

Heaven Rules

Isaiah 55:6-9

Introduction: In one month, we will have a general election for president of the United States. The two main candidates leave little to be desired for Christians who are guided by God's moral precepts. Why would God want either of these two candidates to be president? For that matter, why did God allow Trump to be president? What will happen if Biden becomes president? Does God have a purpose for us that we cannot foretell? Is this the beginning of the end of the United States or do we lack faith that God will make everything work out for the best?

I. We are a nation that has rejected God.

A. We would have to have our head in the sand not to notice the moral depravity our country is embracing. Evolution accepted rather than creation; "free love" that has led to all kinds of sexual promiscuity; abortion on demand; the removal of any reference to God in public; gay rights and same sex marriages; rampant use of alcohol; these are just a few of the perversions we live with in a nation that at one time embraced the guidance of The Almighty (Prov. 14:34-35). [Reproach here means shame. Therefore, God's favor is against wicked rulers.]

B. Samuel was likewise displeased with the choice of his people made during his life (1 Sam. 8:6). God told Samuel that their choice reflected their rejection of God (1 Sam. 8:7-8). Despite the obvious implications of their choice and the forewarning given to them about that choice, the people still wanted "change" (1 Sam. 8:9-18).

1. Forced labor as personal servants.
2. Military draft.
3. Domestic servitude for young ladies.
4. 10% taxation of the best from all goods produced, raised or owned.
5. Forced volunteerism from their own servants.
6. Everyone will complain to no avail.

So God gave them change (1 Sam. 8:19-22a). It was the beginning of the end for the children of Israel.

II. Governments rule only because God allows it (John 19:11)!

A. King Nebuchadnezzar was no exception. In his dream that he told to Daniel, God reveals a most interesting truth (Dan. 4:17).

1. "Lowest" in this passage could mean:
 - a. The humblest of men.
 - b. The most immoral of men.

- c. The most unlikely due to status or advantage (1 Sam. 2:8).
- 2. We know Nebuchadnezzar was a most immoral person and certainly not at all humble. Yet, he became the ruler of Babylon. (Lowest doesn't mean humble.)
- 3. We have seen moral men in high office throughout history. A number of our early presidents were highly moral. (Lowest doesn't mean immoral.)
- 4. The Lord uses the least of people to accomplish His purposes. It is just like God to find the most unlikely person for a great task.
 - a. The nation of Israel was chosen because it was the least of all nations (Deut. 7:6-7).
 - b. Saul was the least in the smallest tribe (1 Sam. 9:21).
 - c. David was but a lowly shepherd, youngest in his family and ruddy in appearance (1 Sa. 17:14, 42).
 - d. Gideon was the least in his clan among the weakest tribe (Judg. 6:15).
 - e. Esther was a timid little orphan girl of no significance (Est. 4:13-16).
 - f. Paul was the least of the Apostles (1 Cor. 15:9).
 - g. Even the Church was the least of all kingdoms (Matt. 13:31-32).

B. If you want to know who the next president will be, look at where they came from. Look to see which was most disadvantaged to become a president.

C. God places such lowly people into high office **so people will know** that *“the Most High rules in the kingdom of men.”* Heaven rules (Dan. 4:26, 32)!

III. Our rulers are appointed by God.

A. We are subject to these rulers because there is no government that is not appointed by God (Rom. 13:1). Government is a function of God's authority.

B. We must honor where honor is due (1 Pet. 2:13-17).

C. Paul and Peter lived under the government of one of the most deplorable rulers in history. Nero was responsible for taking both of their lives. Yet, they both wrote the instructions to be submissive to governing authorities.

D. We should pray for our rulers (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

Conclusion:

A. God appoints “the lowest of men” to lead nations **so people will know** God rules over them! God runs countries with the most inept leadership.

1. How else do we explain how a man who is not constitutionally qualified by our own laws can become president?

2. How else do we explain how a man gets re-elected when he has destroyed our economy and made a mockery of our country in foreign affairs?

3. How else do we explain how morally destitute individuals rise to any elected office?

B. Truly, God's ways are not our ways (Isa. 55:8-9).

C. Despite all the warnings and obvious implications in the upcoming election, Americans will still choose whom they wish to lead their nation just like the Israelites did in the days of Samuel. The way we think, none of them should be president...but then again, Heaven rules!