

When Our Leaders Follow God

1 Kings 9:1-9

And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do, 2 that the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 And the Lord said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 4 Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' 6 But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' 9 Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.'" NKJV

One of the interesting things about nations is how they are so affected by their leaders. Even though the people do not change from leader to the next, the nation changes when a new leader takes charge.

This is evidently displayed in the books of Kings as we move from one king to the next. And the key phrase is seen in how those leaders are compared to the standard of David. Since David was a man after God's own heart he sought the Lord with all his heart.

It was not that David was perfect, but that David's heart was right with God. He wanted to do things the way that God had commanded in His word.

The founders of this great nation of our were not perfect either, but they did have a heart for God. More than anything else they felt that God had a claim on the lives of all people. They were very much concerned for the conversion of those who were not of the same persuasion.

Today we are told the opposite. We are told that these men were not Christians but rather atheists, agnostics and deists. But the truth is that with the exception of Jefferson and Franklin all the signers of the Constitution were evangelical Christians.

If you have never taken the time to read any of David Barton's books, or to watch some of his videos, you ought to do that this 4th of July. We have a number of them in our library and I also have a good collection in my library that I would loan you if you will sign your name in blood to give them back.

We need to thank God for our leaders in Washington who are Christians and we need to pray for them. Because they are in the minority and are getting fewer every day.

Very early in America we outlawed gambling, especially what was called lottery because the odds of winning were 1:1000. But now the government runs a lottery where the odds are about 1:14,000,000 while the odds at the MegaMillions is about 1:175,000,000. Who was it that said, a sucker is born every minute. How can any principled person vote for things like that.

Now I understand that our nation is not a theocracy. But God judges all nations and all nations will give answer to him. So there is much to learn from Israel for they were directly and sometimes immediately responsible to God.

- I. The Standard: "Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked"
 - A. Solomon: 1 Kings 3:3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.
 - B. Solomon: 1 Kings 11:4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.
 - C. Solomon: 1 Kings 11:6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.
 - D. Solomon: 1 Kings 11:33 'because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.
 - E. Abijam: 1 Kings 15:3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.
 - F. Asa: 1 Kings 15:11 Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David.
 - G. Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 17:3 Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals,
 - H. Amaziah: 2 Kings 14:3 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.
 - I. Ahaz: 2 Kings 16:2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done.
 - J. Hezekiah: 2 Kings 18:3 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

K. Josiah: 2 Kings 22:2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

II. What God is Looking for in Leaders

A. Integrity of heart

1. Without integrity you will tell people what they want to hear.
2. You will do what one group wants and then the opposite when with the opposing group.
3. Some people have hardly any integrity.
4. I could respect someone for standing for their principles even when they are wrong more so that changing principles after the latest poll.
5. Or what about those who say always parrot the majority, when you know that their heart leans a different way.
6. Our founding fathers had such integrity of heart that many of them lost their fortunes, their lives, and their sacred honor.

B. In uprightness

1. A person can have integrity and still be crook.
2. God is looking to those who will do what is right even when it is not popular.
3. Now the question is who gets to decide what is right?
 - a. Congress, are you kidding.
 - b. The presidency, I hope not.
 - c. What about our supreme court.
 - (1) The word supreme just means that they are the highest court in this land, not that they have the final say.
 - (2) Because it is not over until all the books have been opened and everyone is judged according to the things written in the books that God keeps.

C. To do according to all that I have commanded you.

1. This is the definition of uprightness.
2. Are we keeping all that He has commanded.
3. That is our standard, not our own prejudicial views.

D. If you keep My statutes

1. It is not as though God has left us without instruction.
2. Once the statutes of God were the basis of our laws in this nation, but no more.
3. Once people considered what the Word of God said on a matter, but now that is not even allowed.
4. In our land today a judge who quotes from the Bible at sentencing puts in jeopardy the entire case.
5. Thomas McKean, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS; RATIFIER OF THE U. S. CONSTITUTION; CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA; GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA; GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE In the case *Respublica v. John Roberts*,⁸⁰ John Roberts was sentenced to death after a jury found him guilty of treason. Chief Justice McKean then told him: You will probably have but a short time to live. Before you launch into eternity, it behooves you to improve the time that may be allowed you in this world: it behooves you most seriously to reflect upon your past conduct; to repent of your evil deeds; to be incessant in prayers to the great and merciful God to forgive your manifold transgressions and sins; to teach you to rely upon the merit and passion of a dear Redeemer, and thereby to avoid those regions of sorrow – those doleful shades where peace and rest can never dwell, where even hope cannot enter. It behooves you to seek the [fellowship], advice, and prayers of pious and good men; to be [persistent] at the Throne of Grace, and to learn the way that leadeth to happiness. May you, reflecting upon these things, and pursuing the will of the great Father of light and life, be received into [the] company and society of angels and archangels and the spirits of just men made perfect; and may you be qualified to enter into the joys of Heaven – joys unspeakable and full of glory!

E. And My judgments.

1. Not every exact situation is covered in the Scripture, but enough is so that you can know the judgements of God.
2. It is very possible to know what God want in almost every situation.

III. The Promise: Then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever,