds: *"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10).

God knows He can only ask for our trust; if He tried to force it, we would lose it. Trust cannot exist where there is force, either between people or between God and humanity. To regain our trust, God calls us to walk with Him and get to know Him personally. He asks us to give Him the benefit of the doubt and to journey with Him. This is what it really means to have faith, as explained in Hebrews chapter 11. This is also how Jesus remained faithful to God, even though He was born in human flesh like us. Jesus was not ignorant—He was the greatest teacher who ever lived. The enemy tries to convince us that trusting God means being ignorant, but that is not true. If we trust God and walk with Him, He will increase our knowledge and give us true wisdom.

The tree of knowledge

The forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan used this tree to make Eve believe that God was holding something good back from her. Many people do not consider that the tree was also said to have knowledge of good. Why would God withhold any good knowledge? Sometimes, truly understanding good requires knowing about evil as well. Before humanity fell, no one knew how far God would go to give people a second chance at life. They knew God was good, but did not know how much He would be willing to sacrifice. This is an example of good knowledge that God wanted to protect people from. If He had told them in advance, it might have encouraged them to sin, knowing there would be a way out.

God also knew that for people to learn this about Him, a lot of pain and suffering would have to happen. Although it is true that good things can come out of bad situations, it is better if the bad situation never occurs. We see this in our own world: when a disaster strikes, many people come together to help the victims. In these moments, people become heroes and inspire others to do good. But do we really need tragedy for us to show our goodness? We may regain faith in humanity when we see eager helpers, but their actions depend on evil happening first.

God was not keeping something good from Adam and Eve when He told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He was simply doing what was right. God could have been praised more for how He responded to the rebellion, but that was never His goal. He did not want that situation to happen, because He loved His earthly children. God did not want to use evil to make Himself look good. In this sense, both the good and the evil knowledge were hidden together and forbidden. God kept part of His goodness hidden to protect humanity from evil. People did not need to know the depth of His mercy until they were in a position to need it.

God wanted humanity to trust Him and accept that there are some things they do not need to know. They needed to let go of the pursuit of all knowledge to have a good, perfect life.



Picture: A camp for fugitives receiving humanitarian aid. People coming together to help those in need is always beautiful. However, much of the good we see in the world is a response to something bad that happened first.

When Satan planted doubt in Eve's mind, she chose to gain the knowledge for herself by eating from the tree. From that point on, humanity has struggled to trust God, and Satan has taken advantage of this struggle ever since.

God asks us to do what Eve did not do when she stood before the tree: to trust Him. We are called to trust that He is our Father and that He wants what is best for us.

We need to trust that when God asks something of us, it is for a greater good and in our best interest, even if it does not seem that way at first. When we come to Him, He works for our good. If we let doubt convince us otherwise, we let go of God's hand and walk our own path. Our view is always limited, both in each situation and in the bigger picture. At every step, Satan will try to feed our doubt so we do not turn back and seek help.

As parents, we tell our children what they need to know, but sometimes we ask them to trust us in things they cannot fully understand. In the same way, God gives us knowledge and tries to win our trust by being there when we call on Him. Yet sometimes He simply asks us to trust Him. When someone trusts Him completely, God can do amazing things through that person. Jesus, as our example, walked on water, healed the sick, raised the dead, and calmed storms, all in unity with God. Jesus said, *"Truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12).

He also said, *"Because of your unbelief; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you"* (Matthew 17:20).

When we fully trust God, we follow His path for our lives and share His principles. God can do great things with us, knowing we will not use it for our own glory or to mislead others. Trust is a mutual gift. When we give trust, we also receive trust. It is never a one-way street.

God gave us the Bible so we could learn how He works and build trust in Him. By reading about the experiences others have had with God, we gain valuable insight. Instead of only being known as the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," He now reveals Himself as the God of the entire Bible. We see the experiences of many people, not just the three patriarchs. He is also the God of Moses, Joshua, Ruth, David, Elijah, Samuel, Mary, Martha, John, Peter, James, and many more. Each person had a unique relationship with God, but His principles never change. Even though the stories cover thousands of years, God remains the same, with the same message and the same calling. *"For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:16). "The Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17).*

The Bible shows us how God responds to those who seek refuge in Him, as well as to those who deceive. Most importantly, we see God in human form—His Son, who perfectly reflects God's character, His desires for us, and the great lengths He is willing to go for our sake. The life of Christ allows us to know God on a personal level.

When we are tempted to doubt, we are encouraged to look at Jesus—at His life and at Him on the cross. When Jesus hung on the cross, God was showing us, "I love you!" By focusing on Christ's life, death, and resurrection, our trust in God can be restored and the lies about Him exposed. We see who the real enemy is. God exposed the lies of His enemies, offering us hope of resurrection, victory, and acceptance.

Focusing on Christ is not about God taking away your joy. Instead, it helps you keep your faith strong. When we lose sight of Christ, doubt can take root again, especially while living in a world that opposes Him. When we turn our eyes back to God, we remember who He truly is. *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).*

When we understand that God truly wants what is best for us and look to Him with trust, we begin to change. God becomes our hero, the one we look up to and seek. Idols made of gold, wood, or even other people lose their hold on us as we pursue God instead. This is how we are



restored: by focusing on Him. As Paul wrote, *“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”* (2 Corinthians 3:17). When we leave behind what holds us captive and come home to God, we find true freedom.

God gave us the Bible so we could get to know Him. Sadly, some interpreters have twisted His word. That is why it is important to pray for guidance and read the Bible for yourself.

Many people come to church without finding peace or a true connection to

God. This often happens because Christ is presented apart from His life and goals. Their trust in God is not restored because the gospel is sometimes preached in a misleading way, making God hard to understand. This uncertainty feeds their doubt, and many continue their search outside the church.

As God becomes less present in society, anxiety and depression grow stronger in our hearts. Today, many are desperate for answers and a sense of belonging in a broken world, so they turn to themselves for comfort and worship. People want to believe in themselves and trust their own instincts and thoughts. If they deny themselves something, they feel as though they are betraying their own identity. Their bodies can become their gods, and they seek validation through self-acceptance, sometimes even celebrating personal flaws as unique strengths. Selfishness is praised, and life becomes focused on satisfying themselves and those closest to them. Yet many still find no real peace. They wake up and go to sleep with emptiness in their hearts. Some change their country, language, society, gender, sexuality, appearance, partner, friends, or religion, hoping this will fix what feels wrong. Even

if peace comes for a moment, it rarely lasts. Worship of self is uncommon outside the western world or among the less privileged. When privilege disappears, or when conflict and hardship come, people quickly look for someone else to lead them—a human leader or even a god. The religion of self lasts only until life becomes difficult and we realize that we cannot save or even protect ourselves or our children from harm.

If you have doubts, God asks you to give Him the benefit of the doubt and to get to know Him before making a decision.

We can never fully break away from God because He is the one who gave us life. *“But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me this way?’”* (Romans 9:20). We cannot change our origin, no matter how much we want to. We exist because of God. Our lives come from Him. None of us came into this world without first belonging to someone.

We are formed in our mother’s womb, but we can still resemble our earthly father. No matter how we feel about our parents, we are created in their image and carry their genetic heritage. In the same way, every person has something within them that links them to their Creator. Even if we decide we want nothing to do with God, that connection still exists and points back to Him as our source.

No human leader, idol, false god, or belief in oneself can truly bring people peace. They may promise it and claim they can create it if you follow their instructions, but they never succeed.

God invites us to return to Him, to trust Him, and to believe that He is working for our good. He asks us to accept His law as the ultimate standard of what is right. When we are tempted to doubt, God calls us to give Him the benefit of the doubt, to seek understanding from Him before believing His accusers. When we are unsure, we should choose to follow Him, because only then can He lead us to safety. God becomes our King when we have faith in Him and trust Him. Through

restored trust, our relationship with God is healed and He can work for our good.

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Of Faith and Miracles

Many people ask God to perform a miracle or give a sign, believing they need it in order to trust and believe in Him.

Proof can influence our choices, but it does not always inspire trust. Sometimes, it inspires fear or anger instead.

God is cautious when performing miracles because He knows they can harm as easily as inspire faith. The apostles saw many signs and wonders, but at one point the disciples lost faith in God, and Jesus quickly addressed it: “*And there arose a great storm of wind, and the*



waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master; carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:37-40)

Although they were tempted to doubt that God was taking care of them, the sign Christ performed did not

change their motive for following Him. This is the main reason Jesus could do these great manifestations among them. Unfortunately, people who do not wish to convert sometimes ask God for signs in order to force themselves to convert, fearing the consequences if they don't. They want a sign of His existence before making a decision. If God agrees, He has not established a relationship based on trust, but one of coercion.

An example of this is seen in the story of Israel's exodus. Although they witnessed great signs and manifestations of God's power, for many, this only aroused fear and led them to form an unhealthy relationship with God that resulted in rebellion.

If God uses signs and miracles to convert someone who does not care for Him, He knows He is establishing a relationship based not on trust, but on fear and anxiety. Where there is fear, there is less love and a lack of trust. And remember, we would also treat God the way Satan wanted Jesus to treat God in the wilderness. Although we are worried about being used, we should not treat God badly either, as this only creates a dysfunctional relationship.

So God deliberately uses signs to strengthen those who are already responding positively to His Spirit or are already believers. The signs and displays of God's power do not change their hearts, but rather strengthen their love for God. In a good and healthy relationship, God can do great things for that person. The disciples sometimes struggled with their faith, but it was not disconnected from their motives—they loved God. Life simply overwhelmed them at times, and they became tempted and afraid—not of God, but of losing Him.

Another incident occurred during the time of Jesus when a father sought help for his son. Jesus said to him, "*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.*" Immediately the father of the child cried out, saying with tears, "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief*" (Mark 9:23-24). This man truly believed, but at the same time, he struggled with his faith in God's willingness to help him.

He confessed his care for God but was also honest about his struggles. Jesus willingly helped the man and healed his son. When the apostle Thomas struggled with disbelief after Christ's resurrection, he said he would only believe if he could see Jesus resurrected. Thomas made this condition not because he wanted to avoid doing the right thing, but because of his struggle. Thomas already loved Jesus, so Jesus appeared to him and said: *"Reach here your finger, and behold my hands; and reach here your hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."* And Thomas answered and said to him, *"My Lord and my God."* Jesus said to him, *"Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:27-29)

Jesus gave Thomas the sign he requested because He knew it would not change Thomas's heart or harm their relationship. However, at the same time, Jesus gave a blessing to those who did not set conditions for their belief.

Once we place conditions on our belief, we may unintentionally put ourselves in a difficult position, feeling dependent on signs and worrying when they do not come as we desire them to. Therefore, those who trust God completely and do not seek signs will experience more peace.

When distrust is combined with hostility toward God, He knows that any signs in their favor will only temporarily pacify them or create an unhealthy relationship, leading them to abuse His name.

This is why you rarely see God perform miracles to convince people to change their ways; He usually reserves signs for those who already believe. It is not discrimination—it is in humanity's best interest.

When someone has great power and a high position, it is very easy to abuse that power. The more power one has, the more easily people may feel manipulated and coerced. We have seen this many times throughout course of history, watching politicians, dictators, religious leaders, or anyone in a high position abusing their power. Sometimes, they do not realize they are abusing it. They do not understand the

impact they have on someone in a vulnerable position, or how difficult it is for that person to speak up or refuse. God knows this, and so He is very careful



to impress people with His Spirit instead. God tried to demonstrate this point to the prophet Elijah, who was eager for God to continue to do extensive signs to force people to change direction. God told Elijah to watch as He sent a series of manifestations:

“And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1Ki 19:11-13)

The strong manifestations broke whatever they touched, but God was not in them. Instead, God showed Elijah that He was in the still, small voice. Many leaders in our world have become corrupt, though they were not at the start. Sometimes, people can influence their leaders to become corrupt by demanding dominance or provoking an unhealthy relationship. God is well aware of this and does not accept us treating Him in a way that would change Him or His character. Thus, He will do what He believes is right and will not be controlled by our wants and

requests. If He did, He would allow others to change Him into something He does not want to be. God does not abuse His position or use His power to manipulate anyone into following Him. When God performs miracles, it can cause great fear and potentially inspire an unhealthy relationship with the person receiving it.

If you want God to perform a sign in order for you to turn to Him, your motive is wrong from the beginning. You are asking God to push you into doing something you have not chosen to do of your own free will.

And so you try to make a deal with God, allowing Him to dominate your decision. If you truly wanted to go to God, you would have done so without asking for a sign. If you are looking for a way not to go, that shows God you are not ready to have a trusting relationship with Him. You already doubt that God is best for you, that His way is good. You do not love the truth when you hear it; instead, you fear it as if it would take something good from you. Then God sees that you are not ready. This principle is mentioned many times in the biblical book Song of Solomon: *“Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires”* (Song 2:7; 3:5; 8:4).

When the Pharisees asked for a sign, Jesus refused and said it is typical for those who do not want to come to Him to ask for a sign as an excuse: *“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them ...A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed”* (Matt 16:1-2,4). Bear in mind, the same people had already watched Jesus perform many miracles. He had even just fed four thousand people by a miracle. These signs did not impact them enough to inspire faith because they were looking for a way out, not a way in. So they asked for a more authoritative sign, one directly from heaven. But they did not love Jesus; they would only follow Him if God made them. So Jesus did not give them the sign they asked for. Many Christians who have seen God’s power in their lives pray for God to show the same signs they have seen to those they want to convert, only to have the request denied. They do not understand why God cannot just do these wonders

for the people they love as well. At the same time, many feel their experiences are not believed unless others experience them too. It might seem like a well-meaning request, but why should you try to force someone to choose differently than what they want? We are again back to the principle we started with—the urge to suppress people for their own good. God does not help in these situations. Only if He sees that the person is responding positively to His Spirit does He encourage them on the path they already desire to walk by giving them special experiences.

If someone thinks that if God does not exist, they want to live a life of indulgence and lawlessness, they might not be ready. If they will only reconsider if God gives a sign, they reveal that they do not wish to come to God. So if God gives what they ask, He will not have solved anything except filling up His church with people who do not know Him, do not love Him, and do not wish to follow His way. Nor can He safely bring them to heaven.

When Pilate sent Jesus as a prisoner to Herod, we see Jesus again refusing to give a sign: *“And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad, for he had desired to see him for a long time, because he had heard many things about him; and he hoped to see some miracle done by him. Then he questioned him with many words, but Jesus answered him nothing.”* (Luke 23:8-9)

This angered Herod, and when there were no divine signs, he felt bold enough to ridicule Christ, revealing his true character. First, he was glad to see Jesus, then he mocked Him. Some might seem sincere, but their true colors show when God does not follow their instructions.

Jesus refused because He knew it would only do harm or the sign would be wasted. In the case of Pharaoh, God showed many signs—not to convert Pharaoh, but to save Israel. You might think all these signs and wonders would change Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but they did not; Pharaoh only hated the God of Israel more with each manifestation of power.

So by performing signs and wonders for unbelievers, God does not accomplish His true purpose. These signs can only create an unhealthy relationship built on unwillingness, fear, and distrust—or intensify their hatred toward Him.

Sometimes, the signs we ask for could destroy us. The Pharisees asked for a sign that would have cost humanity the gift of life:

They said: *«He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him» (Mat.27:42).*

If God has planned something for thousands of years and it is important for our salvation, He cannot simply change His plans because we refuse to accept Him otherwise. It shows how unreasonable humans can be.

Some, Jesus explained, see miracles and then seek Him for prosperity but still do not care about what He truly wants to do for them or give them (John 6:26-27). They won't trust Him or let Him save them; they will only accept what increases their wealth and power.

God cannot agree to those conditions either. Earning someone's trust is therefore not truly tied to signs and wonders. Still, God helps those who struggle with doubt if their hearts and motives are in the right place.

To one man, Jesus said: *“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe” (John 4:48).* This man had placed a condition on his belief in Christ's ability to heal his son, while Christ wanted him to believe because God cared about him. Grieved by the man's attitude, Jesus still chose to heal his son for the sake of his well-being. By His answer, Jesus warned him against believing only based on signs.

God's reluctance to use signs and wonders is not because He is being difficult—it is tied to His respect for human choice and His desire to create a healthy relationship based on the right reasons. Trust can never be achieved through fear. This does not mean God will never allow you to be afraid of disobeying Him. Sometimes, a warning might do us some good—wake us up from spiritual sleep. Or if we are about to lose salvation, He might warn us before it is too late. It might not be pleasant

to experience, but at least it gives us another chance to choose the right path.

We can better understand this by comparing it to parents and children. If a child grows up with an ill-tempered parent who neglects them, there is no trust between the parent and the child. If the child grows up in a loving home where they feel safe and protected, they may still feel fear when confronted by the parent for doing something wrong. The first child's fear inspires suppression or rebellion. The second child's fear does not harm the child or the relationship. It is the same with our relationship with God: we need to have respect for Him, which can cause us to feel fear in some situations, but as long as it is within the context of love and trust, it will not change the nature of our relationship with Him. A child from an abusive home does not trust the parent, but a child in a loving home can be corrected or even punished and still trust and love the parent.

You can discern who is behind miracles and signs by examining the motives behind them. Where do they lead us—to man, to a false Christ, or to God's truth?

If our relationship with God is like that of a child in an abusive home, we have a problem. God does not want to be anyone's abuser, and so He does not use signs and wonders to make you follow Him.

The Beasts and the Use of "Miracles"

Someone who is unafraid to use signs and wonders to further their agenda is God's enemy in the end times. Paul warns against a leader acting as a god in the world: *"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders"* (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

Satan does not have to work the way God does because he is not trying to win your trust; he is simply trying to lead you astray. Force and fear, therefore, work in his favor.

The beast that deceives the world also uses signs: *“And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (Revelation 13:13)*. People are said to be deceived into taking the mark of the beast in this way: *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who performed miracles before him, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast, and those who worshipped his image” (Revelation 19:20)*.

Satan will use signs, wonders, and even miracles to achieve his goal. The signs he uses to deceive can be very similar to those Christ performed while He was on earth. Jesus said: *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:22-23)*

Jesus said many would also pretend to be Him (Mark 13:6). Satan would even show himself as an angel of light sent from God to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:13-14). What better way to get people to distrust God or hate Him than by pretending to represent Him while using abuse and control. What better way to create hatred and resistance to God’s way? Satan, false prophets, and governments leading people astray use miracles and signs. How, then, can you know if something is from God or not?

It is all tied to the motive of the act. Is it to force you to go against your conscience? Is it done in disrespect for your free will? Does it take away your freedom of speech, your right to ask questions, or your right to make your own decision? Remember, God has allowed Satan the freedom of speech for thousands of years—would He take away your right to ask questions? Are the signs given to strengthen the believer who loves God, or to try to force someone who is resistant? Is it accompanied by a message saying you are free to disobey God and follow your flesh? Is it used by religious teachers to subdue you under their will? Is it bringing you into a state where you are pressured to make someone else your conscience and decision-maker? Does it take away your responsibility? Do they promise you that you will not be held accountable if you do what they say? Does it lead you to view men

as your mediators and to look to them to tell you God's will? Are they making you dependent on their relationship with God?

In the case of the beast, the false prophet, Christian teachers, and the deceiver in the end times, they will always use signs to turn you from obedience to God and His law, to obedience to them and their bidding. When you know God and how He works, it should be easier to distinguish.

Those seeking signs in order to convert might find exactly what they are looking for among false teachers, but Jesus said that such signs do not necessarily give you a key to a mansion in heaven.

The way to distinguish the spirit behind any manifestation is by knowing God, what He stands for, and who He is not.

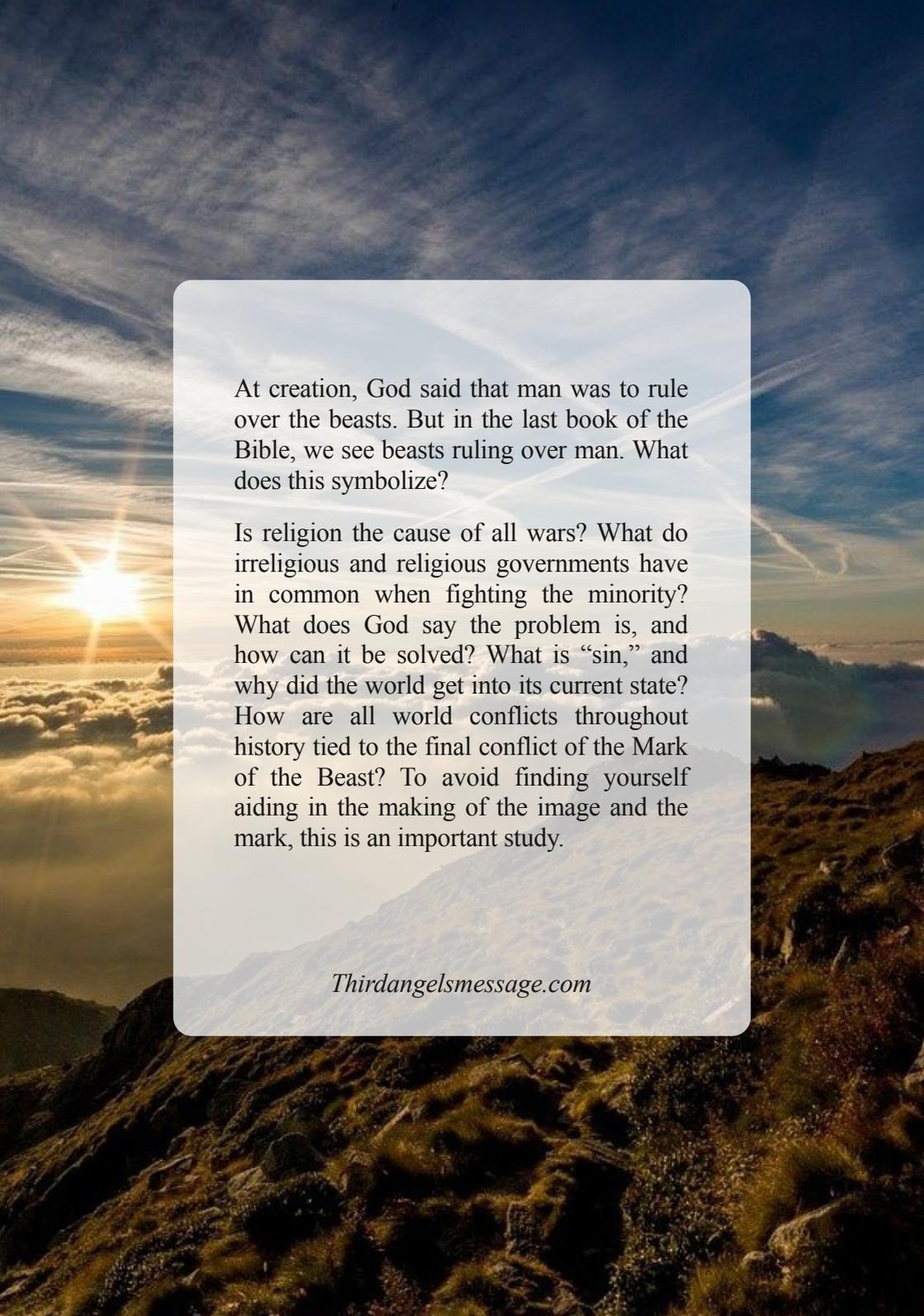
Jesus said: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you shall know them" (Matthew 7:15-20).

As the world enters the final great battle for human souls between God and His enemies, the conflict will intensify, and the enemy will do anything to pressure you onto his side. He has no respect for you; he

only wants to win you over to take from you what will be taken from him: life. Every person Satan wins to his side harms God, because God is the one who truly loves us.

When the time for judgment comes, people will see great manifestations from God. This will not be manipulation, because they are being sentenced, not forced to convert. It will be similar to what God did to Egypt. He did not hide His power from them, because they were fighting Him and His people. He had to act to save them, and the Egyptians were afraid of Him—which was necessary, as it was a matter of human rights. In this instance, God wanted them to be afraid.

God as a judge is not a still, small voice: “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail” (Revelation 11:19). When Christ comes as King, many will be fearful. This manifestation of power—God coming to judge—is a major event. By this time, people will have already chosen sides, and God will separate those who are saved from those who are not. The world will soon see great things from both God and His enemies. But we will only choose correctly if we know God through His Spirit.



At creation, God said that man was to rule over the beasts. But in the last book of the Bible, we see beasts ruling over man. What does this symbolize?

Is religion the cause of all wars? What do irreligious and religious governments have in common when fighting the minority? What does God say the problem is, and how can it be solved? What is “sin,” and why did the world get into its current state? How are all world conflicts throughout history tied to the final conflict of the Mark of the Beast? To avoid finding yourself aiding in the making of the image and the mark, this is an important study.

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