


Slide 1

**THE BIBLE AND VOTING**  
Part 6



Dr. Andy Woods

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Slide 2

**Introductory Remarks**

- A stewardship issue (1 Cor. 4:2)
- A biblical issue (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Biblical principles rather than partisanship

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Slide 3

**The Bible and Voting**

- 1. Economic issues
- 2. Social issues
- 3. Foreign affairs



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Slide 4

**The Bible and Voting**

1. Economic issues
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Slide 5

**Economic Issues**

1. Ownership of private property? (Deut. 19:15)
2. Pursuit of economic self interest? (Gen. 8:21)
3. Proper definition of compassion? (2 Thess. 3:10)
4. Who provides charity? (1 Tim. 5:3-8)
5. Family is the building block of society? (Deut. 6:6-7)
6. Wealth retained within the family? (Prov. 13:22)
7. The earth experiences cyclical patterns? (Gen. 8:22)
8. Environmental stewardship rather than earth worship? (Rom. 1:22-23)
9. Opposition to runaway debt? (Prov. 22:7)
10. Limitations upon the government? (Acts 5:29)

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Slide 6

**The Bible and Voting**

1. Economic issues
2. Social issues
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Slide 7

- Social Issues**
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  2. Legal protection for the elderly? (Lev. 19:32)
  3. Hetero-sexual monogamous marriage as the standard for society? (Gen. 2:18-25)
  4. Advocacy capital punishment? (Gen. 9:6)
  5. The right to restrict alcohol, pornography, & gambling? (Lev. 10:9; Matt. 5:27-28; Prov. 13:11)
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  7. Public expressions of Christianity? (Mark 16:15)
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Slide 8

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Slide 11

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Slide 15

**Leviticus 25:10**

“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and **proclaim liberty throughout [all] the land to all its inhabitants.** It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.”



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Slide 16

*Engle v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421-22 (1962).*

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country."



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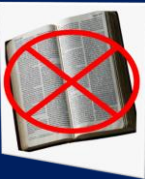
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Slide 17

**Scripture and Psychological Damage**

"But if portions of the **New Testament** were read without explanation, they could be, and in his specific experience with children Dr. Grayzel observed, had been, **psychologically harmful to the child** and had caused a divisive force within the social media of the school."



School District of Abington Township v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203, 209 (1963).

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Slide 18

**First Amendment**

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."



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Slide 19

**Baer v. Kolmorgen**  
181 NYS 2d. 230, 237 (1958).

“Much has been written in recent years concerning Thomas Jefferson’s reference in 1802 to ‘a wall of separation between church and state...’ [It] has received so much attention that one would almost think at times that it is to be found somewhere in our Constitution.”



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**Article 124 of the Soviet Union Constitution**

“In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, *the church in the USSR is separated from the state*, and the school from the church” (italics added).



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Slide 21

**Thomas Jefferson**



“One passage, in the paper you enclosed me, must be corrected. It is the following, ‘and all say it was yourself more than any other individual, that planned and established it,’ *i.e.*, the Constitution. I was in Europe when the Constitution was planned, and never saw it till after it was established.”

Thomas Jefferson, *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, 20 vols., ed. Albert Ellery Bergh (Washington D.C.: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association, 1904), 10:325, to Dr. Joseph Priestly on June 19, 1802.

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### No Precedent

“Finally, in *Engel v. Vitale*, only last year, these principles were so universally recognized that the court, without the citation of a single case... reaffirmed them” (italics added).



School District of Abington Township v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203, 220-21 (1963).

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Slide 23

### Lack of Pre-1947 Precedent

CASE	DATE	PRE 1947 CITATIONS	POST 1947 CITATIONS
Levitt v. Committee	1973	0	18
Committee v. Nyquist	1973	1	99
Stone v. Graham	1980	0	9
Marsh v. Chambers	1982	1	32

Barton, *Myth of Separation*, 163-66.

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Slide 24

### Ann Coulter



“First they claim there is no place for religion in the public square, and then they expand the public square to include everything.”

Ann Coulter, “Foreword,” in *Speechless: Silencing the Christians*, ed. Donald E. Wildmon (Minneapolis, MN: Vigilante, 2009), xiii.

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Slide 25

**Dr. James Dobson**



"I have to be honest. It's a very scary time for our nation right now. We're kind of at a watershed moment...We're just trampling the Constitution. It's bullying. It's just a straight bully tactic...that's not the country our forefathers foresaw."

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/05/17/trampling-the-constitution-famed-christian-claims-irs-bullied-ministry-threatened-to-deny-tax-application-over-criticism-of-obama/>

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Slide 26

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Slide 27

**Granville Sharpe**



"No Englishman can be truly loyal who opposed the principles of English law whereby the people are required to have arms of defence in peace, for mutual as well as private defence...The laws of England always required the people to be armed, and not only armed, but to be expert in arms."

Les Adams, *The Second Amendment Primer: A Citizen's Guidebook to the History, Sources, and Authorities for the Constitutional Guarantee of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms* (WV: Skyhorse, 2013), 63.

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Slide 28

**Joseph Story**



"The next amendment is: 'A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.' The importance of this article will scarcely be doubted by any persons, who have duly reflected upon the subject...**The right of the citizens** to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic..."

Joseph Story, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States (Boston, MA: Hilliard, Gray, 1833), 3:746-747, sections 1889-1890.

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Slide 29

**Joseph Story**



"...since **it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers**; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them...There is certainly no small danger, that indifference may lead to disgust, and disgust to contempt; and thus **gradually undermine all the protection intended by this clause of our national bill of rights.**"

Joseph Story, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States (Boston, MA: Hilliard, Gray, 1833), 3:746-747, sections 1889-1890.

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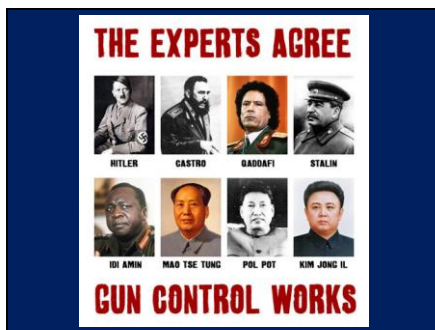
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Slide 31

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Slide 32

**The Bible and Voting**

1. Economic issues
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Slide 33

**Foreign Affairs**

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. Pursuit of peace though strength? (Jer. 17:9)

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Slide 34

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**Genesis 11:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. <sup>2</sup> It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."



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**Genesis 11:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."



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Slide 40

**Lord Acton**

“All power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”



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Slide 41

**God's Doctrine of Nations**

Since Babel	Deut. 32:8; Acts 17:26
Millennium	Isaiah 2:4; 66:18; Zech. 14:16-18 Rev.12:5; 20:3
Eternal State	Rev. 21:24, 26

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**Satan's Goal of Globalism**



- ◆ Dan. 7:23
- ◆ Rev. 13:7-8; Rev. 5:9
- ◆ Rev. 17:15

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Slide 43

John Lennon  
Song "Imagine"

...imagine a time when there will be "no countries," "no religion," "no heaven," "no hell," "no possessions," everyone "living for today," and the world "as one."



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Slide 44

Henry Steele Commager  
cited in The New World Order, page 147



*The inescapable fact, traumatized by the energy crisis, the population crisis, armaments race, and so forth, is that nationalism as we have noted in the 19<sup>th</sup> and much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is as much of an anachronism today as with States Rights when Calhoun preached it and Jefferson Davis fought for it.*

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Slide 45

Henry Steele Commager  
cited in The New World Order, page 147



*"Just as we know, or should know, that none of our domestic problems can be solved within the artificial boundaries of the states, so none of our global problems can be solved within the largely artificial boundaries of the nations."*

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Slide 46

**David Rockefeller**  
cited in Memoirs, page 405.

"For more than a century ideological extremists...have seized upon well-publicized incidents...to attack the Rockefeller family for the inordinate influence they claim we wield over American political and economic institutions. Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure--one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it."

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**Humanist Manifesto II (1973)**

We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community... a system of world law and world order based upon transnational federal government.

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Slide 48

**A New Pledge of Allegiance?**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag and my constitutional rights with which it comes. And to the diversity, in which our nation stands, one nation, part of one planet, with liberty, freedom, choice and justice for all."



Globalist Pledge of Allegiance in U.S. School, Boulder High School, October 2007, Kerby Anderson

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Slide 49

### Alphabet Soup?

GATT	WHO
NAFTA	ICC
WTO	LOST
NATO	ISA
UN	EEC
IMF	ECM
WSSD	NAU

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Slide 50

### American Exceptionalism?

"I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism."

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=c15w3InDws](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c15w3InDws)

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### American Exceptionalism?

"To achieve world government, it is necessary to remove from the minds of men their individualism, loyalty to family tradition, national patriotism, and religious dogmas."

SOURCE: George Brock Chisholm, First Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Speech, Conference on Education, Asilomar, California, September 11, 1954

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**Regionalism**

European Common Market  
North American Union



BY JEROME R. CORSI, PH.D.  
Director of the Center for Policy Studies  
Institute for Enterprise and Liberty

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Slide 53



**March 7, 2013—Question for Defense Secretary Leon Panetta from Sen. Jeff Sessions at a Senate Armed Services Committee.**

Sessions asked Panetta if he could "initiate a no-fly zone in Syria "without Congressional approval. "Again, our goal would be to seek international permission and we would ...come to the Congress and inform you and determine how best to approach this, whether or not we would want to get permission from the Congress...," Panetta said. "I'm almost breathless about that," Sessions responded. "What I heard you say is, we're going to seek international approval and then we'll come and tell the Congress what we might do and we might seek Congressional approval."

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**March 7, 2013—Question for Defense Secretary Leon Panetta from Sen. Jeff Sessions at a Senate Armed Services Committee.**

Panetta explained that if U.S. forces are working as part of an international coalition, then the administration would want "to get the appropriate permissions," which he said is something "all of these countries would want." Sessions pressed the issue and asked "what entity" the administration would seek permission from. Sessions said he was all in favor of international support, but added that he was "baffled by the idea that somehow, an international assembly" would provide a legal basis for the deployment of the U.S. military. Sessions responded that international bodies "provide no legal authority" to deploy U.S. military into combat operations.

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Slide 55

**Foreign Affairs**

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. **Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)**
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. Pursuit of peace though strength? (Jer. 17:9)

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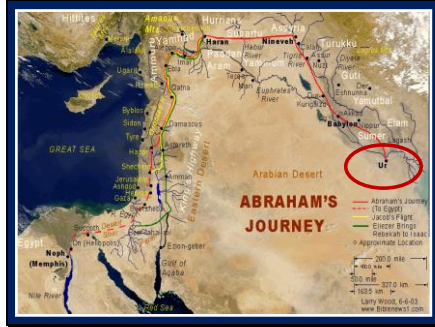
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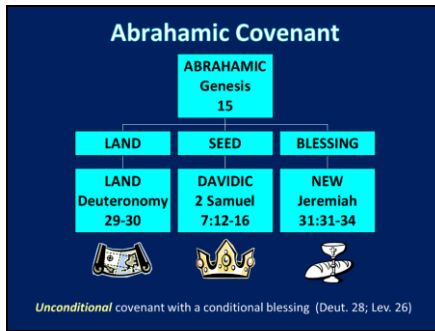
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Slide 59



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Slide 60

**How Israel Has Blessed the World**  
(Gen 12:3; Rom 9:4-5)

- Patriarchs
- Law
- Prophets
- Messiah (John 4:22; Rom 9:5)
- Apostles
- Biblical writers
- Early church
- Early Christian martyrs
- Paul
- Future kingdom

The slide features a list of ways Israel has blessed the world, including Patriarchs, Law, Prophets, Messiah (John 4:22; Rom 9:5), Apostles, Biblical writers, Early church, Early Christian martyrs, Paul, and Future kingdom. A yellow Magen David (Star of David) is positioned to the right of the list.

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Slide 61

**Israel's Three Blessings to the World**  
(Gen 12:3b)

- 1) Scripture (Rom 3:2)
- 2) Savior (John 4:22)
- 3) Kingdom (Isa 2:2-3)




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**Biblical Reality of the Angelic World**

- Job 1:12
- 2 Kings 6:15-17
- 1 Chron 21:1
- Dan 10:12-13, 20
- Matt 16:21-23
- Eph 6:12




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Slide 63

**2 CYCLES OF SATANIC PERSECUTION**  
(Revelation 12:13-16)



1. "Pursues the woman" = persecution of Israel 12:13-14
2. "Flood from his mouth" = tries to destroy Israel 12:15-16

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Slide 64

**Descriptions of Satanic Hatred**  
(Revelation 12:12-17)

- Wrath 12:12
- Persecution 12:13
- Sweep away 12:15
- Enraged 12:17
- War 12:17




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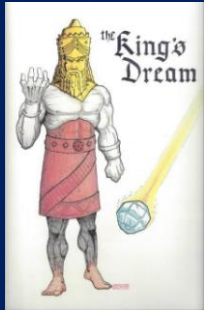
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Slide 65




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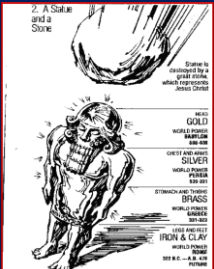
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Slide 66

**Statue & Stone**



**2. A Statue and a Stone**

116

CRANE TO  
REPRESENT THE  
GRAND SCHEME  
WHICH IS BEING  
UNFOLDED

HEAD  
GOLD

NECK  
SILVER

CHEST AND ARMS  
COPPER

STOMACH AND THIGHS  
BRASS

LEGS AND FEET  
IRON & CLAY

1878 A.D. - A.M. 1918

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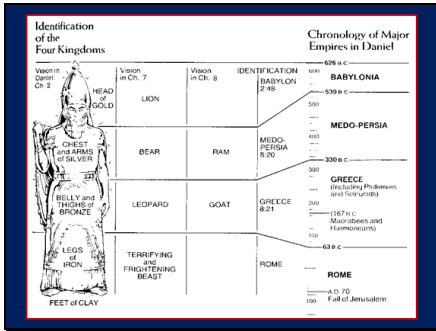
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Slide 67




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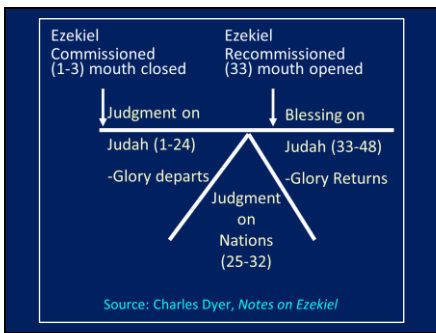


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Slide 68




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Slide 69




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Slide 70

*"If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel."*

Benjamin Netanyahu



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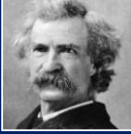
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Slide 71

"... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse... a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action... we never saw a human being on the whole route... there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."



Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad*, Complete, 1st ed. (A Public Domain Book, 1899), 267-268, 302. These quotes can be found in chapters 47, 48, 52.

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Slide 72

**Foreign Affairs**

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. **Pursuit of peace though strength? (Jer. 17:9)**

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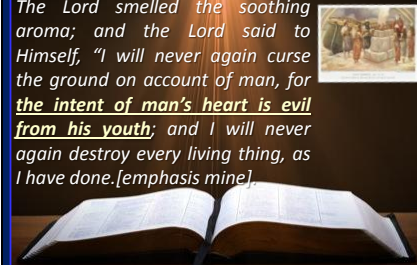
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Slide 73

**Genesis 8:21**

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for **the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth**; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. [emphasis mine]



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Slide 74

**Quran Surah\* 24:55**  
(\*chapter)

"Allah has promised those who have believed among you and done righteous deeds that He will surely grant them **succession [Caliphate]** upon the earth just as He granted it to those before them and that He will surely establish for them [therein] their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will surely substitute for them, after their fear, security, [for] they worship Me, not associating anything with Me. But whoever disbelieves after that - then those are the defiantly disobedient."

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Slide 75



IRAN BEFORE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

...AND AFTER

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Slide 76

Source:  
"An Explanatory  
Memorandum  
on the General  
Strategic Goal  
For the Group in  
North America"  
Published 1991

The Ikhwan [Muslim Brotherhood] must understand that their work in America is a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and "sabotaging" its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all religions.

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Slide 77

**Foreign Affairs**

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. Pursuit of peace through strength? (Jer. 17:9)

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Slide 78

Conclusion

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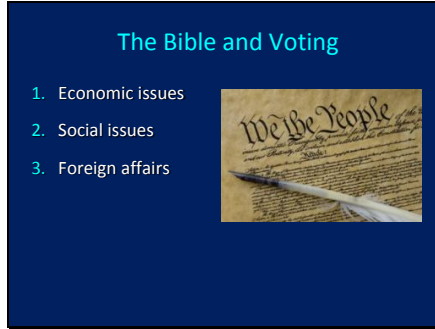
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## II. Social Issues

### G. Public expression of Christianity

Mark 16:15-And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

### H. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

Luke 22:36-And He said to them, “But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and **whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.**”

Matt. 26:52-Then Jesus \*said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.”

The biblical justification for the right to keep and bear arms helps explain why so many reputed men of God have not only believed in but also articulated this very legal right. One such individual was **Granville Sharpe**. Sharpe was an abolitionist

who worked alongside William Wilberforce as an English campaigner against the slave trade. He was also a noted biblical scholar and Greek grammarian who articulated an important Greek grammatical principle known as the “Granville Sharpe Rule.” In 1782, Sharpe explained:

"No Englishman can be truly loyal who opposed the principles of English law whereby the people are required to have arms of defence in peace, for mutual as well as private defence... The laws of England always required the people to be armed, and not only armed, but to be expert in arms."

Les Adams, *The Second Amendment Primer: A Citizen's Guidebook to the History, Sources, and Authorities for the Constitutional Guarantee of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms* (NY: Skyhorse, 2013), 63.

Prolific writer (286/269) and long-time 34 year Associate Supreme Court Justice **Joseph Story** (1779–1845) during the Marshall era wrote what is considered to be an authoritative commentary on the United States Constitution (1833). Therein, Story offered the following commentary concerning the Second Amendment's true intent:

"The next amendment is: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.” The importance of this article will scarcely be doubted by any persons, who have duly reflected upon the subject... The right of the citizens to

keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them... There is certainly no small danger, that indifference may lead to disgust, and disgust to contempt; and thus gradually undermine all the protection intended by this clause of our national bill of rights."

Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States* (Boston, MA: Hilliard, Gray, 1833), 3:746-747, sections 1889-1890.

R. J. Rummel in "Death by Government" calculates Democide-262,000,000. Just to give perspective on this incredible murder by government, if all these bodies were laid head to toe, with the average height being 5', then they would circle the earth ten times.

### III. Foreign Affairs

#### A. National Sovereignty

Deut 32:8-When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of <sup>[c]</sup>man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel

Ps. 2:8-Ask of Me, and I will surely give the <sup>[f]</sup>nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.

Rev. 21:24-The **nations** will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

## **B. Borders enforcement**

Roughly 1200 people come across the Rio Grande River daily and enter our country illegally.

Deut 32:8-When the Most High gave the **nations** their inheritance, **When He separated the sons of <sup>[c]</sup>man, He set the boundaries of the peoples** According to the number of the sons of Israel

Acts 17:26- and He made from one *man* **every nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the **boundaries of their habitation.**

The fact of the matter is that America is the most generous country in the world when it comes to immigration. **America accepts more immigrants than any other nation on the planet. America accepts over 800,000 legal immigrants per year.**

## **C. Support for Israel**

Gen 12:3-**And I will bless those who bless you,** And the one who curses you I will curse.

Gen 12:3-And I will bless those who bless you, **And the one who curses you I will curse.**

Joel 3:2- I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of <sup>[b]</sup>Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel,

Whom they have scattered among the nations; And **they have divided up My land.**

The website "**Middle East Facts**" puts things into proper perspective when it says:

"Unlike Islam's *Koran*, which commands Muslims to force the entire planet to submit to literal control by Islam, the Jewish *Torah* promises the children of Israel a modest and reasonable allotment of land. Israel...is a democratic nation 1/19th the size of California, surrounded by 22 hostile Arab/Islamic dictatorships with 640 times her size, 60 times her population and ALL the oil. How dare Arab propagandists call Israel "expansionist!" And how dare anyone believe them! How can Israel, which occupies one-sixth of one percent of the lands called Arab, be responsible for the political dissatisfaction of 22 Arab countries? How can the 13 million Jews in the world (almost 5 million fewer than they were in 1939!) be blamed for the problems of the 250 million Arabs, who have brotherly ties to 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide? Israel is an oasis of Western Democracy and Judeo/Christian morality in the middle of an otherwise totalitarian Arab/Muslim Middle East. For over 55 years since she became a nation in 1948, Israel has sought peaceful coexistence with neighbors dedicated to her destruction. Thus far only Egypt and Jordan have formalized a peace treaty. In reality, these two peace treaties are questionable."

[http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x\\_id=10190](http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=10190)

**Dora Von Lehe**-As a young boy growing up, Richard Nixon's Christian (and a Quaker) mother told him that one day he would

be in a powerful position, and a situation would arise where Israel and the Jews needed his help. When it did, he was to help them. It is reported that Nixon said he heard the voice of his mother saying these words to him when he responded to the call and plea for help from Golda Meir at 3 a.m. in October of 1973 during what is called the Yom Kippur War...Then came the attacks on October 6, 1973-a coordinated surprise attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest of days in the Jewish calendar and a time when the entire nation comes to a virtual standstill. Even non-observant Jews honor this holyday by fasting, staying home or going to synagogue, and refraining from the use of fire, electricity, and communications systems. Israel could not have been more vulnerable. There had been concern about possible attacks, but until just shortly before the attacks began, "Israeli intelligence was not able to determine conclusively that an attack was imminent." To demonstrate how much Israel was up against: 180 Israeli tanks faced over 1400 Syrian tanks; closer to the Suez Canal, a mere 436 Israeli infantry were poised to fight over 80,000 Egyptian soldiers. The attacks by Egypt and Syria were backed by nine Arab states, as well as the Soviet Union. By the second day, the slaughtering of Israeli troops and destruction of their equipment had been such a blow, Moshe Dayan the minister of Defense, who had been a hero in the Six Day War, started talk about pulling back and even possible surrender. Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, resisted this, but she did have an aid secure lethal pills from her doctor; just in case her Arab enemies prevailed, Meir would take her own life...U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Meir's relationship was to say the least a bit rocky. When assistance was requested from him, Kissinger's reported response was to let Israel 'bleed a little.' So, at 3 a.m. Golda Meir picked up the



phone and called President Richard M. Nixon and asked for help. It is reported that Nixon heard the prophetic word and the voice of his mother as he listened to Meir. By the time she hung up, Golda Meir had the weapons help her country needed that swung the pendulum to Israel's favor and to bring an end to the Yom Kippur War...To this day, Richard Nixon is highly regarded in Israel. Prime Minister Golda Meir and Nixon kept in frequent touch throughout the ordeal. For the rest of Meir's life, she referred to Nixon as "my president," and said, "For generations to come, all will be told of the miracle of the immense planes from the United States bringing in the material that meant life to our people."

For example, in 1867, **Mark Twain** visited Israel. He wrote about his experiences in his book *Innocents Abroad*. In this book, he hardly describes the vibrant and prosperous Israel of today, but rather a desolate country that was devoid of both vegetation and human population. He observed:

"..... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."

Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad, Complete*, 1st ed. (A Public Domain Book, 1869), 267, 285, 302. These quotes can be found in chapters 47, 49, 52.

## **D. Peace through strength**

Gen. 8:21-The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the **intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth;** and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Jer. 17:9-The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?

## **Conclusion**

Numbers 6:24-26- The LORD bless you, and keep you;<sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;<sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.